

## National Health Scholars Programme ( NHSP), PhD Scholarships

### An initiative by the National Health Research Committee (NHRC)

A partnership between the  
National Health Research Committee (NHRC),  
the Public Health Enhancement Fund (PHEF) and,  
the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC)  
for PhD Health Research Capacity Development

Recommendations contained in the [2011 National Health Research Summit Report](#) to build human resources for health research through a large-scale PhD programme for all health professional categories with degree-based qualifications remain important to the SAMRC.

The objective, crafted by the National Health Research Committee (NHRC), to fund the education and training of 1000 PhDs in health sciences over the next 10 years remains firmly in focus and well within reach.

There now exists evidence that during the past three years, much headway is being made towards this goal. It is further evidence that the partnership between the NHRC, PHEF and the SAMRC is alive and delivering on the mandate.

A further, fresh injection of budget by the PHEF to fund PhD Scholarships in 2016 for doctoral research to be conducted in South Africa or abroad has recently been made available.

#### **Eligibility**

This programme is aimed at postgraduate students i.e. to study towards PhD (e.g., Medical Practitioners, Medical Scientist, Psychologist, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacist, Speech Therapist, Physiotherapists, Public Health, Oral Health, Optometrist, Audiologist Biomedical Engineer, Dental Practitioner, Dietitians and Social Sciences) as well as academic staff members in Faculties of Health Sciences, Research Councils, Government Departments and other organisations who wish to commence or complete PhD training on a full-time basis. A masters training can be considered in compelling fields or circumstances. Further to developing PhDs for South Africa, the intention of this initiative is to contribute to staff development and succession planning programmes in academic health complexes and other

governmental and non-governmental organs that are involved in knowledge production.

#### **Request for Applications**

A call for application is hereby being announced to augment the already 54 strong cohort of PhD scholars funded in this prestigious programme. The scholarship will be awarded for a period ranging from one to four years as a tax free scholarship for full-time study in a chosen field. Renewal of funding after year 1 will depend on satisfactory academic performance.

#### **Requirements for application**

- South African citizenship/permanent residence.
- A Master's degree or equivalent.
- A full-developed research proposal for a PhD.
- Current or proposed registration at the university in which the degree will be awarded.
- An experienced supervisor who is willing to host the student for the duration of training.
- Availability of funding and appropriate facilities for the research project.

### **Selection criteria and applicable documents that must be submitted with the application**

- **Suitability of the candidate**

A 1-page motivation that is accompanied by a complete and up-to-date curriculum vitae containing a full list of publications and other meritorious achievements.

- **Quality of the science**

A 1-2 page abstract of the PhD proposal outlining the rationalé, design, feasibility and potential impact of the proposed doctoral research project.

- **Track record of supervisor**

A statement from the supervisor indicating commitment to educate and train the applicant, confirmation of availability of funding and facilities for the proposed doctoral project, together with a list of publications, active grants and number of PhD students supervised to completion.

- **Research environment**

A letter from the host institution outlining the career plan of the applicant upon completion of the PhD.

### **Value of the Award**

This is a tax free scholarship that is equivalent to the after tax level of pay of the

applicant in terms of the public service professional scales applicable to the qualification(s) of the candidate (excluding overtime pay).

### **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 binds them to enter the service of any organization without prior approval from the SA Medical Research Council (SAMRC).
- Candidates may not hold a bursary from more than one statutory science council at any given time.

- Scholarship holders may not receive, concurrently with this scholarship, other non-binding remuneration/fellowships and grants without prior approval from the SAMRC.
- Scholarship holders may not, without obtaining the SAMRC's prior approval, register at a university other than that through which the application has been submitted.
- Once the award has been made the scholarship holder may not change his/her supervisor without informing the SAMRC.
- Supervisors will be expected to submit 6-monthly progress reports. The renewal of funding will be considered on an annual basis 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.

**Contact person**

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