



# 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 a year. Our request to you is to consider funding a full bursary or making 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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**“Bursary funding was the most significant component to my success as a postgraduate student.”**

**Dr Ethan Newman**  
Claude Leon Postdoctoral Fellow, UKZN

I am currently a postdoctoral researcher at the University of KwaZulu Natal where I study the processes that complete species formation in orchids.

In 2017 I obtained my PhD in Botany with a focus on plant animal interactions in the Department of Botany and Zoology at Stellenbosch. Thinking back, I believe Stellenbosch University is one of the most productive and vibrant universities in South Africa. It has adequately prepared me for the academic environment I choose to work in today.

Being a biologist provides me with the freedom to ask questions about how the world works and offers me a creative outlet to answer those questions. But what I enjoy most about my job is doing field work in the most remote places and interacting with likeminded people from all over the world.

Receiving bursaries was probably the most significant component to my success as a postgraduate student. This meant that I did not have to worry about splitting my energy working extra jobs to generate living costs. More importantly, I could focus all my energy where it mattered most, my research, and pursue my goals and build onto my career.

Postgraduate students from previously disadvantaged communities are heavily dependent on bursaries. The funding we receive not only make it possible for us to continue our research, but it allows us to sustain ourselves in a dignified manner. I believe some of my own work would not have been possible without the continued support.

Stellenbosch University provided me with opportunity to follow my own scientific path. This broadened my view in not only my career, but definitively how I view life in general.

I am grateful for the opportunity I had of studying at this prestigious institution and for the work ethic it has instilled in me.