



## **DSI-NRF Postgraduate Scholarships (pre-award process)**

Research Support Department

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DSI-NRF Postgraduate funding is intended to support honours, master's and doctoral candidates to pursue full-time studies at South African public universities, in all areas of Science, Engineering, Technology, Social Sciences and Humanities, including Indigenous Knowledge Systems, focusing on research aligned with one of the National Priority Research Areas.

Overall percentage of supported students:  
80% from SET, 20% from SSH

# Presentation outline



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NRF Connect application process

# Funding Instruments

INSTRUMENT	FIELDS/FOCUS	MASTERS	DOCTORAL
General NRF Scholarship	ALL SET & SSH	X	X
NRF-SASOL	Chemistry & related disciplines- focus on green economy	X	X
NRF-SARAO	South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) is a National Facility managed by the National Research Foundation (NRF) and incorporates all <b>national radio astronomy telescopes and</b> programmes.	X	X
DAAD	German exchange	X	X
Grantholder-linked associated applicants	Scholarship linked to NRF-funded research	X	X

NRF-SASAC, NRF-TWAS, NRF-NUFFIC, etc

# Eligibility Criteria

## Qualifications: Supported versus Unsupported

The NRF only supports full-time Honours, Master's and Doctoral studies. All areas of Science, Engineering, Technology, Social Sciences and Humanities, including Indigenous Knowledge Systems.

### Not supported:

- Postgraduate Diplomas and Certificates, and any postgrad qualification that does not entail research as a core component
- 100% Master's by coursework
- Professional Master's and Doctoral degrees

# Eligibility Criteria

## Requirements for Master's Applicants

- Full-time studies only
- Minimum average of 65% for all subjects at honours level or equivalent qualification
- 30 years of age or younger
- Maximum period of support: Two years

## Requirements for Doctoral Applicants

- Full-time studies only
- Minimum average of 65% at Master's level
- 32 years of age or younger
- Maximum period of support: Three years

# Eligibility Criteria

## Uninterrupted Study Support Requirements

- The NRF-funded degree is completed within the stipulated timeframe (Honours: 1 year, Master's: 2 years)
- Register for a Master's or PhD degree immediately after completing the Honours or Master's degree
- Meet all the university and NRF requirements for postgraduate funding
- Submit a new scholarship application for each level of study
- Submit the required bi-annual progress reports for the relevant levels of support.

# Funding Modalities

## Full Cost (FCS) vs Partial Cost (PCS)

Only South African citizens and permanent residents who are either (a) financially needy, (b) living with a disability or (c) exceptional academic achievers (75% academic average) are eligible for FCS.

PCS funding will be awarded to South African citizens, permanent residents and 5% of international students. Applicants that are eligible for FCS can be awarded at PCS due to budget constraints.



# Funding Modalities

## How will the NRF Establish Financial Need?

Applicants will be subjected to a financial means test to determine their financial need status. Applicants for DSI-NRF postgraduate student funding who were previously supported by National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) or the Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme (ISFAP) will not be subjected to a financial means test, however, they must attach proof in the form of an official university stamped financial statement or signed agreement with NSFAS or ISFAP.

# Processing of Applications



Call documents are available on the NRF Websites



Application forms are accessible online at <https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za>.



Applicants may only submit ONE application.



First identify university where you'll register and adhere to internal closing dates



Once an applicant submits an application, the application will automatically be routed to the institution where the applicant is applying to study

# Processing of Applications



The applications will be screened for eligibility, and reviewed and scored by the institutions, and only **eligible** applications will be submitted to the NRF.



All applications are processed by an NRF Designated Authority (DA) who is based at the University Research/Postgraduate office.

# Processing of Applications

## Application Assessment: Scorecard Weights

**Honours:** Academic merit (40%). Completion time for undergrad degree (40%). Priority Research Area (20%)

**Master's:** Academic merit (35%). Completion time for previous degree (15%). Priority Research Area (20%). Project Outline (30%)

**PhD:** Academic merit (30%). Completion time for previous degree (15%). Track record or Research Outputs (15%). Priority Research Area (10%). Originality of the Doctoral study (20%). Potential Impact (Societal and/or Knowledge) of the research (10%)

# How to apply

<https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za>

## Step 1: Login or Register

- When accessing NRF Connect (<https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za>), the applicant will be directed to a Login (for registered users) and Register (for new users) page.
- All applicants are required to be registered on the NRF Connect system to make use of the relevant functionality.

Applicants must click the **ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID)** icon to login or register.





NWU Internal closing dates for Masters and  
Doctoral applications is **30<sup>th</sup> June 2023**





Read call documents!! Read instructions!! Read emails!!  
Read!! Read!! Read!!



Stick to Internal closing dates!



Attach certified copies



Double check information in your application

# Thank you

**For Masters-related queries:  
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