

CONSOLIDOC FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME



Stellenbosch
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**Division for
Research Development**

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME



The Consolidoc programme, a special postdoctoral programme funded by the Vice-Rector, is aimed at giving new doctoral graduates across all fields of research a kick-start to their research publishing careers. These fellowships are intended for doctoral students as a bridge between graduating and obtaining a position either as a longer-term Postdoctoral fellow or as a full-time employee (within or outside Stellenbosch University). The Consolidoc fellowship is, however, not a guarantee of a further Postdoc fellowship or employment at SU. Funds are available to award seventeen (17) applicants only. Additional Consolidocs are funded by the Subcommittees.

Consolidoc grants are awarded only through nominations by potential host departments. Students can therefore not apply directly and should not contact the Postdoc office to apply. Students may liaise directly with their PhD supervisor.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Open to Stellenbosch University doctoral students graduating in December or March, irrespective of nationality.
- Consolidocs will retain their supervisors as their hosts for the duration of their fellowship.
- There is no age limit.



CONDITIONS

- Written confirmation by the study leader, faculty secretary or Registrar's office must be provided that nominees meet all the requirements to receive their doctoral degree in December or March, and registration for successful candidates will not be possible if there is no letter confirming that the candidate's doctoral degree has been accepted by Senate.
- The Consolidoc fellowship period cannot be used for new research or to assist with current departmental research. The sole purpose of the Consolidoc fellowship is to generate outputs from the doctoral studies (mainly scientific articles, but other DHET-recognised outputs as given in the nomination form will be considered too).
- According to SARS regulations, candidates must not be in full-time employment at Stellenbosch University (SU).
- The Consolidoc must be based at Stellenbosch University. However, exceptions can be made for working remotely as long as there is a valid and correct visa (in the case of international candidates), specified South African Bank account, and a signed workplan for monitoring and evaluation purposes.
- A Consolidoc, just like a Postdoc fellowship, cannot be held concurrently with any other position. If the Consolidoc is offered professional position or full postdoctoral fellowship, then the Consolidoc contract will be terminated.

NOMINATION PROCESS

- Call is advertised annually on the DRD listserv/distribution list
- Nominations should be completed on the attached form and endorsed by Departmental Chairs or Directors of Centres
- Forms should be submitted to **Dr Palesa Natasha Mothapo** (Head: Postdoctoral Research Support), mothapo@sun.ac.za,
- Incomplete and late nominations will not be considered.
- The value of the fellowship is be R60 000 tax-free for 6 months. Hosts/Departments and or faculties can top up this amount by up to R60 000, for a maximum value of R120 000. Extension up to 3 months is possible but must be funded by host/Department/Faculty.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1 What is the status of a Consolidoc and what is the difference between a Consolidoc and a postdoc?

- A Consolidoc is a Stellenbosch University doctoral graduate who receives a fellowship to spend an extra few months to write articles from the doctoral research. Although registered as a postdoctoral fellow on the payment system, the fellowship is not funding for new research. The difference between the Consolidoc and a postdoc is that the latter embarks on new research and starts an independent research career after their doctoral studies.
- If the Consolidoc candidate is offered a full postdoc fellowship, the contract of the Consolidoc will be terminated. The fellowship opportunity must go through the normal hiring processes for Postdocs, which includes advertising in external and internal platforms. Candidates may therefore not hold both the Consolidoc and a full postdoctoral fellowship.

2 Could Consolidocs expect to be provide with facilities, work space and infrastructure at their host departments?

- It is expected of the Department to provide work space or infrastructure— not more than what the Consolidoc received during their doctoral studies. The Consolidoc must have access to network registration, internet access, printing, all related costs to be covered by the host department. In addition, where necessary, a workspace with a desktop computer (unless Consolidoc is working remotely) must be provided for the duration of the Consolidoc.

3 What is the role of the host/study leader?

- The study leader/host should be the same person who served as study leader of the doctoral studies and should be available to give advice on the writing of articles out of the doctoral studies, assist with the submission of manuscripts in accredited journals. The host should sign off on the report at the end of the Consolidoc period.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

4 Is a Consolidoc really necessary for a minimum of 6 months? What if the student completes two articles within 3 months (especially as he/she could focus on this alone?)

- The Consolidoc is a bridging period until such time that the person receives a postdoctoral fellowship, a professional position or reaches the end of the fellowship. If a study leader feels that information for publication from the doctoral research is depleted, and that no more publications would be possible, the Consolidoc can be terminated, or the host could source funds to advertise for a full postdoc and the candidate could apply for the position.

5 If the Consolidoc does not find the funding adequate (for living expenses), or spend the money too quickly, what should the host department do?

- There are no costs such as class fees or book expenses linked to the Consolidoc fellowship (only “official” expenses such as the student card). The funding is for living costs only and will be paid into the bank account of the Consolidoc. The Department is not expected to contribute financially but could if they want to. The student’s time is supposed to be uniquely focused on the writing of articles. Work done for the Department should be paid for via the “Ad Hoc” payment system up to a maximum of 12 hours / week and will be taxable.

6 Can the Consolidoc expect to receive support to attend conferences or courses?

- As the Consolidoc fellowship is for living costs, it should not be used for research-related travel. It is the Department’s prerogative to fund travel if it is part of their “culture” to support doctoral students, but there is no obligation in this regard towards a Consolidoc. Consolidocs can attend courses and training offered in the university through the Division for Research Development, Library and other general postgraduate offers, as part of their career development.



FOR INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE:

Dr Natasha Mothapo

Head Postdoctoral Research Support

Email: mothapo@sun.ac.za

TAKING UP OF FELLOWSHIP:

As soon as results of the candidate's doctoral studies are confirmed and accepted by Senate, the successful candidates can contact the Postdoc Coordinators for further processing of registration and payment.



NATIONAL CONSOLIDOCS

Ms Lee-Anne Seymour

E-mail: leeanne@sun.ac.za



INTERNATIONAL CONSOLIDOCS

Mrs Izel Rossouw

Email: izel@sun.ac.za



**For more information visit:
www.sun.ac.za/research**