



science and technology

Department:
Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



RISA

Research and Innovation
Support and Advancement

Innovation Bursary Scheme Call for Master's and Doctoral Applications

1. Background

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) in partnership with the National Research Foundation (NRF) introduced the Innovation Bursary Scheme (IBS) for the provision of financial support to students at **Master's and Doctoral study levels**. The scheme seeks to address blockages (including low retention and throughput rates) in the Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) human capital development. The envisaged impact is an increased supply of students for the Doctoral programmes, leading to a significant increase in the number of PhD graduates across all economic sectors, necessary for a robust National System of Innovation (NSI).

2. Objectives

Funding of postgraduate students and the training of researchers is key to addressing the human capital development challenges in South Africa. To address the challenge of human resource renewal in SET the Innovation Bursary Scheme aims to:

- increase student enrolment at **Master's and Doctoral** levels;
- address skills shortages in the fields of Science Engineering and Technology (SET) by increasing the workforce that has postgraduate degrees in SET; and
- increase the pool of suitably qualified young, women and black scientists and knowledge workers in the NSI from which academic staff at Higher Education Institutions (HEI's) may be recruited.

3. Fields of study

Support will be provided to students studying in Science, Engineering and Technology study areas aligned with national priorities and the DST's Grand Challenges. These will include but not limited to **biotechnology, cellular and molecular biology, engineering disciplines, computing science, physics and astronomy, mathematical sciences, nanotechnology, chemistry, earth sciences, ecology and medical sciences.**

4. Funding eligibility

The bursaries will be awarded **only to South African citizens and permanent residents** studying full-time at South African Universities and Universities of Technology in the following categories:

- Students registered for Master's or Doctoral degrees. Prospective students studying in 2012 towards a Master's or Doctoral Degree.
- Qualifying students who have received the Innovation bursaries at Honours or Master's degree level will be given preference to continue with their studies for a higher research degree.
- Only available to South African citizens and South African permanent residents
- Interested students must be studying in one of the listed Innovation areas.
- Students cannot be in any full time salaried employment or hold any contractual service obligations
- Students should have obtained at least 60% and above in all their major subjects in the previous degree.
- Students cannot hold additional funding from an NRF administered source or government funds

5. Value of the bursary

The bursary value will be set at a sufficiently attractive level to provide an incentive to persuade students to pursue postgraduate studies in the light of financial challenges and expectations. The value of the awards will initially be set as follows:

- a. Master's students will be receiving **R60, 000 per annum for two years**. In addition each student may access a once- off allocation of R10, 000 for conference attendance or a study visit during the course of the two years.

- b. Doctoral students will receive **R90, 000 per annum for three years**. In addition each student may access a maximum of R40 000 for international study visits or conference presentations, and up to R15 000 for local conference attendance within the three-year period.

6. How to apply for funding

Applicants can apply by following the steps below:

Application: <http://nrfinterim.nrf.ac.za> and **Update CV information on:** <http://nrfonline.nrf.ac.za>

- Login using your registered username (ID number) and password for the above systems.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** First time users should register with the same ID and password on both systems.
- Select the call for which you wish to apply for
- Remember to complete all sections of the application and attach all the necessary documentation including full certified academic transcripts, certificates and identity documents
- Applicants must also update their CV on the NRF online system
- Remember to submit your application on completion
- Complete applications will go to the host university for verification before being forwarded to the NRF for further processing
- Incomplete applications that do not include updated CV information will not be considered
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered.
- Please contact the university post graduate office or research office if you have any queries.
- The closing date for submitting applications is **31 August 2011**.



NRF Free-standing Scholarships Call for Master's and Doctoral Applications

1. Background

The NRF's scholarships provide a means of contributing towards human resource development by providing bursaries, scholarships and fellowships to postgraduate students, based on merit and potential. Free-standing scholarships are made available to outstanding students in Science, Engineering and Technology (SET), Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) as well as Economic and Management Sciences (EMS) to work towards obtaining a research-based **Master's degree, Doctoral degree** in South Africa or doctoral degree abroad (for South African citizens only).

2. NRF Free-standing Scholarships

Free-standing scholarships and fellowships are awarded directly to students undertaking full-time study, on a competitive basis. Students must apply for these awards themselves and remain responsible for the submission of required documentation.

3. Objectives of Funding

- Maintaining and increasing the quality of highly-qualified postgraduates
- Increased mobility of postgraduate students
- Increased freedom of choice for postgraduate students in selecting their fields of research supervisors and higher educational institutions
- Increased number of black and female postdoctoral candidates
- Increased exposure to researchers, academics and institutions abroad

4. Areas of support

NRF scholarships support qualifying candidates pursuing their studies or research work in areas such as **social and human sciences, economic and management sciences (EMS), natural and applied sciences as well as engineering and technology.**

5. Levels of study supported

The level of study supported, scholarship values and duration of study are well delineated in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Level of study supported, scholarship values and duration of study.

Level of study	Scholarship values	Duration
Master's	40 000	2 years
Doctoral	60 000	3 years
Study abroad		
Doctoral	US \$ 12 000	3 or 4 years
Travel	R 5 000	

Students may access a **once off travel grant of R 5 000** during tenure of Master's, Doctoral studies.

6. Selection Criteria

- Students registered for Master's or Doctoral degrees.
- Prospective students studying in 2012 towards a Master's or Doctoral degree.
- Only available to South African citizens
- Students cannot be in any full time salaried employment or hold any contractual service obligations
- Students should have obtained at least 60% and above on all their major subjects in previous degree.
- Students cannot hold additional funding from an NRF administered source or government funds

7. How to apply for funding

Applicants can apply by following the steps below:

Application: <http://nrfinterim.nrf.ac.za> and **Update CV information on:**
<http://nrfoffline.nrf.ac.za>

- Login using your registered username (ID number) and password for the above systems.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** First time users should register with the same ID and password on both **systems.**
- Select the call for which you wish to apply for
- Remember to complete all sections of the application and attach all the necessary documentation including certified full academic transcripts, certificates and identity documents
- Applicants must also update their CV on the NRF online system
- Remember to submit your application on completion
- Complete applications will go to the host university for verification before being forwarded to the NRF for further processing
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