

## **SOUTH AFRICA-JOINT INSTITUTE FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH (SA-JINR) COLLABORATION**

# **CALL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2016 JINR STUDENT PRACTICE**

**Closing dates: 15 June 2016**

## Background

In 2005 the Republic of South Africa (RSA) and the Russian Federation (RF) signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) that led to South Africa becoming an associate member of the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (JINR). The agreement enabled the establishment of research collaboration between South African and JINR researchers, as well as research opportunities and training of South African postgraduate students in the research areas of JINR.

As part of the SA-JINR agreement, the NRF facilitates an annual student practice, which is held during September to October at the JINR laboratories in Dubna, Russia. The goal of the practice is to build a critical mass of students that can later advance in the various nuclear research activities offered by JINR to the benefit of South Africa. **Postgraduate students enrolled in any of the following disciplines: maths, physics, chemistry, engineering and computer sciences or conducting research in related areas are illegible to apply.**

The student practice is a three-week training and research programme aimed at exposing South African postgraduate students to world class scientific equipment, scientific research and expert supervision of internationally rated scientists at JINR. For the 2016 intake, approximately 30 students will be selected, based on the criteria outlined below. The student visit will take place during 4-25 September 2016. For more information on the JINR student practice, visit the following link:

<http://newuc.jinr.ru/events.asp?id=56&language=eng>

Successful students will be expected to participate in an extensive 2-day inception and training workshop to be held at iThemba LABS (<http://tlabs.ac.za/>) in Cape Town, prior to travelling to Dubna. The inception workshop is meant to:

- Prepare students on research themes offered by JINR;
- Expose students to national research and facilities aligned to JINR;
- Establish a relationship with South African experts on nuclear research;
- Meet with other student practice participants and coordinators;
- Discuss preparation for the visit to JINR;
- Present an initial outline and framework for your research interest.

The two-day workshop will consist of the following components: a presentation on research themes aligned to JINR, a site visit to the iThemba facilities, a session where short presentations of your proposed projects will be made, and a networking opportunity where participants can get to know each other.

## Target Group

The student practice is intended for students registered for Honours, Masters or early PhD degrees at any South African university and or conducting research at a recognised national research institution. Priority is given to students at historically disadvantaged institutions (HDIs) and female students. Furthermore, students from the universities which have joint research projects in the framework of

the SA-JINR scientific cooperation and have sufficient education and scientific capability to participate or start participation in such projects will be prioritised.

### Eligibility criteria for the student practice

To qualify for the grant, applicants must comply with the following eligibility criteria:

- The applicant must currently be enrolled for Honours, Masters or PhD degrees; at any South African university and or conducting research at a recognised national research institution;
- The applicant must clearly indicate their preferred theme of research interest aligned with the JINR themes.
- A motivation letter from the supervisor (on a letterhead) should be submitted with clear indication of how the student will benefit from the student practice.
- A proof of registration must be submitted with the application.
- Applications that do not have all the required supporting documents by the time of submission will be disqualified and will not be taken up for evaluation by the NRF.

### Processing and Decisions

In line with the NRF's endeavour for a fair and objective granting process, all applications are subjected to the following:

- Applicants for the JINR student practice will not be supported for two consecutive calls, unless under exceptional conditions;
- Applications need to be endorsed by the applicant's supervisor or Designated Authority;
- A panel consisting of external and internal reviewers will assess and select applications according to the stipulated criteria;
- Approximately 30 applicants will be selected for the 2016 student practice.

### Application procedure

- Applications must be submitted electronically to the NRF via the NRF Online Submission System at <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za/>
- Register/Login using your ID number and password;
- Go to "My Applications" and select "Create Applications".
- Select the call for which you are applying for: **South Africa – Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (JINR) – Grants for Student Practice 2016**
- Complete all compulsory sections and the non-compulsory sections (i.e CV sections).
- Please attach the required documents in PDF format as listed in the sections.
- Remember to submit your application on completion.
- Completed applications will go to the host institution for verification before being forwarded to the NRF for further processing.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered;
- Applications for the JINR student practice should be submitted by 15 June 2016. **No application will be accepted beyond these dates;**

- The NRF will not be held liable for server/IT problems experienced by any institution for non-submission of applications;
- **Applications submitted as hard copies or by email will not be accepted and will automatically be disqualified;**

### Acceptance of Grant Conditions (AoC)

An appropriate hard copy of the AoC will accompany each formal letter of award. This should be signed by both the grant holder and the Designated Authority at the institution. The AoC should be returned to the NRF within 30 days of receipt or before funding is disbursed. Failure to comply may result in the NRF cancelling the award.

### Reporting and Payments

- The NRF support should be acknowledged in all publications (including World Wide Web pages) and presentations (oral or poster). Use of the NRF logo should be according to the branding policies of the organisation (contact Mr Thabiso Nkone at [Thabiso.nkone@nrf.ac.za](mailto:Thabiso.nkone@nrf.ac.za) for further details);
- Each event should be reported upon no later than 30 days after the event, using the prescribed JINR template to be made available to funded students;
- Applicants who have not submitted previous reports to the NRF will not be considered for future funding.

### Contact Details

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