



SOUTH AFRICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

SASA-NRF GRANT: ACADEMIC STATISTICS BURSARY FUNDING 2020

Support and funding in the areas presented below will hopefully continue in 2020 with a new cohort in order to achieve the long term goal of producing young academic statisticians capable of training generations to come. Again, this will be done taking cognizance of the collaborative efforts between SASA and other initiatives aimed at promoting and supporting the development of Statistics as a field and related human capacity. The focus is on **academic excellence** in all categories below, and all research should be in Statistics or Mathematical Statistics majors. Applications should demonstrate academic excellence as the only criteria to be successful under this initiative.

Since this grant from the NRF is to foster and develop human capacity in academia, the student and supervisor need to know that to commence his/her studies in Mathematical Statistics / Applied Statistics, SASA expects the following:

The Mathematical Statistics option involves research on theoretically identified aspects with applied demonstrations and examples of the concepts. The applied option involves research into theoretical aspects identified through specific application needs and requirements. The applied option doesn't allow only for standard application of known statistical techniques on data sets. The applied statistics option involves more application based research with some theoretical work, that is, new statistical techniques for a specific application.

1. FULL-TIME BURSARIES TO MASTERS AND DOCTORAL STUDENTS:

- The applicant must be a full-time student but may be employed up to a maximum of 16 hours per week, and should remain so for the duration of the bursary. Proof of this or a declaration must be submitted.
- The bursary will be granted for the following time periods (study must be completed within these time frames, penalties apply):
 - o Two years for a Masters study – first registration in 2020 strictly.
 - o Three years for Doctoral study – first registration in 2020 strictly.
- Successful Doctoral students will receive R150 000 per year; Successful Masters students will receive R100 000 per year. Pay-outs will occur once proof of registration is provided.
- The research component must be a minimum of 50% for the Masters degree and 100% for a Doctoral degree. A declaration or proof of this must be submitted with the application.
- Applications must be submitted together as one through the relevant head of department (HoD); including the name and all details of the specific students, the supervisor(s) as well as the research topic with a short proposal of at least half a page for Masters degree (see additional information under general remarks) and detailed research proposal in the case of a PhD degree - see attached templates.

- Allocation of bursaries is every year subject to satisfactory progress towards the completion of the studies and a progress report has to be submitted as per NRF regulations.
- A full and complete academic record needs to be submitted with the application. For Masters applications, a full and complete academic record up to Honours level, included marks for the Honours project; for PhD applications, a full and complete academic record up to Masters level, including thesis component marks. **Complete study records received after 1 February 2020 will not be considered for any bursaries.**
- Only South African citizens and Permanent residence of SA students may apply.

2. STAFF DEVELOPMENT A: CONTRACT STAFF MEMBERS

For contract staff members with a 40 hours per week appointment (temporary full-time appointments) within statistics departments as well as studying towards a Masters or Doctoral degree in order to supplement their income to keep them in academia. This is specifically for universities where permanent appointments without a Masters or PhD are not possible. The purpose is to grant the prospective student the best opportunity to complete his/her studies within an acceptable time frame; this relies on allowances by heads of departments to grant study time.

- Supplement that will be granted is R100 000 for doctoral study for a period of four years and R70 000 for a Masters study for a period of three years- see attached template. Study must be completed within these time frames. Pay-outs will occur once proof of registration is provided.
- The research component must be a minimum of 50% for the Masters degree and 100% for a Doctoral degree. A declaration or proof of this must be submitted with the application.
- Applications must be submitted together as one through the relevant head of department (HoD); including the name and all details of the specific students, the supervisor(s) as well as the research topic with a short proposal of at least half a page for Masters degree (see additional information under general remarks) and detailed research proposal in the case of a PhD degree - see attached templates.
- Allocation of bursaries is every year subject to satisfactory progress towards the completion of the studies and a progress report has to be submitted as per NRF regulations.
- A full and complete academic record needs to be submitted with the application. For Masters applications, a full and complete academic record up to Honours level, included marks for the Honours project; for PhD applications, a full and complete academic record up to Maters level, including thesis component marks. **Complete study records received after 1 February 2020 will not be considered for any bursaries. This is the ultimate last date.**
- Only South African citizens and Permanent residence of SA students may apply.

GENERAL RULES AND REQUIREMENTS:

- All funding is subject to annual progress reports. Unsatisfactory progress may result in further funding being withdrawn.
- In the case where a Masters bursary applicant is not able to supply a research proposal as well as supervisor(s) due to a structured Masters degree of course work during the first year of studies, the research topics and summary thereof together with the appointed supervisor should be submitted by the HOD prior to the release of funding for the second year (no later than **1 February** of the second year of funding).
- Masters by research only, need to submit a comprehensive research proposal as well as the names of all supervisors.
- PhD applications need to submit a thorough research proposal that will address the area of research, emphasis the niche area as well as highlight the novel contribution to the field of study.
- Regarding study records: It is expected of the HoD to also indicate the module averages for each module listed on a student record. This will enable the independent appointed assessment panel to judge the applications within institutions relative to the other institutions.
- Funding will be aimed at equal distribution across all Statistics departments in South Africa, subject to the number of applications received as well as the achievable excellence. Only South African citizens and permanent residents can apply for the bursaries. Proof of citizenship to be provided with applications.
- PhD and Masters students would be expected to complete all NRF required forms online, once successful with this application.
- All applicants must be full ordinary SASA members for the duration of funding received.
- Bursaries can be topped up with other NRF bursaries to a maximum of R20 000 as per NRF regulations.
- **All the above is subject to the continuous funding of the NRF. The NRF can be in a position not to award any bursaries in 2020. Hence, the SASA/NRF working committee cannot be held responsible if the NRF is not awarding any new bursaries in 2020.**
- Incomplete applications will be disqualified without any further correspondence. It is the applicant's responsibility to submit a complete and detailed application, including a well-written PhD proposal in the case of PhD applications and a well-written Masters proposal in the case of a Masters by research only application.
- The working committee of this grant is not involved in the assessment process. An independent assessment panel is appointed to evaluate each application. The assessment panel has the equivalent credentials that any other NRF assessment panel possess (in terms of academic professionalism, independence and ethics).
- Closing date of all applications is **1 December 2019**. The HoD may submit complete academic records of a student no later than **1 February 2020**. Failing to supply full academic records by **1 February 2020** will disqualify the application. Final decision about successful applications to be made only after receiving all supplement documents as specified herewith.