

## **Innovation Masters and Doctoral Scholarships for non-South African students: Call for applications for 2014**

### **1. Background**

The Innovation Masters and Doctoral funding instruments are part of the Innovation Bursary Scheme (IBS) funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The scheme is managed by the National Research Foundation (NRF) through a contractual agreement with the DST. The IBS aims to broaden the frontiers of knowledge in innovation areas and to build the PhD pipeline for a knowledge-based economy. The DST has made funding available for the IBS in order to provide financial support to qualifying honours, masters and doctoral students registered at public universities in 2014. Through the IBS, the Department has, for the first time, extended support to students from outside South Africa. This document outlines the objectives of the programme, the values of the scholarships and criteria for selection.

### **2. Objectives**

The programme supports non-South African citizens registered on a full-time basis at public higher education institutions (HEI's).

The objectives of the Innovation programme are:

- To contribute towards the increase in the number and quality of non-South African postgraduate students within Science, Engineering and Technology (SET), as well as a limited number in the Social Science and Humanities (SSH) fields of study at masters and doctoral levels at a South Africa Higher Education Institution (HEI). Eighty percent (80%) of the students will be supported in the aforementioned fields and 20% will be supported in the latter.
- To build a pipeline of the next generation of SET and SSH scientists and researchers in South Africa.

### **3. Areas of Support**

The Innovation programme supports the students that wish to pursue their studies in the fields listed below:

- Biotechnology,

- Cellular and Molecular Biology,
- Engineering,
- Computer science,
- Physics,
- Astronomy,
- Mathematical Sciences,
- Nanotechnology,
- Chemistry,
- Earth Science,
- Ecology,
- Medical sciences, and a
- Limited number in the SSH.

#### 4. Value of the Scholarships

In 2014; the scholarship amounts are as follows:

Master's Scholarships	R 70 000 p. a
Doctoral Scholarships	R 100 000 p.a

In addition, master's scholarship-holders may apply for a travel grant of up to R 15 000 which can be used to attend local conferences, workshops, visit a laboratory, or any other activity that support the beneficiaries' current research progression. This amount is the maximum allowed during the tenure of the scholarship.

Doctoral scholarship-holders may apply for a travel grant up to R 15 000 for local travel and up to R45 000 for international travel. The funds may be used to attend local conferences, workshops, visits a laboratory, or any other activity that supports the beneficiary's current research progression. This amount is the maximum allowed during the tenure of the scholarship.

Scholarship-holders who wish to access the travel grant must complete a travel grant application form provided by their university postgraduate office/research office for consideration by the NRF.

## 5. Criteria for Selection

### 5.1. Eligibility

The following eligibility criteria listed below applies:

- Scholarships are open to full-time registered students at a South African Higher Education Institution (HEI).
- Any qualification obtained outside of South Africa must include a South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) accreditation certificate for the application to be considered.
- Full-time employees of HEI's are **not eligible** to apply.
- Scholarship-holders must not hold full-time salaried employment during the tenure of the award.
- The Scholarship-holder will be allowed to undertake a maximum of 12 hours of teaching, tutorials, assistance or demonstration duties per week on average during the year of study; they may be remunerated for these duties, provided that they are reimbursed at a rate not exceeding the normal institution tariff for services rendered.

### 5.2. Targets

Of the total IBS funding available for student support in 2014, 87% will be made available to South African citizens (not part of this call), four percent (4%) for students from the African continent, five percent (5%) from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region and four percent (4%) for non-Africans.

### 5.3 Conditions of award for the Innovation Bursary Scheme (IBS)

- The award of an IBS scholarship to a student will be based on past, current and potential academic performance. Selection criteria will include academic merit, promise of research ability, leadership qualities and previous awards, various prizes and honours.
- In addition to the above criteria, the award of the IBS scholarship will be based on the feasibility and merit of the applicant's research project proposal.
- Successful students who are offered the IBS scholarship by the NRF are required to complete and sign the IBS scholarship agreement which will be communicated at the time of the award.
- A list of successful candidates will be published on the NRF website as soon as the internal NRF approval processes for the award are finalised.

## 6. How to apply for funding

Applicants can apply by following the steps below:

- Applications must be submitted through an online application process to the National Research Foundation (NRF).
- **Applicants can apply for the Innovation Masters and Doctoral Scholarship for non-South African students Call for 2014 by accessing the link: <https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/>**
- **Register/ Login using your passport number and password.**
- Select create new application from the list of existing calls.
- Select the call for which you are applying to: **Innovation Masters and Doctoral Scholarship for non-South African students Call for 2014**
- Remember to complete all sections of the application.
- Please attach the necessary documents in **one PDF file in the following order: Certified copy of passport document, full certified academic transcripts, SAQA accreditation certificate for any qualifications obtained outside South Africa, proof of registration or acceptance (if applicable)**
- Should you not follow the guidelines for attaching the necessary documents your application will not be considered.
- 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 will not be considered.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered.



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- Please contact the university post graduate office or research office if you have any queries.
- The closing date for submitting applications is **30 September 2013**.
- **Please take note of your institutions internal closing dates as these may be set before the actual call closing date.**

#### **Contact persons:**

Miss June-Rose Ngcobo: Professional Officer – Human and Infrastructure Capacity Development (HICD). Telephone: 012 481 4930. E-mail: [june-rose.ngcobo@nrf.ac.za](mailto:june-rose.ngcobo@nrf.ac.za)

Miss Thashni Maistry: Professional Officer – Grants Management and Systems Administration (GMSA) Telephone: 012 481 4241. E-mail: [thashni.maistry@nrf.ac.za](mailto:thashni.maistry@nrf.ac.za)