

APPLICATION DEADLINE**14 May 2018****BACKGROUND**

In recognition of the long standing collaboration between South Africa and the Netherlands in education and research, and with the ambition to strengthen postgraduate training while enhancing sustainable collaboration between South African and Dutch higher education institutions (HEIs), an agreement was signed in 2017 between the NRF and Nuffic (Netherlands organisation for internationalisation in education represented locally in South Africa by Nuffic's Netherlands Education Support Office). Through this new partnership between the NRF and Nuffic, doctoral scholarships will be provided for South African citizens and permanent residents to study full-time in the Netherlands (i.e. single site mode). Institutional level agreements between Dutch HEIs and Partner Institutions in South Africa to enable full-time joint doctoral degrees will also be supported (i.e. split site mode).

The objectives of this funding instrument are to:

- Strengthen cooperation and internationalisation between Dutch HEIs and Partner Institutions in South Africa through joint supervision of South African doctoral candidates;
- Foster sustainable institutional collaboration between South African and Dutch HEIs, contributing to the bilateral research agendas;
- Promote and advance science, research and innovation;
- Support the development of a critical mass of globally competitive knowledge-workers in South Africa in prioritised areas;
- Contribute towards increasing the number and quality of South African postgraduate students in all areas of (i) Science, (ii) Engineering, (iii) Technology, (iv) the Social Sciences and (v) Humanities; and
- Effect transformation in the percentage representation of postgraduate students from designated groups, namely black, female and persons with disabilities.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**Institution and Supervisor Eligibility:**

To be eligible to participate in this doctoral training initiative, participating institutions and supervisors must meet the following requirements:

- Dutch HEIs will waive tuition fees or in the case that a tuition fee applies, this will not be charged to the NRF or the individual scholarship awardee;
- Dutch HEIs will provide research running costs (i.e. costs that can reasonably be expected to accrue during the course of the doctoral research period) and access to research infrastructure;
- Doctoral supervisory capacity must be in place at both the Dutch HEIs and the South African Partner Institution, in the case of joint degrees;
- Supervisors must commit to evaluate the academic suitability of the applicant and endorse the research proposal (including timeframes) before the application is submitted to the NRF for merit review. Supervisors may do this through email correspondence with the applicant and via other electronic media such as Skype or video conferencing;
- Supervisors must submit a letter of support indicating that the necessary research infrastructure, resources and funds for undertaking the research and supporting the doctoral student exists within their faculty/school/department. Supervisors may only support one (1) applicant per year;
- In the case of a joint doctoral degree;
- A Memorandum of Agreement between the Dutch HEI and the Partner University in South Africa in respect of awarding joint degrees must be in place. Where such an agreement does not exist, a template may be requested from the NRF using the contact information provided;
- Supervisors must also provide confirmation of a collaborative research project including a plan for co-supervision and mobility visits for the duration of the four (4)-year doctoral study.

Applicant Eligibility:

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be South African citizens or permanent residents with a SA ID number, although South African citizens will be prioritised;
- Not hold this scholarship concurrently with any other NRF or South African/Netherlands government scholarship;
- Provide a Master's degree certificate or an official document from the university certifying that all requirements for the Master's degree have been met and that they will be graduating;
- Be intending to pursue full-time doctoral studies; and
- Not hold full-time salaried employment during the tenure of the award. However, successful applicants may undertake a maximum of 12 hours of teaching, tutorials, assistance or demonstration duties, per week on average, during the year of study and may be remunerated for these duties, provided that they are reimbursed at a rate not exceeding the normal tariff of the institution for services rendered.

HOW TO APPLY

The NRF issues a call for the NRF-Nuffic Doctoral Scholarship applications that is [published on the NRF website](#) and is accessible [online](#).

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