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## REGULATIONS FOR THE FULL-TIME RESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, 2019

### Background

Seed funding was made available to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for a flagship project under the auspices of Stellenbosch University's HOPE Project. In this flagship project, the Graduate School started operations in 2010.

The **Graduate School** coordinates the partly-structured, full-time doctoral scholarship programme and administers the doctoral scholarships. The Graduate School also coordinates multi- and interdisciplinary research themes within the doctoral programme to help prepare Africa's next generation of academics and professionals to address critical challenges of the continent with a focus on the eradication of poverty and the promotion of peace and democracy. Collaborative research, (co)supervision and exchange are encouraged and channelled through **PANGeA** (Partnership for Africa's Next Generation of Academics) involving leading universities elsewhere in Africa.

Scholarships will be made available to suitable candidates for full-time doctoral study linked to the research themes of the Graduate School in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Scholarships are valued at a maximum of R 420 000.00 over three years and payment is subject to satisfactory progress.

### THE FULL-TIME DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

To be eligible for Graduate School doctoral scholarships, the doctoral programme in which the student is enrolled, shall have the following characteristics:

1. *Full-time, residential study:* The doctoral study programme will be a full-time, residential programme, i.e. the student will be required to devote all his or her time to the doctoral study programme on the campus of Stellenbosch University. The expectation is that the doctoral study programme shall be completed within three academic years.
2. *Interactive learning environment:* The department or entity offering the programme, will create an interactive learning environment conducive to advanced scholarship development. This may be achieved by various means, including at least the following: (a) a requirement that students follow or attend the relevant and agreed upon training modules, workshops and seminars on offer by the *Graduate School of Arts and Social Sciences* (b) a requirement that students attend and participate in regular scholarly activities such as guided postgraduate, departmental, or theme-oriented seminars

or reading groups, and (c) regular meetings between students and supervisors as well as regular student progress reports to the Graduate School office.

3. *Research themes*: The student's research topic shall form part of one or more of the Faculty's approved Research Themes which shall be focused on problems related to Africa's development.
4. *Collaborative research partnering*: Where appropriate and feasible, students shall be encouraged to participate in the Faculty's efforts to engage in collaborative research projects with leading African universities through PANGeA. In cases where students will spend significant periods of time away from Stellenbosch or on partner campuses, appropriate measures shall be taken to arrange suitable supervision on partner campuses.

## Implementation of doctoral programme

Full-time doctoral study programmes are partially structured over a three year period, ideally as follows:

The **first year** of study is devoted to:

- Completing an approved doctoral proposal in the **first semester of study** (i.e. the proposal should be approved by the Faculty's Higher Degrees and Research Committee scheduled in June of the first year of study);
- Training in generic and elective modules offered by the *Graduate School*;
- Induction into scholarly discourse in the field of study through involvement in an advanced seminar series or colloquium and other relevant scholarly exchanges;
- Preparing or starting the field work, experimental work or archival work, as the case may be, based on an approved research design and methodology for the study;
- Getting ethical approval where necessary for the execution of the study;
- Completing at least one full chapter of the dissertation, preferably including a review of the literature and the relevant current research on the problem or area of the study.

The **second year** should enable students to:

- Continue to execute the research or study plan through further reading and/or writing and to complete their field-, experimental or archival work;
- Attend further seminars in the *Graduate School* research themes or to follow (additional) modules among those offered on campus;
- Where appropriate and feasible and subject to the availability of suitable supervision, students will be encouraged to spend some time from the second year onwards at PANGeA partner universities.

The **third year** should enable students to:

- Complete their analysis and the writing of their theses;
- Present preliminary results in advanced seminars or to defend their theses;
- Submit the completed thesis for examination.

## **Monitoring and evaluation**

Although the final examination of doctoral students will be based solely on the dissertation, progress during the course of the programme, including the modules followed, seminars attended, interaction and team-work, written work submitted, research work carried out, presentations given and meetings with the supervisor(s), will be assessed and reported regularly.

Continuation of scholarships will be contingent upon satisfactory progress and assessments conducted every four months throughout the study.

Students are required to remain in regular contact (minimum of once a month) with their supervisors throughout their study programmes.

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP**

1. Scholarships are intended for students who wish to undertake a study programme to obtain a doctoral degree in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Stellenbosch University, and who therefore are in possession of the necessary qualifications for admission to a doctoral degree in this Faculty.
2. Applicants must have completed a Masters degree or an equivalent recognised by Stellenbosch University *before* they can be admitted to doctoral study. As a rule, a minimum average of 65% should have been obtained in their previous qualifying degree or study in order to be eligible for the scholarship. The University will decide, in its sole discretion, whether any particular qualification or degree is sufficient to satisfy the admission criteria for the doctoral degree and for the award of the scholarship.
3. Applicants must be citizens of sub-Saharan African country – which includes South Africa. Successful foreign (non-South African) students must be in possession of a valid study permit in order to register at Stellenbosch University at the commencement of the programme.
4. Applicants must be available for full-time study over a period of three years starting at the beginning of 2019, reasonable vacation periods and/or data collection trips excepted.
5. Unless on sabbatical or leave approved for the purposes of taking up this full-time scholarship, the scholarship-holder may not without permission of the Graduate School be involved in any form of salaried employment during the tenure of the scholarship.
6. Applicants must have an adequate command of spoken and written English, as the correspondence, courses, seminars and other activities of the Graduate School will, as a rule and in view of the presence of foreign students especially at the doctoral level, be transacted in English. The use of languages other than English for the submission of written work will be acceptable, subject to the availability of academic staff members capable of supervising and examining the work submitted in such languages.

## **Award, selection and preference criteria**

Scholarships shall be awarded to eligible candidates taking the following factors into account:

On an individual level:

- High academic merit and the intellectual capacity to study successfully at the doctoral level.
- Strong personal motivation to complete the programme.
- The extent to which the proposed topic of study fits into the research programme of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.
- Availability of suitable supervisors for the proposed topic of study.
- Candidates who are below the age of 40. Although applicants over 40 may be considered, preference will be given to younger scholars.

On a collective level:

- Gender equity.
- To enhance compatibility of university and linguistic backgrounds, preference will be given to applicants from African countries south of the Sahara.
- Among the South African component of scholarship applicants, CBI (Coloured, Black and Indian) applicants will be given preference, provided that they meet all the other requirements.
- Among the non-South African component of scholarship applicants, applicants whose nominations are supported by officials of the PANGeA institutions (universities of Botswana, Dar es Salaam, Ghana, Makerere, Malawi, Nairobi and Yaoundé I) will be given preference, provided that they meet all the other requirements.

Applicants are advised that the University may require additional information, over and above information supplied in the application, in order to reach a decision about the suitability of any candidate for the award of a scholarship.

The University retains the right to award, or not to award, scholarships to any persons who meet the eligibility, award and preference criteria.

## **VALUES AND CONDITIONS OF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

1. The maximum value of the scholarship, commencing in 2019, is R 420 000.00 over three years. Applicants will be required to declare the value of any other scholarship(s) or award(s), whether in cash or in kind (for example paid leave of absence), that they may hold for the same study programme. Lower values may be allocated where successful applicants hold other scholarships amounting to less than the maximum value of the Graduate School scholarship.
2. Scholarships shall be deposited into the student's University account, where all amounts owing to the University shall be deducted first. Where a positive balance is available after such deductions, the positive balance may upon request be transferred to a student's private bank account, which should be at an approved South African financial institution. All financial transactions between the University and students shall take place in South African Rand.

3. All scholarship awardees will be required to enter into a signed agreement with the University, known as the Scholarship declaration. No scholarship amount will be paid out unless the student is properly registered at the University.
4. The scholarship shall be transferred to the student's University account in four instalments per year: the first upon registration, the second at the beginning of May, and the third at the beginning of September, and the remainder at the beginning of December. Save for the first instalment in the first year of study, no other instalment shall be transferred to the student's account unless authorised by a responsible official of the Graduate School, who will be obligated to ascertain that satisfactory progress has been made by the student in the relevant preceding period, before authorising transfer of the instalment.
5. If a scholarship-holder does not obtain the degree for which the scholarship was awarded within the prescribed period (three years for doctoral study); relinquishes his/her studies, or leaves Stellenbosch University during the period for which the scholarship was awarded without the knowledge of or direction of the supervisor appointed for such a student, Stellenbosch University may at its sole discretion require him/her to refund all payments of the scholarship already received for study towards the particular degree, plus interest at a rate determined by the University's Chief Financial Officer.
6. If at any time it is discovered that a scholarship-holder presented false information to obtain a scholarship (misrepresentation), or did not declare information pertinent to the Graduate School's decision to award a scholarship or continue the award of the scholarship (non-disclosure), Stellenbosch University may at its sole discretion require him/her to refund all payments of the scholarship already received for study towards the particular degree, plus interest at a rate determined by the University's Chief Financial Officer.

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