



FIRSTRAND

FIRSTRAND/LAURIE DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP FOR INTERNATIONAL POSTGRADUATE STUDY

APPLICATIONS FOR 2011 OPEN 3 JANUARY 2011 AND CLOSE 4 MARCH 2011.

The scholarship is to the value of R350 000 per annum for a maximum of two years and is available to a South African citizen, for study outside South Africa in any discipline at the internationally recognized University of their choice for a Postgraduate degree. Excellence is the only criteria for selection.

What makes this scholarship different from most is not only the personal interest which Laurie Dippenaar takes in the selection process, but also his interest in the ongoing progress of the recipient.

Scholarship criteria are set out below. The successful candidate has to return to South Africa for at least 5 years after completing his or her studies.

SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

The successful candidate will have excelled academically in his chosen field of endeavour and will have been able to demonstrate

- leadership qualities;
- strength of character;
- community minded endeavours; and
- the potential to be a destiny changer in his or her chosen field.

While there is no age limit, preference will be given to candidates under the age of 35.

Candidates who are currently, or have been studying overseas, will not be considered for this scholarship.



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PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO APPLICATION FORM. APPLICATIONS NEED TO PROVIDE ALL THE INFORMATION LISTED BELOW.

In submitting their motivation for support, applicants will be expected to provide the following information.

Personal information

- an up to date curriculum vitae, a recent photograph. Certified copies of all certificates will be required

Current qualifications

- an up to date statement of academic record that includes degrees, and/or equivalent, names of institutions, dates of study and category of pass
- details of any dissertations and publications
- employment history and current job description (if applicable)
- three recent letters of support from referees familiar with the applicant's career and intended studies

Intended study

- field of endeavour
- intended degree, institution and period of study
- supervisor's name, current designation and abridged CV
- letter of acceptance from international institution and terms of acceptance

Financial position

- applicants should disclose what they believe the intended course will cost and disclose any other bursaries or scholarships for which they have applied. It is the intention that the FirstRand/Laurie Dippenaar Scholarship should be the principal award received by the applicant. Any other awards received will be expected to be declined by the applicant provided that the total of such awards does not exceed R75 000 per annum.
- costs referred to above should include travel, tuition, books, accommodation and subsistence costs.

Motivation

- motivation for the scholarship is regarded as very important and applicants are requested to submit a signed statement of not more than 1 000 words describing his/her background, general interests and how the applicant believes that the study will contribute to the betterment of South Africa.
- the applicant should also outline his/her intended life/career plan on return to South Africa.



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Selection Process

Applications will be treated in the strictest confidence. Candidates are asked to note that the provision of the information outlined above does not guarantee a positive outcome. The adjudicators will not consider support beyond a two year period. Any extension beyond the first year will be subject to satisfactory progress reports being received from the candidate and institution concerned at the end of the first year of study.

The decision of the adjudication panel is final and correspondence regarding their decision will not be entered into. The panel reserves the right not to make an award.

Profiles of prior year recipients

In 2007, the first award was made to Gus Waschefort, a graduate from the Law Department of the University of Pretoria. Gus was accepted by the London University (SOAS) to do a Master's in Philosophy (since extended to a doctorate). His research was on the reintegration of the child soldier into civil society. Gus was described by the head of the department of Public Law as undoubtedly the best undergraduate law student I have encountered in my twenty seven years as a lecturer and academic.

In the first year of the scholarship it was possible to award a further one year scholarship. This was awarded to Christie Dorfling, a BSc chemical engineering graduate from the University of Stellenbosch. Christie was accepted to study for an MSc at Cambridge University. The postgraduate co-coordinator at Stellenbosch University described Christie as the best undergraduate in the history of Department of Process Engineering.

The 2008 award was given to Lucy Corkin, a graduate from the University of Stellenbosch.

She was a projects director at the Centre for Chinese Studies at the same university and has a BA in International Studies (cum laude), a BA Honours Degree in Political Science (cum laude) and completed her MA in the same discipline. She has studied Mandarin/Chinese at Peking University and Unisa. She is fluent in English, Afrikaans, Portuguese, French and Mandarin.

Lucy was accepted at London University (SOAS) where she was studying for an MPhil/PhD in Political Studies. Dr Cornelissen from the University of Stellenbosch described her as one of the best students that his department had delivered and in all likelihood is going to deliver. As part of her studies she tried to understand the role of China in developing transport corridors in Southern Africa with a view to determining whether the many transport projects financed by China on the African continent can be harnessed to benefit African countries.



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In 2009 the panel took the decision to award two one-year scholarships to the value of R350 00 each.

The first award was made to Maryke van der Merwe, a BA graduate in History and Philosophy from Wits University, who also holds a BA (Honours) degree in History from the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal (summa cum laude). At the time of the award, Maryke was teaching at Mondeor High School, while completing a Post Graduate Diploma in Education at Wits. She is described by one of her referees as an extraordinary young woman, highly intelligent, with a thoughtful and questioning mind, outraged by social injustice and an outstanding teacher. She was accepted by the University of Sussex, where she is studying for a Masters in Intellectual History. Her master's dissertation will investigate the role that ideology played in influencing the British education system, which system has moulded South African education.

The second scholarship was awarded to Ben Winks, who holds a Bachelor of Laws (with distinction) degree from the University of Johannesburg. At the time of the award he was doing a Masters of Laws in Public International Law by research at the same university. The title of his thesis is "The Prevention of Armed Conflict in Africa: The Forgotten Promise of International Arbitration". One of his referees said of Ben – a student and human being of such exceptional quality comes by only once in a while and I look forward to the unfolding of his remarkable potential. Ben was accepted at Leiden University in the Netherlands, where he will complete a Master of Laws: Advanced Studies in Public International Law, specialising in peace, justice and development.

In 2010 the scholarship was awarded to two exceptional candidates for one-year to the value of R350 000 each.

The first of this year's awards was made to David Hofmeyer, a BSc graduate in Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics from Wits University, who also holds a BSc (Honours) degree in Pure Mathematics from the University of Cape Town (First Class). David is a remarkable young man who has a love of strategy games and has represented South Africa at the Magic World Championships in 2006, 2007 and 2009. He has also excelled in creative fields, particularly in writing and directing drama. David has been accepted at Edinburgh University and is doing an MSc Operational Research at the School of Mathematics.

The second scholarship was awarded to David Watson. He holds a BSoc Science with distinctions in Philosophy, Politics and Economics and a LLB from UCT. During his time at UCT he held many leadership positions including being elected as the Secretary General of the Students Representative Council, raking up a slew of firsts in student governance at UCT. He excelled locally and internationally in Moot Court Competitions and Debating Championships. David has been accepted at Cambridge to do a Masters of Law. David has been appointed as a clerk for the Chief Justice, Sandile Ngcobo at the Constitutional Court starting next year July on his return from Cambridge.



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Applications for the 2011/2012 academic year

Applications will open on Monday 3 January 2011 and close Friday 4 March 2011. Shortlisted candidates will be notified by the end of April 2011. These candidates will be interviewed in either Johannesburg or Cape Town and a final announcement made before the end of May 2011.

Applications should be sent to the address below to arrive on or before the closing date. Late applications will not be considered and emailed applications will not be accepted.

Postal Address

FirstRand Limited
Attention: Rose Hughes
P O Box 786273
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SOUTH AFRICA

Physical Address

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2196
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Additional information, if required, can be obtained from
beth.vanheerden@firstrand.co.za or rose.hughes@firstrand.co.za