

## March 2021 RFA

## 2021 Enrollment



**A partnership between the NDoH, PHEF and the SAMRC**

**A National Health Research Committee Initiative**

### **Request for Applications**

(2021 enrolment)

#### **About BM-NHSP**

The Bongani Mayosi National Health Scholars Programme (BM-NHSP) is an initiative by the National Health Research Committee (NHRC) and a partnership between the National Department of Health (NDoH), the Public Health Enhancement Fund (PHEF) and the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC). The objective of the BM-NHSP is to fund the training of 1000 PhDs in health and clinical research over the next 10 years. Applications are invited for PhD scholarships tenable in South African universities. Funding is towards the completion of the degree and funding is made available for a full degree period (i.e. prescribed time for a PhD) as a tax-free scholarship for full-time study. The value of the scholarship is equivalent to the after-tax take-home pay of the applicant, in terms of the public service professional scales applicable to the qualification(s) of the candidate (excluding overtime pay). Applicants to note that once the benchmarking process has been completed (based on the criteria at the time) and a scholarship amount has been awarded, it will remain fixed for the full duration of the studies irrespective of a change criteria e.g. additional qualifications/credentials obtained or an increase in Occupation Specific Dispensation scales.

The BM-NHSP aims to contribute positively towards efforts to strengthen and accelerate progress towards equity in research capacity development within the National Department of Health Human Capital across South Africa. Where appropriate priority will be given to hitherto under-represented designated groups, institutions, and or under researched priority research niches.

The purpose of this particular request for applications (RFA) is to build capacity in four priority research areas namely: (i) mental health, (ii) violence, injury and trauma, (iii) digital health and (iv) rural health. The current funding opportunity is targeting applicants who preferably hold a MBChB or master's degree, are in their second year of PhD study within the specialized fields of Biostatistics, Data Science, Digital Health, Demography, Epidemiology, Health Economics, Genomics/Bioinformatics and Immunology.

**Requirements for application (Check your eligibility before starting your application).**

- 1) Must be South African citizen/permanent resident
- 2) Applicants must hold MBChB or a master's degree
- 3) Must have an officially approved PhD research proposal
- 4) Must be registered as a full-time PhD student, preferably in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year
- 5) Must provide written commitment of participation by an experienced research supervisor who is willing to train the student for the entire duration of the degree
- 6) The research supervisor must have research funding for the project and appropriate facilities for the scholar to effectively conduct the PhD research project

Selection Criteria <b>(Use this list to make sure your application is complete)</b>	Attached check (v)
<b>1. Suitability of the candidate:</b> <b>1-page only:</b> motivation demonstrating candidate's suitability and describing how success in the BH-NHSP application will impact candidate's career. It should be accompanied by an abridged curriculum vitae containing a full list of research outputs in the last seven years and other meritorious achievements.	
<b>2. Quality of the science:</b> <b>≤2 pages only:</b> abstract of the PhD proposal outlining the rationale, design, feasibility, plans for research translation and information dissemination as well as potential impact of the proposed research project. <b>NB: Proposed research project should be aligned with the priority research areas for this specific call. Attach official approval letter of research proposal</b>	
<b>3. Supervisor's abridged track record and signed commitment form:</b> <b>≤3 pages only:</b> an abridged outline of publications, grants and experience in research supervision of PhD students and a signed commitment form <b>(Annexure A)</b>	
<b>4. Research environment:</b> <b>≤ 1-page</b> letter from the host institution outlining the career plan of the applicant upon completion of the PhD.	
<b>5. Signed application form:</b> please sign below and submit this form with your application.	

<b>6. Certified copy of South African identity document is attached (must be certified by a Commissioner of Oath)</b>	
<b>7. An official letter confirming date of first registration for the degree to be funded is attached</b>	
<b>8. An official approval letter of the candidate's final version of their research proposal</b>	
<b>9. Evidence of ethics clearance is attached</b>	
<b>10. Support letter detailing the availability of research funding/running cost is attached</b>	
<b>11. Confirm that 10 pages not exceeded (excluding official documents; 5,6, 7 and 8)</b>	

Above is a table showing selection criteria and documents that must be submitted with the application (not more than 10 pages). It is important that you check (V) the right column to confirm completeness of application before submitting.

### Scholarship Conditions

- Scholarship holders are expected to spend at least 90% of their time conducting research.
- Teaching and clinical activities may not take up more than 10% of the time of the scholar.
- Scholarship holders may not receive, concurrently with this scholarship, other bursaries, grants or remuneration which bind them to enter the service of any organization without prior engagement towards agreement with the Division of Research Capacity Development SA Medical Research Council (SAMRC).
- Candidates may not hold a bursary from more than one South African Government statutory entity at any given time.
- Scholarship holders may not receive, concurrently with this scholarship, other non-binding remuneration/fellowships and grants without engaging with the Division of Research Capacity Development of the SAMRC.
- Scholarship holders may not, without seeking approval from the Division of Research Capacity Development of the SAMRC's, register at a university other than that through which the application has been submitted.
- Once the scholarship has been awarded, the scholarship holder may not change his/her supervisor without informing the Division of Research Capacity Development of the SAMRC.
- Supervisors will be expected to submit 6-monthly progress reports.
- Application for renewal of funding will be considered on an annual basis, success thereto will be subject to satisfactory progress being made.
- Successful applicants will be required to enter into an agreement with the SAMRC to complete their studies within the specified time period.

Full applications must be completed online and all additional documents requested emailed to Ms Colleen Van Wyk on or before **15 April 2021** at [Colleen.Vanwyk@mrc.ac.za](mailto:Colleen.Vanwyk@mrc.ac.za) / Tel 021 938 0384

For enquiries contact: Dr Lindokuhle Ndlandla on [Lindokuhle.Ndlandla@mrc.ac.za](mailto:Lindokuhle.Ndlandla@mrc.ac.za) / Tel 021 938 0442

**Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

# Application Form

## Personal details:

Title (Ms, Mr, Dr)	First name:				
Surname:					
Gender:	Female		Male		
Population group:	African	Colored	Indian	Asian	White
ID number	Attach certified copy of South African identity document				
Postal address:	Physical address:				
Work telephone no: (where Applicable)	Mobile no:				
University e-mail address:	Personal e-mail address:				

## Academic Information:

Highest qualification		
Profession		
Years of experience in the profession		
Current position (where applicable)		
Employer (where applicable)		
Income per annum (pre-tax, where applicable)	Attach recent payslip (not older than three months)	
Research area <i>Please Mark the correct box</i>	Mental Health	Violence, injury and trauma
	Digital Health	Rural Health
Speciality	Biostatistics	Data/Computer Science
	Demography	Epidemiology
	Genomics	Health Economics
	Immunology	None of the above
Are you registered for a PhD? <i>Please Mark the correct box</i>	Yes	No
Year of PhD Study in 2021	First Year	Second Year
	Third Year	Fourth Year

University at which currently registered		
Date of first registration for the degree to be funded	<b>Attach evidence</b>	
Faculty		
Department		
PhD title of research project		
PhD supervisor		
E-mail address of supervisor		
PhD co-supervisor (where applicable)		
My research project has ethics clearance <i>Please Mark the correct box</i>	Yes	No
The post graduate office or equivalent office has accepted the project title <i>Please Mark the correct box</i>	Yes	No

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (full names), hereby submit my application for a full-time PhD Scholarship and am cognisant of the conditions under which this scholarship is awarded.

Signature:	Date:
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## Annexure A

### Main supervisor's commitment form (To be filled in and signed by the main supervisor)

Title			
Supervisor's full name			
Institution name			
Department			
E-mail address			
Contact number			
Are you the main supervisor of the applicant?	Yes	No	
Has the candidate's research proposal been approved by the institution / or <u>relevant authorised</u> office?	Yes	No	
Does the proposed project require ethical clearance?	Yes	No	
Has the ethics committee approved the research proposal?	Yes <b>Attach evidence</b>	No	NA <i>State reason</i>
Does the area proposed for the research complement or directly relate to your research interests?	Yes	No	
Does the institution have the internal facilities, infrastructure (laboratories or as appropriate) and research funding that will be required for the research to be conducted?	Yes <b>Attach support letter</b>	No	
Are there any concerns (if any please provide details)			
Comment on the feasibility of the proposed research			
Will this research project ( degree) be completed at the prescribed degree duration years; PhD = 3 Years)	Yes	No <i>State reasons</i>	
Comment on the applicant's ability to conduct the proposed research project			
Comment on the applicant's progress to date			

I \_\_\_\_\_ (supervisor's full names), hereby support the scholar's application for the SAMRC scholarship and commit to undertake the supervision of the applicant \_\_\_\_\_ (applicant's full name).