



Funding Instrument: **DST-NRF Research Development Grants for *New Generation of Academics Programme* (nGAP) Scholars**

Functional Domain: **Grants Management and Systems Administration**

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1. Background

The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) have agreed to make available Research Development Grants for nGAP scholars in the first and second year of appointment to enable these young academics to develop and submit applications in funding instruments such as the Thuthuka- PhD and Post-PhD tracks.

Research Development Grants for nGAP Scholars have been made available from the 2016 academic year and a maximum of 250 nGAP scholars will be supported in any given academic year.

2. Objectives

In light of the above, the objectives of the grant are to:

- Accelerate the doctoral level training of nGAP scholars in the Doctoral track at public universities;
- Effect a rapid transformation in the demographic composition of the emerging researcher community with respect to gender, race and persons with disabilities through support for nGAP scholars in the Post-doctoral track; and
- Provide DST-NRF *Research Development Grants for nGAP Scholars* in the first and second year of appointment to enable these scholars to develop and submit research grant applications aligned to the Thuthuka PhD and Post PhD tracks.

3. Target Group

The DST-NRF research development grants are intended for nGAP scholars (academic staff appointed by the DHET at their respective universities) who are in their first and second year of appointment **ONLY**. Once appointed as a nGAP scholar, incumbents with a minimum qualification of a masters or doctoral degree, will be eligible for consideration for a *Research Development Grant for nGAP Scholars*.

The grant is intended to fund research costs and/or research proposal development in order to prepare the nGAP scholar to apply to the NRF for a competitive research grant that will be subjected to merit review.

4. Grant Details

The *Research Development Grants* are designed for applicants who are already appointed as nGAP Scholars by the SSAUF initiative; across the Higher Education (HE) sector.

The grants may be used to cover the following costs:

- Proposal development;
- Research running expenses; and
- Small research equipment.

Two types of awards will be provided based on the level of the nGAP scholar, namely:

- An award of R30 000 per annum for two years for nGAP scholars in the PhD Track; and
- An award of R50 000 per annum for two years for nGAP scholars in the Post-PhD Track.

Carry-over of unspent funds will only be permitted under extenuating circumstances e.g. ill-health, and must be motivated for in writing when the Call for Carry-over of funding is made by the NRF. The grant will not be transferable to another grantholder.

Grantholders are not permitted to change to any other NRF funding streams during the tenure of the award. However, it is expected that the nGAP scholars will focus on developing their research proposal in year one and in year two will submit to the NRF a Thuthuka grant proposal for research funding. These proposals will be subjected to merit review and grants will be awarded on a competitive basis.

The Research Development Grants for nGAP Scholars may not be used to cover the costs provided for by the DHET viz.:

- Salary costs for nGAP scholars;
- Registration and tuition fees;
- Mentoring costs;
- Participation in the SSAU Development Programme;
- Equipment e.g. laptops; and
- International conference / mobility participation costs

This grant will be awarded for a maximum of two years. Additional research funds and travel expenses for conferences attendance are not covered by this grant.

5. Eligibility Criteria

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

- Applicants must be in their first or second year of appointment as nGAP scholars at a public university in South Africa;
- Appointed nGAP scholars must hold a masters or doctoral degree as minimum qualification;
- Applicants must be South African citizens or permanent residents;
- Applicants that hold a valid NRF rating are not eligible to apply; and
- Applicants that are currently NRF research grantholders are not eligible to apply.

6. Application Documents

The following documents will be required in the application attachment section.

- Proof of South African Identity Document (ID) or proof of Permanent Residency (SA ID Document/Number);
- A letter/employment contract from a university in South Africa confirming the appointment of the applicant as an nGAP scholar;
- Certified copies of the academic transcripts and certificate of highest university degree qualification.

7. Application Procedure

Applications must be submitted through an online application process to the NRF.

(NB: This will be a closed call)

Applicants selected by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) only, can apply for the DST-NRF *Research Development Grants for nGAP Scholars* by accessing this link: <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za/>

- **Register/ Login using your ID number and password.**
- Go to “My Applications”
- Select “Create Application”.

- Select the call **DST-NRF Research Development Grants for New Generation of Academics Programme (nGAP) Scholars**
- Complete all compulsory sections and the non-compulsory sections relevant to you.
- Please attach the necessary documents in **one PDF file in the following order: ID document or proof of permanent residency and university employment letter/contract, Proof of registration, proof of highest qualification.**
- The online application requires referee/s details, please indicate your supervisor as a referee. The online system will send an e-mail requesting an electronic reference report from your referee/s when you click the final submit button on the application.
- Please follow the guidelines with respect to attaching the necessary documents for your application to be considered.
- Once the application is complete, the Final Submit button becomes active. Submit the application.
- Completed applications will be routed to your university's Designated Authority (DA), for verification, before being forwarded to the NRF for further processing.
- Late or incomplete submission of applications will be rejected.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will be rejected.
- Please contact the university Postgraduate or Research Office, should you have any queries.
- Once your application is verified by the DA at your institution, it is submitted to the NRF for assessment and selection through a *Research Development Grants for nGAP Scholars* Selection Panel.
- Outcomes will be available in June on the status of the application on the NRF Submission System. The "Submitted to NRF" status will change to "Successful" or "Unsuccessful".

8. Selection Criteria

Applications submitted to the NRF will undergo a technical review only, to ensure accountability and appropriate utilization of funds that are released. Approval of grants will be in accordance with standard NRF grant approvals by Senior Management.

The selection criteria for the technical review is tabulated below:

| Review Criteria/Weight | Description |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Budget Motivation (80%) | How well the Budget is motivated. |
| 2. Envisaged Outputs (10%) | How well the envisaged outputs are aligned with the planned activities and achievable within the given timeframe and budget. |
| 3. Past Research Outputs (10%) | How extensive the scope of the past research outputs is. (Books, Book chapters, Articles in refereed/Peer-reviewed Journal, Conference outputs, Patents, Keynote/Plenary Addresses, Articles in Non-refereed/Peer-reviewed Journal, Technical/Policy Reports, Products, Artefacts, Prototypes, other recognized research outputs) |

The demographic targets will be in alignment with the approved targets for the nGAP, i.e. 80% of the awards must be to black South Africans and/or women.

9. Post Awarding Process

Successful candidates will be notified by the NRF regarding the DST-NRF *Research Development Grants for nGAP scholars'* award. All successful candidates should complete all the necessary documents / conditions of grant related to the acceptance of the award.

A Progress Report (PR) must be submitted to the NRF by the grantholder as well as a recommendation by the supervisor in order for the grant to be renewed for the second year. The supervisor's details must be inserted in the Reference Section of the Progress Report.

10. Renewal of Grant

The NRF will monitor and evaluate the progress of the Research Development Grants for nGAP grantholders at an individual, institutional and funding instrument level as follows:

- The NRF will on an on-going basis, undertake institutional visits and focus group discussions, which will be conducted at the host institutions.

- All grantholders are required to submit a Progress Report (PR) by 15 February 2019, covering performance and financials for the funded period. The NRF will utilize these reports to assess project performance against timeframes and deliverables as indicated in the application. Continued funding for year two will be subject to the submission of a PR for the first year of funding and meeting the deliverables for year one.
- A new application will not be accepted if a researcher has 2018 funding for a previously funded 2 year project.

11. Enquiries

For any further assistance and information around the DST-NRF *Research Development Grants for nGAP Scholars*, please contact the Research, Financial Aid / Bursary / Postgraduate Office at your institution before contacting the following GMSA staff.

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| <p>Mrs Sushie Pillay Professional Officer: Emerging Researchers Tel: (012) 481-4178 e-mail: ppillay@nrf.ac.za</p> | <p>Ms Zodwa Mahlangu Liaison Officer : Emerging Researchers Tel: (012) 481-4114 e-mail: Zodwa.mahlangu@nrf.ac.za</p> |
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