

HARRY OPPENHEIMER FELLOWSHIP AWARD

2012

An Award that serves to reward excellence in scholarship in all its forms and which carries a monetary value of R1.0 million

- The Trust is calling for nominations from South African Universities, Universities of Technology, Science Councils, Research & Policy Institutes, and other institutions or agencies of similar national standing
- The Trust will also consider applications from individuals who do not have specific institutional affiliations
- The closing date for written applications or nominations is Friday 26th October 2012
- Incomplete submissions will not be considered
- Short-listed candidates or finalists should be available for interviews in the first week of December 2012
- One Award will be made at the discretion of the Trustees
- All written submissions should be delivered to the Manager of the Trust:

*1st Floor
No. 9 St. David's Park
St. David's Place
Parktown 2193*

The Trust was established in 1958 by the late Mr Harry Oppenheimer in memory of his father, Sir Ernest, and has a long tradition of investing in education and related fields. The Harry Oppenheimer Fellowship was initiated by the Trustees some twelve years ago and is the Trust's most prestigious award.

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This Award focuses unambiguously on excellence. It is granted to candidates of the highest calibre to enable them to undertake a programme of cutting edge, internationally significant work

The Award carries a monetary value of R1.0 million

1) The Guiding Principles

- * The Award seeks to attract candidates of exceptional ability and “big ideas” in any discipline
- * It is intended to enable scholars based in South Africa to undertake a programme of work for a period of up to one year, by making possible full-time concentration on the work, contact with outstanding peers (locally or in foreign countries) and adequate logistic resources
- * Further, it aims to strengthen relationships and partnerships between local institutions, foreign institutions and the Trust and build research excellence while stimulating scholarship in academic life

2) Criteria

The Trust will consider candidates who:

- * are residents of South Africa (age is not a factor in selection)
- * are well established in their field
- * are leading scholars who have undertaken advanced research for many years (the Award is not for the purposes of studying towards a higher degree)
- * are outstanding achievers with a track record of sustained intellectual effort at the highest level
- * present submissions that describe a clearly focused and specific project
- * demonstrate a capacity and commitment to the transfer of skills and knowledge to fellow South Africans

Special consideration will also be given to the following points:

- * The value of the proposed work: its particular application to teaching, research and development in South Africa; its potential to push the frontiers of knowledge in the given field or area of interest; its contribution to the advancement or application of knowledge in the service of society
- * The effectiveness and practicability of the programme proposed and its feasibility in the given timeframe
- * The candidate's proven achievement and his or her ability to profit from the use of the Award. By proven achievement the Trust would be looking for candidates who have: attracted research funding on a competitive basis; published in international peer-reviewed journals of high standing; extensive publications in the form of scholarly books or other works; successfully supervised postgraduate students to completion; secured invitations to, and seats on, international bodies and institutions

Written submissions must be supported by the following information:

- * An up-to-date curriculum vitae and a complete list of publications
- * A brief synopsis in lay terms (2 to 3 A4 pages) of the work to be undertaken, together with a written motivation explaining the reasons for the work
- * Details of the proposed work, including estimated timeframes and costs (specifying the major components of the budget and associated expenses) and an indication of time to be spent locally and abroad (where international travel is envisaged, the Trust encourages residential stays at one or two host institutions rather than short visits to many unless, given the context of the proposed work, this can be justified)
- * The envisaged output including journal articles, books, manuscripts, papers to be delivered, talks to be presented
- * Current written reports from at least four highly placed referees who are familiar with the candidate's work. At least two referees should be foreign (including one from a proposed host institution, if applicable) and two should be independent South African referees of international standing. Referees should be properly briefed by the candidate about the nature of the Award and its significance so that their remarks are directed appropriately and their reports should be submitted under separate and confidential cover directly to the Trust. The Trust may elect to contact these referees or other experts for further information

3) Nominations, Applications & Selection Process

- * The Trust will consider nominations from institutions (the preferred route) as well as applications from individuals who do not have specific institutional affiliations
- * Institutions are requested to publicise the Award internally and actively seek out and encourage their best candidates to apply. There is no limit to the number of nominations that may be made by any one institution but each nominee will require formal endorsement in the form of letters from his or her Vice-Chancellor, Principal, Rector, Chairperson or Chief Executive or one of their Deputies (as appropriate)
- * Candidates without institutional affiliations may apply directly to the Trust
- * The Trust will engage in a formal selection process and no correspondence on its decision will be entered into

4) Payment and Reporting

Funds will be disbursed in two instalments – an initial payment in advance and the second at the half-way stage, on submission of a progress report to the Trust. The Fellow will be required to submit a reflective report (including commentary on the impact of the work) to the Trust within six months of completion of the programme.

Under the joint auspices of the Trust and the Academy of Science of South Africa, awardees will be encouraged (and financially supported) to deliver public lectures on the completed work in one or more of South Africa's major metropolises.