

Applying for DSTI-NRF Postgraduate Funding for 2026

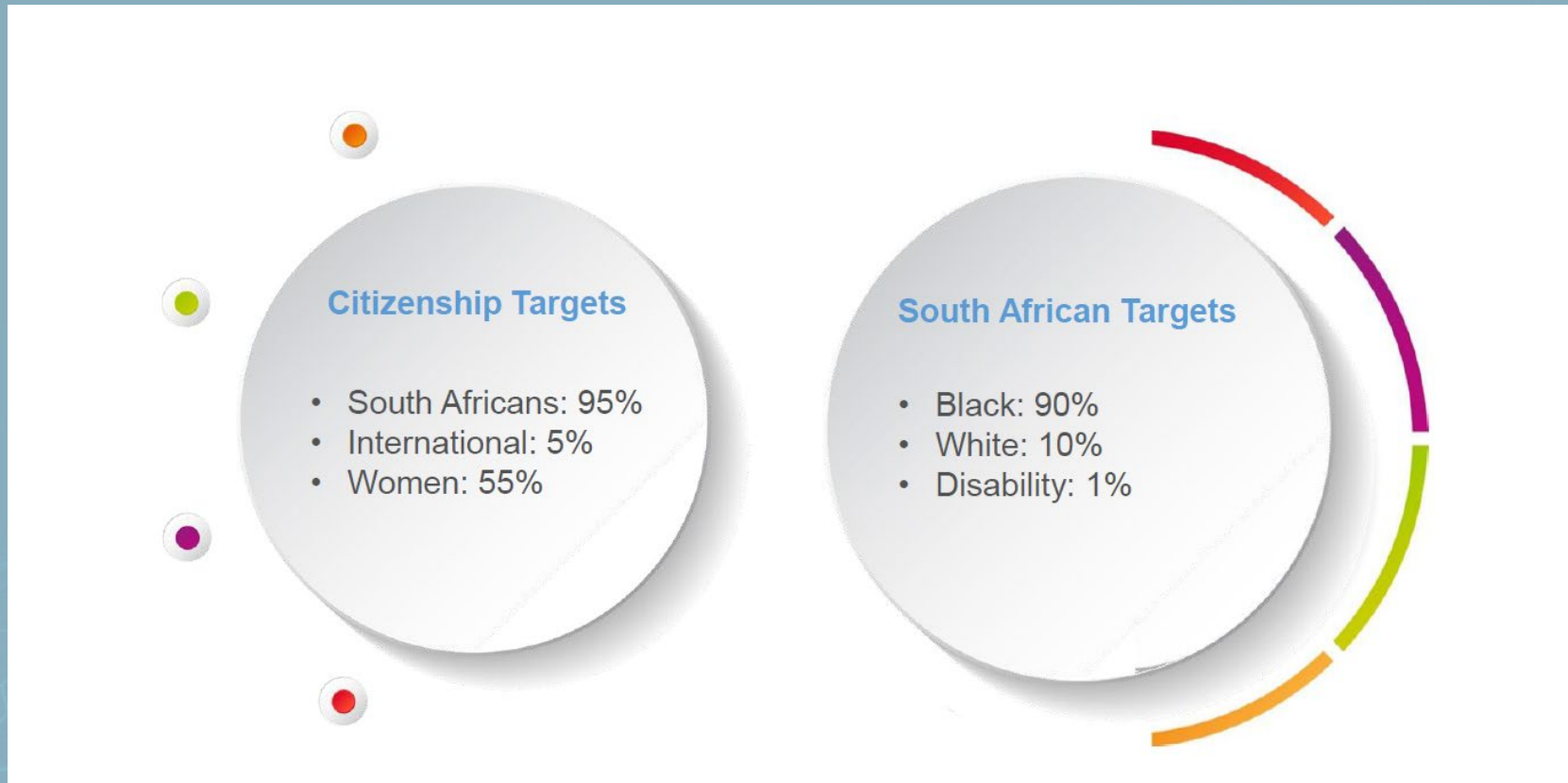
Casey Sparkes
CoE-MaSS Manager

6 June 2025

Criteria for allocation of funding

- Recommendation by the institution: merit - review panel;
- Knowledge domains as specified by the funder;
- Eligibility for uninterrupted NRF funding;
- Availability of budget;
- NRF Annual Performance Plan (APP) targets;
- Institutional rate of scholarship awards uptake;
- Postgraduate enrolments at each university;
- Institutional spread;
- Geographical area of applicants; and
- Eligibility for FCS Funding:
 - Financial need as determined by ISFAP facilitated household means test;
 - Previously NSFAS and/or ISFAP funded students;
 - Persons living with a disability; and
 - Academic high achievers.

Targets for Bursary Allocation to Support Transformation

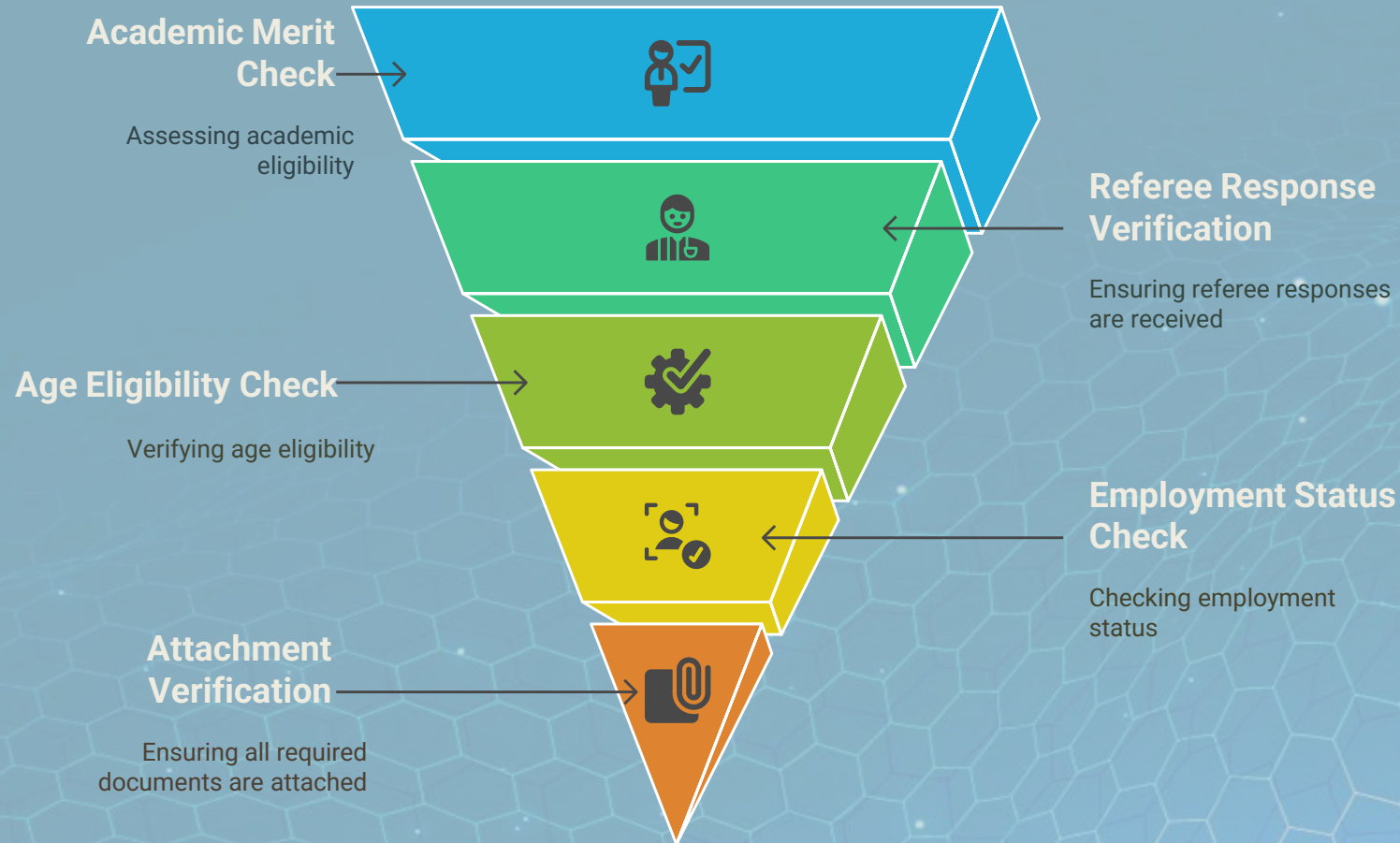


Postgraduate Call Documents – READ CAREFULLY

- DSTI-NRF Postgraduate Student Application and Funding Framework for the 2026 Academic Year
- Application and Funding Guide for DSTI-NRF Master's and Doctoral Scholarships 2026
- Statement of Expectations for Postgraduate Training
- DSTI-NRF Postgraduate Funding Policy and 2025 Call For Applications: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

<https://www.nrf.ac.za/dsti-nrf-postgraduate-student-funding-for-the-2026-academic-year/>

NRF Application Screening Process



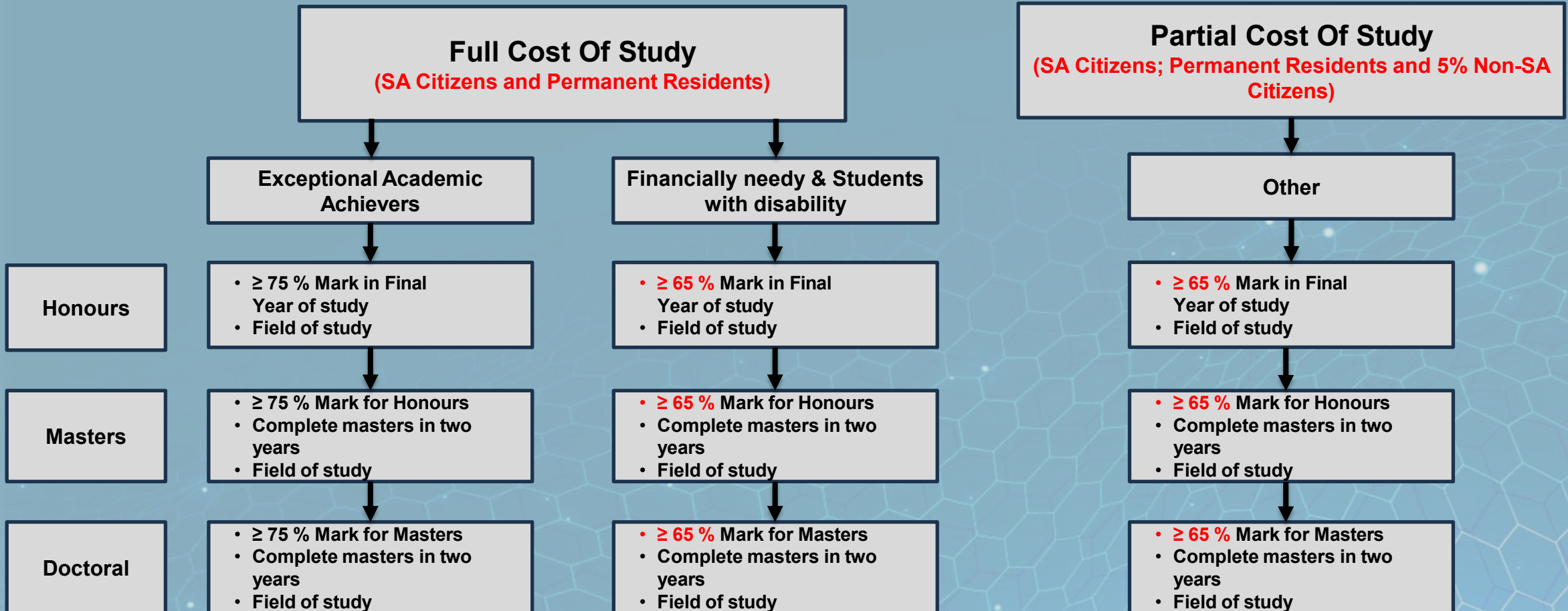
Eligibility Criteria

Citizenship Eligibility and Funding Period for Postgraduate Student Funding

Levels of study	Maximum period of support	Citizenship eligible
Honours	One (1) year	South African citizens and permanent residents.
Masters	Two (2) years	
Doctoral	Three (3) years	
Master's upgrade to doctoral	Four (4) years	
Extension Support for Masters and Doctoral	Six (6) or twelve (12) months	
		South African citizens, permanent residents and international students.

The period of support is calculated from the first year of registration for the study or research regardless of NRF funding and excludes the pre-proposal year.

Eligibility criteria for First Time Applicants



Indicative Funding Values

Applicable Allowances for 2026: FCS and PCS

Category	Funding per level of Postgraduate Study ¹					
	Honours		Master's		Doctoral	
	FCS	PCS	FCS	PCS	FCS	PCS
Value of the Scholarship (Rand)⁴	R171,058 pa	R132,058 pa	R190,306 pa	R134,306 pa	R195,725 pa	R138,225 pa
Electronic study device allowance (Rand)²	R10,000	n/a	R10,000	n/a	R10,000	n/a
Maximum Assistive Technology Device (Rand)³	R20,000	n/a	R20,000	n/a	R20,000	n/a

¹ The scholarship amounts will be reviewed on an annual basis subject to the agreed CPI-linked sector-wide increases and alignment with the *Guidelines for the Department of Higher Education and Training Bursary Scheme for Students at Public Universities*.

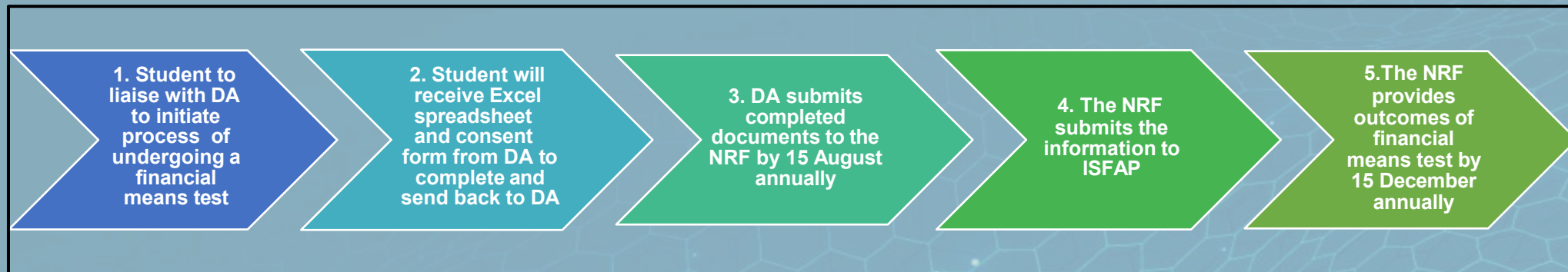
² The electronic study device allowance will be provided as a once-off allowance for the duration of the postgraduate studies.

³ The Assistive Technology Device allowance will only be for students living with a disability.

⁴ **Universities are requested to make monthly or quarterly payments to students.**

Financial Means Test for Continuing Masters and Doctoral students

Process to be followed by continuing NRF funded master's and doctoral students on Partial Cost of Study (PCS) who require a financial means test (FMT) **to be upgraded depended on the availability of the budget** to Full Cost of Study (FCS):

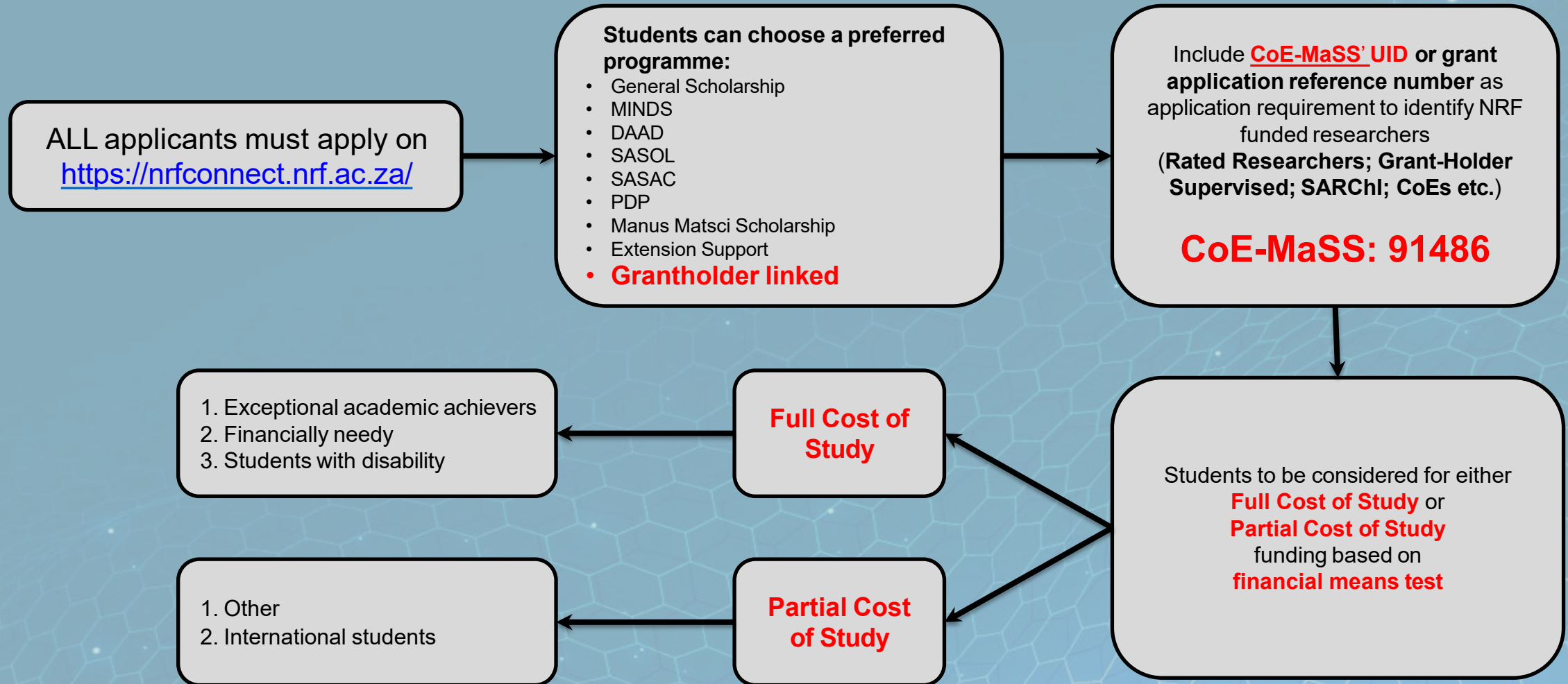


This opportunity is only available to current NRF grantees who have never been assessed for FMT and are currently funded at PCS. **It is important to note the following:**

- a. This does not guarantee that the PCS to FCS upgrade will be successful.
- b. You are not eligible to submit if you have previously been assessed for financial need by NRF-ISFAP and are currently funded at PCS.
- c. You are not eligible to submit if you have previously been funded by NSFAS or ISFAP and are currently funded at PCS.
- d. **The successful upgrade to FCS is contingent on budget availability.**

Timelines for the Application Call

Single NRF online application

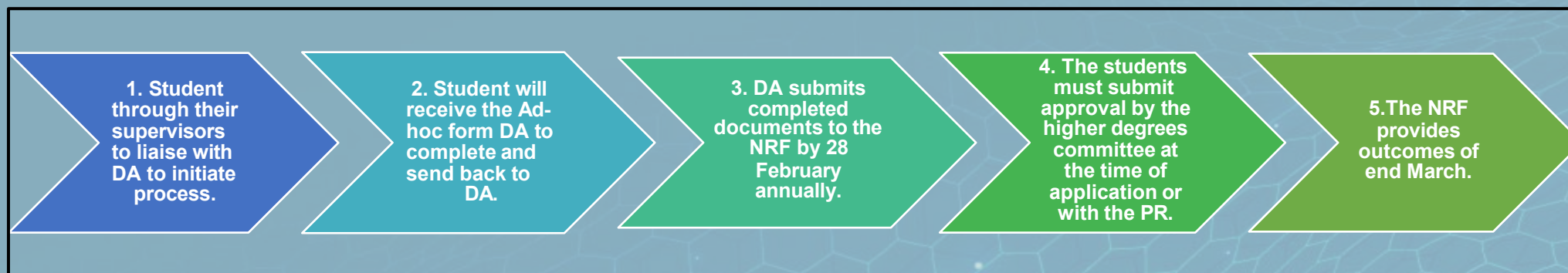


Students' applications opening and closing dates

Level of study	Opening Dates	Closing Dates
Honours (General)	01 July 2025	21 November 2025
NRF-SARAO Honours	01 June 2025	31 August 2025
First-time Master's	May 2025	04 July 2025
First-time Doctoral		04 July 2025
Master's and Doctoral Extension Support		15 August 2025

Ad-hoc application process

Process to be followed by honours, master's and doctoral students who are recruited by the SARChI and CoEs at the start of the academic year who missed the open competitive call process:



This opportunity is only available for research funded by the NRF such as SARChI, CoEs etc. **It is important to note the following:**

- a. The students will be approved at PCS if they can't produce proof of NSFAS/ISFAP funding at the time of application.
- b. Students will be provided with an opportunity for FMT assessment in August..
- c. **The successful upgrade to FCS is contingent on budget availability and outcomes will be communicated in December.**

Review Process and Standardised Scorecard

Review of Applications by HEIs

- Honours, masters and doctoral funding applications will be reviewed at the university / grantholder in the case of CoEs at which the student intends studying for the postgraduate degree.
- Reviews will be undertaken using standardised scorecards provided by the NRF.
- Only applications that are recommended for NRF funding based on the merit review, may be submitted to the NRF by the university Designated Authority.
- Applications that are not recommended for NRF funding based on the merit review, must be rejected on the online system with a comment by the university DA.
- The university Designated Authority must submit confirmation of the review process (Panel composition and panel outcomes) signed by the Deans of Faculties or DVC Research.

Honours Funding Review Scorecard: New Applications

Review Criteria and Weighting	Description
1. Academic merit (40%)	The average percentage mark for major subjects in final-year undergraduate or postgraduate certificate courses (NQF level 7).
2. Completion time for undergraduate degree (40%)	Time taken to complete the undergraduate degree or postgraduate certificate courses (NQF level 7).
3. Priority Research Area (20%)	Research aligned with one of the national research priority areas.

Masters Funding Review Scorecard: New Applications

Review Criteria and Weighting	Description
1. Academic merit (35%)	<p>Average percentage mark for the honours degree if completed;</p> <p>or</p> <p>Average percentage mark for major subjects in the final-year undergraduate courses or postgraduate certificate courses (NQF level 7) for applicants currently registered for the honours degree;</p> <p>or</p> <p>Average percentage mark for major subjects in the third-year undergraduate courses for applicants in the final year of a four-year undergraduate degree.</p>
2. Completion time for previous degree (15%)	<p>Time taken to complete the honours degree if completed;</p> <p>or</p> <p>Time taken to complete the undergraduate degree or postgraduate certificate courses (NQF level 7) if the honours degree is in progress;</p> <p>or</p> <p>Time taken to complete third-year undergraduate courses for applicants in the final year of a four-year undergraduate degree.</p>
3. Priority Research Area (20%)	Research aligned with one of the national research priority areas.
4. Project Outline (30%)	Provide an overview of your research concept and your proposed aims and objectives.

Students are advised to discuss the project online with their potential supervisor.

Doctoral Funding Review Scorecard: New Applications

Review Criteria and Weighting	Description
1. Academic merit (30%)	Percentage mark for the master's degree is completed; or If the master's degree is in progress, the average percentage mark for the honours degree; or Average percentage mark for major subjects in the final year of a four-year undergraduate degree.
2. Completion time for previous degree (15%)	Time taken for completion of the master's degree if completed; or If the master's degree is in progress, the time taken to complete the honours degree or four-year undergraduate degree.
3. Track record or Research Outputs (15%)	Evidence of research outputs in accredited peer-reviewed publications and presentations at conferences/symposiums.
4. Priority Research Area (10%)	Research aligned with one of the national research priority areas.
5. Originality of the Doctoral study (20%)	Problem statement, Identified knowledge gaps relating to the study's problem statement, Aim, and Objectives.
6. Potential Impact of the research (Societal and/ or Knowledge) of the research (10%)	Potential to contribute to national research strategies and the strategic goals of the knowledge economy.

Students are advised to discuss the project online with their potential supervisor.

Masters and Doctoral Extension Support Review Scorecard

Review Criteria and Weighting	Description
1. Progress to date (25%)	Report on research work completed in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree.
2. Reasons why the study could not be completed in the NRF maximum funding period (25%)	Explanation of why the study could not be completed within the NRF funding period.
3. Work plan to complete the degree within the indicated timeframes (50%)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work plan for six (6) or twelve (12) months, indicating activities for completion of master's or doctoral degree, indicating the start and completion date of each activity; 2. Proposed date for submission of the dissertation for examination; 3. Timelines for corrections to dissertation from reviewers; 4. Details of manuscripts to be drafted and submission timelines; and 5. Proposed graduation date.

Progress Reporting for Continuing and New Students

Progress Reporting for students

- This is for students funded under the *DSTI-NRF Postgraduate Student Funding Policy* from 2021 and the old funding policy.
- Students who do not submit Progress Reports as per the Condition of Grant will not receive continuation funding for the 2026 academic year
- All students funded at either FCS or PCS or from the old Funding policy are required to submit **Progress Reports** on the NRF connect on the indicated date below:

Levels of study	Opening date for progress reports	Cut off date for progress report	Number of Reports to be submitted at the end of the degree
Masters	November Annually	Mid-February Annually (during the year of study)	Two (2)
Doctoral			Three (3)
Extension Support			One (1)

Appeals Process

Procedural or Scientific Merit grounds of appeals

Appeals can fall into one of two categories viz. Procedural or Scientific Merit.

- The following would constitute procedural grounds for appeal:
 - Application improperly rejected as not appropriate to the Funding Opportunity or Call Category;
 - Relevant information not provided to the assessment panel by the institution;
 - Relevant information not considered by the assessment panel as per the initial application;
 - Conflict of interest rules not followed by the assessment panel;
 - Application reviewed by an inappropriate panel and/or reviewers;
 - Administrative errors during processing of an application; and
 - Violation of the NRF Postgraduate Call Framework and Application Guide.

- The following would constitute disputed scientific merit based on an unsuccessful outcome during the review process undertaken by the university:
 - Scientific disagreement between the assessment panel and the applicant; or
 - Evidence of bias against a ‘school of thought’ or philosophy of approach.

Eligibility for appeal

- The appeals process will be undertaken by the university that reviewed the application.
- An applicant must have requested and received official review feedback on their application via their institutional research office before submitting an appeal.
- New 'source' material or information that was not included in the original application, e.g., papers published since the submission of the application or revisions to the application, cannot be taken into consideration in an appeal. This will render the appeal invalid.
- Appeals may not be lodged against the funding decision taken such as PCS funding or not being awarded funding due to budget constraints. Requests to reconsider a funding decision based on budget constraints and/or KPI targets do not constitute a valid appeal.
- Honours students are not eligible for appeal on scientific merit grounds as these applications do not undergo a scientific merit review.
- Only masters, doctoral and extension support students may lodge an appeal on scientific merit grounds.

NRF Connect Application Process

NRF Connect with ORCID profile

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



The screenshot shows the NRF Connect login interface. At the top left is the NRF logo, which consists of a stylized figure with arms raised, holding a flag, next to the letters 'NRF'. To the right of the logo is the text 'National Research Foundation'. Below this, the text 'Login or Register with' is displayed. Underneath is the ORCID logo, which is a green circle containing the letters 'iD', with the word 'ORCID' written below it. In the bottom right corner, there is a button with a person icon and the text 'NRF STAFF'.

NRF Connect with ORCID profile

Applicants already registered on ORCID, must sign in using one of the following options:

- ORCID iD
- Email address linked with your ORCID profile
- Gmail account linked with your ORCID
- Facebook account linked with ORCID

ORCID ID – unique identifier as a researcher:
<https://orcid.org/>

Sign in

Email or 16-digit ORCID iD

example@email.com or 0000-0001-2345-6789


Password


SIGN IN


Forgot your password or ORCID ID?

Don't have an ORCID iD yet? [Register now](#)

or

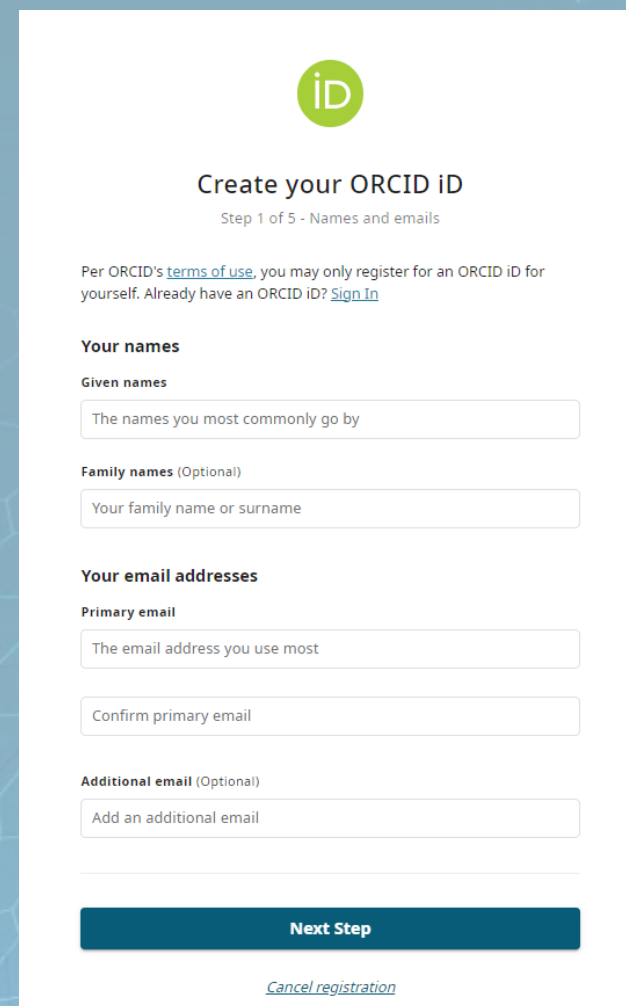
 **Access through your institution**


 **Sign in with Google**

 **Sign in with Facebook**

NRF Connect with NRF profile

- Applicants who are currently registered on the NRF Online Submission System, will be automatically logged in to NRF Connect with the ORCID profile.
- If you're not registered on NRF Online Submission system, click '**Register**' to register and create a profile on the new NRF Connect system.





Create your ORCID iD

Step 1 of 5 - Names and emails

Per ORCID's [terms of use](#), you may only register for an ORCID iD for yourself. Already have an ORCID iD? [Sign In](#)

Your names

Given names

Family names (Optional)

Your email addresses

Primary email

Additional email (Optional)



ID 0009-0008-6063-5776



Profile

MY APPLICATIONS

Applications

MY CV

Career History

Qualifications/Certifications

Research Expertise

Research Outputs

Student Supervision

CV Preview

DISCLAIMERS & POLICIES

Disclaimer

Manage your Profile

View your profile details

Instructions

- An * at the end of a field label within a section denotes a compulsory field, and the section will not be saved unless these fields have been completed.
- If any of the information provided below has changed since the initial registration/previous update of registration details, please edit/update the relevant information where applicable.
- **Ensure that the correct ID or passport document relevant to the ID/Passport Number provided above is uploaded. This document must be proof of the ID/Passport Number provided.**

Personal Details

Title *	Initials *	First Name *	Surname *
	Please fill in your Initials	J	
Maiden Name	Identity Type *	ID/Passport Number *	Birth Date *
	SA ID Number		1996/01/21
Citizenship Status *	Country of Birth *	Current Country *	Institution *
			Type part of the institution name to search
Academic Level/Rank *	Race *	Sex assigned at birth *	Gender *

Identity Document *

Photo of your identity document of less than 2 MB. 0 (0.0B)

EDIT FILE

When logging a technical query, please send your application reference number (PMDS26...) and ORCID ID to Supportdesk@nrf.ac.za

Make certain you upload your ID / Passport


Personal Information Sections

MY CV ^

- Career History
- Qualifications/Certifications
- Research Expertise
- Research Outputs v
- Student Supervision
- CV Preview

DISCLAIMERS & POLICIES ^


Address Details

Search for Address used for mail delivery 

Please use minimum of 5 characters for the search. e.g. 12 Ridge Street 0

Contact Details

Primary Email Address *	Alternative Email Address	Mobile Number	Land Line
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<small>Please fill in your Email address</small>		<small>Please fill in your Mobile Number</small>	<small>Please include Country Code +27 012 123 1234</small>

 Skype

SAVE

My CV

Career History

Instructions

- Please provide information about your employment history, accomplishments, awards, and prizes, as well as any period that you were absent from research.
- Please list all the positions you have held in the past (including non-academic positions where applicable), as well as your current position.
- Click on "Create New" to list all the positions you have held in the past, as well as your current position.
- Postdoctoral fellowships must be captured here.
- **For Rating Applications**
 - The current contract must still be valid at the closing date and institutions need to motivate the institutional benefits in terms of capacity building and/or student postgraduate training as well as the institutional commitment in terms of future support to enable the applicant to retain his/her association. They must provide some commitment (in the relevant block) that the association will still be in place two years after the rating becomes valid. Applications from researchers in these categories will be screened for the validity of the claims before being processed according to the [NRF Evaluation and Rating Eligibility Criteria \(https://www.nrf.ac.za/rating/rating-documents\)](https://www.nrf.ac.za/rating/rating-documents) which must correspond with your selected eligibility type under the 'Application Information' screen (e.g. Permanent/full-time, Contract (other), etc.).
 - Note: Should you hold more than one current contract position then additional information in the section "Application Information" will need to be completed.

Career History Record

Accomplishments: Please include any prestigious position or positions of stature.

Type *	Position *
Organisation *	Sector *
Full-time * <input type="radio"/>	Current Position * <input type="radio"/>
Appointed from <input type="text" value="Select Year + Month + Day"/>	Appointed To <input type="text" value="Select Year + Month + Day"/>



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My CV

Qualifications/Certifications

Instructions

- Please complete **all** Qualifications.
- If you have completed, or are currently completing a tertiary qualification, click on 'create' to provide details of each qualification in this section.
- Please click on 'CREATE NEW' to add a qualification.
- To edit a qualification that you have added, click on the "Edit" icon.
- An * at the end of a field label within a section denotes that this is a compulsory field, and the section will not be saved unless all compulsory fields have been completed.
- Please ensure that the "Academic Level of Qualification" and the "Name of Degree/Diploma" are the same, e.g. Masters (level) and MSc(degree); Doctoral (level) and PhD (degree).
- **Note: Postdoctoral Fellowships do not fall under Qualifications. Please capture it under Career History.**

Qualifications/Certifications Record

Academic Level of Qualification *

Name of Degree/Diploma(e.g.PhD) *

Institution *

Type part of the institution name to search

Distinction *

Completed *

Reason *

Study Fields *

Type part of study field to search

Title of Thesis/Dissertation

Full-time *

Date of First Registration *

Select Year + Month + Day

Completion Status *

Anticipated Date of Completion *



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[REDACTED]

MY APPLICATIONS

Applications

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Research Outputs

Student Supervision

CV Preview

DISCLAIMERS & POLICIES

Disclaimer

My Applications

Instructions

- Please consult relevant Call documents at: <https://www.nrf.ac.za/funding/nrf-call-for-proposals-for-funding-in-2025-and-2026/>
- Acceptance of Award guide: <https://www.nrf.ac.za/nrf-connect/nrf-connect-documents/>

The 2025 NRF Next Generation and Emerging Researchers Symposium
Upcoming!

List of Applications

Category	
+ Concept Notes	
+ Institutional Grants	
- NRF Postgraduate Scholarships	
Masters	CREATE
Doctoral	CREATE
Extension Support for Masters and Doctoral Scholarships	CREATE

Select Masters or Doctoral
NB: If you apply for a Masters Degree, the Doctoral degree will automatically disappear and vice versa.

My Applications

Edit Application

Category: NRF Postgraduate Scholarships


Funding opportunity: Masters











Reference: [REDACTED]

Applicant closing date: 05/07/2024

[BACK TO APPLICATIONS](#)

PMDS240611226487

[PREVIEW](#) 

Section	Complete	Updated	Edit
Personal Profile * *Compulsory section	✓	11/06/2024	
Qualifications/Certifications *	✗		
Research Expertise *	✓	11/06/2024	
Career History Non-compulsory section	✗		
Student Supervision	✗		
Research Outputs	✗		
Patents	✗		
Application Category - Masters *	✗		
Geographical Area *	✗		
Basic Information *	✗		













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Additional Information	x	
Financial Need *	x	
Financial Need - Proof Of NSFAS/ISFAP Funding *	x	
Household Contributor *	x	
Person History *	x	
Degree To Be Funded *	x	
Academic Achievement *	x	
Details of Research *	x	
National Infrastructure Platforms *	x	
Science Engagement *	x	
Attachments *	x	



Academic Information Sections

My CV

Qualifications/Certifications

Instructions


- Please complete all Qualifications.
- If you have completed, or are currently completing a tertiary qualification, click on 'create' to provide details of each qualification in this section.

[BACK TO APPLICATION](#)

Qualifications/Certifications Record

[CREATE NEW](#)

Academic Level Name	Institution	Name of Degree/Diploma	Highest Qualification	Date Obtained	Completion Status
---------------------	-------------	------------------------	-----------------------	---------------	-------------------

 No data available

My CV

Research Expertise

Instructions

- **Scientific Domain** - Select only one scientific domain from the list provided.
- **For Postgraduate Scholarship applications**, this section requires information about the field of study or what the research will focus on, i.e.: Humanities - Psychology - Clinical Psychology; or Sciences - Biological sciences - Microbiology. This is a compulsory field.
- **Primary Research Filed(s)** - Select at least one but not more than two fields (in order of priority) from the list provided that most appropriately reflect/s your primary level(s) of research. To remove a selected record, click on the X on the relevant record.
- **Secondary Research Field(s)** - Select at least one but not more than four fields (in order of priority) from the list provided that most appropriately reflect/s your secondary level(s) of research. To remove a selected record, click on the X on the relevant record.
- **Fields of Specialisation** - Search and select the relevant field(s) of specialisation from the dropdown list. To search for a field of specialisation, please start typing any part of the word in the appropriate space. Please include at least one but not more than ten specialisation fields in order of priority (one specialisation per line). To remove a selected record, click on the X on the relevant record. To change the order of the fields of specialisation, use the up and down arrows on the left of the field of specialisation.

NOTES

- Please type the discipline/field of expertise you are looking for in the space provided to find fields you can select from. Please scroll up and down the list to identify more relevant disciplines/fields of expertise.
- Should the field of specialisation not be available, please send an email to the newrequests@nrf.ac.za with your request for the new field. The NRF will review the new request and add it or make a relevant suggestion.

Scientific Domain

Natural Sciences

Primary Research Field

Primary Research Field *
Mathematical sciences

Please search with one keyword for options to select from.

Primary Research Field

Please search with one keyword for options to select from.



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Secondary Research Field

Secondary Research Field *
Statistics x

Please search with one keyword for options to select from.

Secondary Research Field

Please search with one keyword for options to select from.

Secondary Research Field

Please search with one keyword for options to select from.

Secondary Research Field

Please search with one keyword for options to select from.

Field of Specialisation

Field of Specialisation *
Bayesian statistics x

Please search with one keyword for options to select from.

Field of Specialisation

Please search with one keyword for options to select from.

Field of Specialisation

Please search with one keyword for options to select from.

Field of Specialisation

Please search with one keyword for options to select from.

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Field of Specialisation

Please search with one keyword for options to select from.



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Research Outputs


Connect your External Profiles

 Connect NRF Submission

 Connect ORCID

 Connect Scopus

☰ RESEARCH OUTPUTS MENU

 MERGE DUPLICATES

+ ADD ▾

Summary of Research Outputs

Research Output Type ↑	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	Total
------------------------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	-------

 No data available

Add Output from DOI

DOI identifier value or full URL

You can use the full DOI URL or just the identifier value.

CANCEL

SEARCH

Research Outputs

Primary Research Output

Articles in Refereed/Peer-reviewed Journals

Type *

Articles in Refereed/Peer-reviewed Journals

ISSN / ISBN Number

Electronic:2764-5290

ISBN 978-3-16-148410-0 / ISSN 2434-561x

Title of Journal *

Brazilian Journal of Biometrics

All Authors in Order Appearing on Output *

Gopika:Devi Ramkilawon, Johannes:Ferreira, Najmeh:Nakhaeirad

Publisher *

Revista Brasileira de Biometria

Title of Article *

Sine-skewed von Mises- and Lindley/Gumbel models as candidates for direction and distance in modelling animal movement

Volume *

41

Status *

DOI *

10.28951/bjb.v41i2.611

Digital Object Identifier

CANCEL

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Financial Need Sections

Instructions

- This section is only applicable to South African citizens and permanent residents. All international applicants must select a combined gross family income of more than R350 000. This will not have any influence on the outcome of your funding application.
- Applicants who give consent for financial means assessment, must [download](#) and complete the Funding Application Consent , have it completed and signed by all relevant parties (including the Commissioner of Oaths), and upload the completed document as an image or scanned document.
- Applicants who were previously funded by NSFAS or ISFAP, don't need to go through the financial means test. They must indicate "Yes" to "Has the financial means test been done?", and upload proof of NSFAS/ISFAP under the relevant section.

[BACK TO APPLICATION](#)

Financial Need

Have you previously received or are you currently receiving NSFAS/ISFAP funding?



Combined gross family income *



Has a Financial Means Test been done?



Do you give consent for a Financial Means Test to be done?



Upload completed consent form *

Applicants who were previously or currently funded by NSFAS or ISFAP, must upload proof of funding in a form of an **official university stamped financial statement** clearly showing that the funds are coming from these funders, a **statement from the funder** or a **letter from NSFAS, ISFAP or the university stating that the applicant received funding from them.**

Application Category Sections

Application Category - Masters UNSAVED

Are you/will you be registered as a full-time student? *

Funding Opportunity
CoE: Mathematical and Statistical Science

Scholarship applying for *
Scholarship linked to NRF Funded Researcher

NRF-funded researcher's application/grant reference number
91486

CoE-MaSS UID

CANCEL SAVE

It is essential that you apply for a “Scholarship linked to NRF Funded Researcher” and use the **CoE-MaSS UID – 91486**.

If you omit this step, your application will go to the “general pool” of applicants and will not be assessed by the CoE-MaSS.

Masters and Doctoral Applications

This is the institution where you intend studying at, in 2026

Basic Information UNSAVED

Institution *
University of the Witwatersrand

Type part of the institution name to search

Project title descriptor/ short abstract *

Short title of the project *

Short title of the project is required and Limited to maximum of 100 character(s)

Project title descriptor/ short abstract is required and limited to maximum of 2000 character(s)

Funding start year
2025

Select max funding years *
2

Funding end year
2026

Degree To Be Funded

Are you currently registered for the degree for which funding is being applied for? *

Has your Master's degree been upgraded to a Doctorate? *

Does your degree include a pre-proposal year? *

Does any financial support received for previous studies bind you to a service contract? *

Discipline *

Faculty (of degree to be funded)

Indicate what you are doing currently *

Date of first registration for the degree for which funding is being applied for *

Date of upgrade *

Indicate the year in which your pre-proposal year was/will be taken *

Student number (if currently registered at a university)

Masters co-supervisor

Department/School (of degree to be funded)

Are you willing to resign in order to take up the scholarship? *

Academic Achievements

Name of previous degree *

Level of previous degree *

Average percentage mark for major subjects or completed degree e.g. 65% or pass *

Year in which previous degree was completed *

Completion time for previous degree *

Example: Masters applicant, still busy with honours = list info related to your final year undergraduate degree

Note: GPA for the previous degree is confirmed upon take-up of award. If <65% obtained, scholarship will be cancelled.



science & innovation



Department:
Science and Innovation
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National
Research
Foundation

Details of Research – Masters

Details of Research *			
Section	Complete	Updated	Edit
Project Outline *	x		
Alignment to National Imperatives *	x		

- Applicants must give a concise overview of the proposed research in this section as the input is taken into consideration during the review of the application. Appropriate literature references must also be included in this section.
- Review the rubric on slide 20.

Classification in line with NRF Broad Categories

CREATE

NRF Broad Category

Justification for Selection

 No data available

National Priorities

CREATE

National Priorities

Justification for Selection


 No data available

National Strategy

CREATE

National Strategies

Justification for Selection

 No data available

Sustainability Development Goals


CREATE

Sustainability Development Goals

Justification for Selection

 No data available

Details of Research – Doctoral

Section	Complete	Updated	Edit
Original Problem Statement *	x		
Aims and Objectives *	x		
Potential Impact (Societal and/or Knowledge) of the Research *	x		
Alignment to National Imperatives *	x		

- Applicants must give a concise overview of the proposed research in this section as the input is taken into consideration during the review of the application. Appropriate literature references must also be included in this section.
- Review the rubric on slide 21.

Classification in line with NRF Broad Categories

CREATE

NRF Broad Category

Justification for Selection

 No data available

National Priorities

CREATE

National Priorities

Justification for Selection

 No data available

National Strategy

CREATE

National Strategies

Justification for Selection

 No data available

Sustainability Development Goals

CREATE

Sustainability Development Goals

Justification for Selection

 No data available

Please read the Framework Documents of the Call you are applying for to determine what attachments are compulsory.

Attachments

Instructions

- Please read the Framework Documents of the Call you are applying for to determine what attachments are compulsory.
- Please do not upload a copy of your ID document or passport in this section. This is compulsory in the 'Personal Details' section of your Profile.
- Upload documents in the appropriate sections described. Use the + button to add relevant documents in the same document description.
- Do not upload documents larger than 4MB. Should any of the documents exceed this size, please compress them before uploading. You may use this [link](#) to do so.
- Students applying for a SARAO Honours, Master's or Doctoral scholarship MUST read the "Attachments" section of the SARAO POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION GUIDE: [SARAO Postgraduate Scholarships Application Guide for the 2024 Academic Year](#)
- SARAO will NOT consider any applications where the required documents are not attached.

Masters and doctoral applicants must upload a letter from their supervisor. Please refer to the DSI-NRF Master's and Doctoral Application and Funding Guide for 2025 for further details related to: (1) the scholarships that this requirement is relevant to and (2) the information that should be included in the supervisor's letter.

BACK TO APPLICATION

Documents

Supporting Documents
0.0B / 0.00%

Supervisor Recommendation
0.0B / 0.00%

Make certain that you have discussed your proposed research with your prospective supervisor. They must also write a recommendation. **Without this, your application will be rejected!**

Before Submitting

- Preview your application and read it carefully.
- Make certain you have included all the compulsory attachments as well as the Supervisor recommendation.
- Edit the information where necessary.
- **Download the previewed document** and send a copy to the CoE-MaSS: coe-mass@wits.ac.za
- **SUBMIT to the NRF**

Don't Wait Until It's Too Late!

Do not leave your application to the last minute

There are always system issues, and you will need time to sort them out with the NRF

Who to Contact at your 2026 Institution: Internal

What is an NRF Designated Authority (NRF DA)

- NRF DA's are the link between researchers/students/applicants at an institution, and the funder (NRF). Application queries should start at your DA as your first port of call
- The DA's are usually located in your Research/Postgraduate/Student Support Office at your 2026 host institution. You can ask your 2026 Supervisor who this person is at your 2026 institution if you are unsure
- They review for eligibility, completeness and correctness before submitting to NRF
- Ensure that all required attachments are correct and uploaded
- **The DA can reopen your application for editing, if/when required – please note that the CoE-MaSS CANNOT assist with this**
- *Make sure to include your application reference number when querying your application.*

Who to contact at the NRF: External

Your 2026 institutional DA should always be your first port of call regarding your application, however, you may also need to contact the NRF with additional queries.

Contact Details for Technical NRF Connect Enquiries

For **Online Submission Technical Enquiries**, please contact the **NRF Support Desk** on weekdays, during office hours (08:00 to 16:30 Monday to Friday): E-mail: supportdesk@nrf.ac.za.

Contact Details for the Funding Opportunities

Queries related to specific funding opportunities can be directed to postgraduatequeries@risa.nrf.ac.za.

The subject line of your email must have the following information in order to be routed correctly:

- Level i.e., Honours, Master's or Doctoral
- Funding opportunity e.g., General, SARChI, CoEs, NRF-MINDS, Manus MatSci
- Application reference number starting with prefix PMDS26...

Thank you

