



Catalyst Fund for Science

BURSARY SUPPORT

to postgraduate students at
Stellenbosch University

Context

Research has become a powerful tool in the global economy. Worldwide developments in science, technology and innovation are fundamentally altering the way people live, communicate and transact, with profound effects on economic growth and development. South Africa's National Development Plan has prioritised an increase in doctoral output from 1 876 in 2012 to 5 000 by 2030 in order to improve the country's research and innovation capacity and to create much-needed jobs over the next years. The majority of South Africa's new knowledge is developed within universities and research councils.

Unique value proposition – The Faculty of Science

At Stellenbosch University (SU), the Faculty of Science offers a first-class research environment and a wide range of institutional support and expertise to ensure the success of its postgraduate students.

SU is committed to developing the next generation of South African scientists - a group of innovative and critical thinking men and women who can play an active role in the development of our society and who will be catalysts to creating the knowledge-intensive economy that is so crucial to South Africa's growth and development. Against this background and in light of severe funding cuts to higher education institutions in South Africa, the Faculty of Science has launched the Catalyst Fund for Science to support qualifying and deserving postgraduate students.

Request for support

In order to be able to offer bursaries to its postgraduate students, the Faculty requires approximately R11 million per year. Our request to you is to consider funding a full bursary or make a contribution towards this Fund. Contributions can be paid into the following bank account:

ORGANISATION NAME	Stellenbosch University
BANK	Standard Bank
BRANCH	Stellenbosch
BRANCH CODE	05 06 10
ACCOUNT NAME	University of Stellenbosch
ACCOUNT NUMBER	073006955
Reference	Catalyst fund FoS

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“The most challenging aspects of being a student, especially in the early days, were adjusting to the workload and finding funding for my studies.”

Brandon Reyneke

Doctoral student, Stellenbosch University

My dream had always been to study medicine, but after not being accepted into the programme, I was advised to enrol for a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree and re-apply for medicine. However, during my undergraduate studies, I started working at the Department of Microbiology and decided I wanted to pursue a career in science instead.

After obtaining my BSc degree in Human Life Sciences, I completed both my BSc Hons and MSc degrees in the Water Resources Laboratory in the Department of Microbiology at Stellenbosch University. For my MSc research project, we installed custom-designed rainwater-harvesting solar treatment systems for households in an informal settlement. I am now in the final year of my doctoral studies, still focusing on water treatment systems.

The most challenging aspects of being a student, especially in the early days, were adjusting to the workload and finding funding for my studies. My undergraduate studies were funded through a student loan. However, there is a limit as to how far banks will fund your studies through student loans. The postgraduate bursaries I received during my studies enabled me to continue my studies.

A very limited number of bursaries are available to science students. This is because there are so few private companies offering bursaries in the field of science.

The majority of the bursaries are provided through governmental institutions (which regularly suffer budget cutbacks) or private bursary schemes, with a large number of students from across the country competing for these bursaries. Because of this, many students do not continue with a postgraduate degree as there is no funding to support them. This is a growing problem, as the majority of job opportunities in the science field require postgraduate qualifications.