



The Ruth First Scholarship 2024

Closing Date: 15th September 2023

Application Process

About the Scholarship

Through a generous grant from the Ruth First Trust and the Rhodes University UK Trustees, a Scholarship was endowed to honour the memory, and the spirit of the life and work of Professor Ruth First.

The Ruth First Scholarship supports Postgraduate students studying full time at Rhodes University towards a Doctoral or Masters degree in the fields of politics, sociology, philosophy, anthropology, economics, social policy, democracy studies, development studies, media studies, or studies in cognate disciplines with a strong social and human rights orientation.

Eligibility:

Must be a Doctoral or Masters candidate accepted at Rhodes University in the focus areas of this scholarship. Preference is given to black and women candidates of South African and Mozambican citizenship, and to candidates who are able to demonstrate financial need and disadvantaged social origins.

The scholarship is specifically intended to support candidates whose research is in the spirit of Ruth First's life and work, whose work poses difficult social questions, whose work tends to be evidence based, and who are interested in the crossover between knowledge and politics, or academia and action.

Candidates will be assessed on:

- academic record,
- track record of leadership and involvement in projects and organisations related to social and human rights issues, and
- ability to clearly articulate their intended area of study under the support of the scholarship, and their future career goals.

NB: The Ruth First Scholarship is **tenable only at Rhodes University**.

Application Process:

Applications are called for by public advertisement and managed by the Postgraduate Funding: Research and Innovation Division of Rhodes University.

Applicants are required to submit:

1. A letter of motivation (2 pages or more). It must outline how the candidate's proposed research aligns with the spirit of Ruth First's work and include the identify the prospective supervisor.
2. Two referee reports, one of which must be from the prospective supervisor in support of the application.
3. An academic CV
4. Full and latest academic transcript (reflecting percentages)
5. A certified copy of an identity document (passports must include the Visa page).

A final selection will include an interview process.

Funding:

- The Ruth First Scholarship awards R130 000 per annum for Doctoral level and R120 000 per annum for Masters level.
- Funding is renewable upon positive progress reports being submitted annually by the supervisor.
- A Doctoral degree is funded from first to third year only, and a Masters Degree for first and second year only.
- Candidates will not be funded for a level of qualification they already possess.

Expected outcomes:

The thesis and any publications must acknowledge the support of the Ruth First Scholarship.