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Postgraduate Funding

Frequently Asked Questions

2024/2025

Contents

1.	How do I get in contact with the Postgraduate Funding Office (PGFO) staff? ..	5
2.	Is there funding for part-time studies at Postgraduate level?	5
3.	When will my scholarship stipends still be paid for 2025?	5
4.	Will my scholarship stipends be paid via Intellimali for 2025?.....	5
5.	Does the Postgraduate Funding Office offer loans to postgraduate students?	5
6.	Does the Postgraduate Funding Office fund PGCE students?	5
7.	When should I apply for postgraduate funding opportunities?.....	5
8.	I'm an international student do I qualify for funding at Stellenbosch University?.....	5
9.	Can you send me a quotation or invoice for my programme of study?	6
10.	I am currently receiving a scholarship from an external funder – what is required from me?.....	6
11.	Requests for academic records?.....	6
12.	How do I download a fee estimate for my study programme?.....	6
13.	Do the PGFO still award Merit Bursaries at the postgraduate level?	6
14.	When will Private Bursaries outcome be available for 2025?	6
15.	When will HB & MJ Thom Bursary outcome be available for 2025?	7
16.	When will Harry Crossley Bursary outcome be available for 2025?	7
17.	When will I receive the outcomes for the 2025 SU Postgraduate Scholarship Programme (PSP)?	8
18.	If I am eligible for PSP renewal funding, what is the process for renewal funding?.....	8
19.	How will the PSP payments be processed in 2025?	8
20.	When will the 2025 NRF Honours Scholarship application outcomes be available?.....	9
21.	When will the 2025 NRF Masters and Doctoral Scholarship application outcomes be available?.....	9

22.	I was awarded the NRF Postgraduate (Honours/Masters/Doctoral) Scholarship for 2025 – Who may I contact for assistance?	9
23.	When will I receive the NRF Scholarship Outcome letter and Conditions of Grant?.....	10
24.	How do I accept the NRF scholarship?	10
25.	May I accept the NRF Honours scholarship if I am not registered for the degree as per my NRF application?	10
26.	May I accept the NRF Masters or Doctoral scholarship if I am not registered for the degree as per my NRF application?.....	10
27.	I was awarded the NRF scholarship for Masters study and applied with my final year undergraduate degree average. I have completed my Honours degree and obtained an average mark that is lower than 65% - can I accept the NRF scholarship?	10
28.	I was awarded the NRF scholarship for Doctoral study and applied with my Honours degree average. I have completed my Masters degree and obtained an average mark that is lower than 65% - can I accept the NRF scholarship? 10	
29.	I was awarded the NRF Partial Cost of Study (PCS) scholarship based on the academic mark of my previous degree (65-74%); but I have now completed my degree and obtained an average mark of 75% (or higher) for the degree that qualifies me for admission to the degree to be funded. Can I be considered for receiving the NRF Full Cost of Study (FCS) scholarship?.....	11
30.	I was awarded the NRF PCS scholarship, but I applied to be considered under the Financial Need category as I am/was a NSFAS or ISFAP recipient. Can I be considered for receiving the FCS scholarship?	11
31.	I am an international student – am I eligible to receive the NRF FCS scholarship for Masters or Doctoral study?	11
32.	My NRF Outcome letter shows that I will receive an equipment grant and/or assistive device.....	11
33.	I cannot accept the NRF scholarship for my Masters or Doctoral study by the deadline indicated in the outcomes email as my previous degree is incomplete. Can my scholarship be deferred?	12
34.	Do I have to pay registration / tuition / study fees if I was awarded and remain eligible to receive the NRF scholarship?.....	12

35.	I have been awarded the NRF scholarship, but my project has changed, my supervisor has changed and I need to transfer my scholarship to / from another institution.	12
36.	May I hold other bursaries with the NRF scholarship?	12
37.	What is the duration of NRF funding support that I will receive?	13
38.	How do I Acknowledge the NRF on my thesis, publications, poster presentations, etc. for funding support received?	13
39.	Am I required to submit a Progress Report when I receive NRF funding?.....	14
40.	If I am eligible to receive NRF funding for the next academic year, how do I apply for the renewal of the scholarship?.....	14
41.	May I receive an advance on my NRF funding?	14
42.	Contact Details for the Stellenbosch University NRF Institutional Designated Authority (DA).....	14
43.	Where do I find more information on 2025 postgraduate scholarships?	15
44.	Postgraduate Funding Office (PGFO)– Contact Details	15

1. How do I get in contact with the Postgraduate Funding Office (PGFO) staff?

The Postgraduate Funding Office (PGFO) is assisting all students remotely via MS Teams and in person. Please send an email to postgradfunding@sun.ac.za or visit our website [here](#) for more information on the funding instruments that we manage.

2. Is there funding for part-time studies at Postgraduate level?

No there is no funding for part-time students at Stellenbosch University postgraduate level.

3. When will my scholarship stipends still be paid for 2025?

Yes, the Postgraduate Office will process all bursary payments as soon as the required documents are submitted per funding instrument. Please check your award letters and note that you must be registered to receive your stipends or living allowances. Students must ensure that their banking details are correctly captured on the University system. Please visit our [website](#) and contact the relevant coordinator for assistance.

4. Will my scholarship stipends be paid via Intellimali for 2025?

Yes, the Postgraduate Funding Office will process all bursary payments via the Intellimali portal once required documents are submitted. Please review the Intellimali instruction [here](#) for more information.

5. Does the Postgraduate Funding Office offer loans to postgraduate students?

Kindly note that Stellenbosch University does not offer a loan scheme at postgraduate level. You can contact the following website [here](#) for more on external loan service providers.

6. Does the Postgraduate Funding Office fund PGCE students?

No, the Postgraduate Funding Office (PGFO) does not fund PGCE students however you can contact our Client Services (info@sun.ac.za 021 808 9111).

7. When should I apply for postgraduate funding opportunities?

You should be applying for funding support in the year prior to your studies for a review and funding decisions to take place. These funding opportunities typically open around May/June every year. It is advisable to apply as soon as you have a pending application for your studies as waiting for your letter of acceptance would delay your funding application.

8. I'm an international student do I qualify for funding at Stellenbosch University?

Yes, there are limited bursaries for international students, especially those who do not have a previous degree from a South African institution. Students are advised to read the guidelines on our website www.sun.ac.za/pgfo/funding for more information. We advise students to source funding first at their countries of origin before coming to Stellenbosch University.

9. Can you send me a quotation or invoice for my programme of study?

You can generate a provisional quotation of fees online for the full quotation of fees for the year. Please go to www.maties.com > Fees > Provisional statement of fees (quotation) > Request a more detailed provisional statement of fees (quotation).

For this quotation, you will need to select modules for your specific programme of study which can be found in the University calendars

here: <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/Pages/Calendar.aspx>. Select the correct calendar for your faculty and find your programme in the faculty calendar to select your modules.

Also, see our website for all payment methods and payment dates. Here is the link: <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/maties/Pages/Fees-PaymentOptions.aspx>. Alternatively you may contact the Student Fees Offices at 021 808 4521/4913 or studentaccounts@sun.ac.za.

10. I am currently receiving a scholarship from an external funder – what is required from me?

We urge all bursary / scholarship-holders to read and study their signed agreement or scholarship contract document for specific obligations. Progress reports for [most] scholarships (i.e. the National Research Foundation) will still be required.

11. Requests for academic records?

Unfortunately, our office is unable to assist. Please contact Mr Samuel de Beer (sdb@sun.ac.za) for assistance pertaining to your request below.

12. How do I download a fee estimate for my study programme?

The study can be found on the Maties website [here](#) under the Fees heading.

A provisional quotation can be done online, by clicking on the following link: <https://web-apps.sun.ac.za/student-fees-estimate/#/home>. Should you encounter difficulties, please contact Student Accounts (studentaccounts@sun.ac.za) (Division: Student Fees).

13. Do the PGFO still award Merit Bursaries at the postgraduate level?

We currently don't administer or provide merit bursaries for our postgraduate students. The SU Postgraduate Scholarship Programme considers the academic performance of applications. All prospective and current students are urged to apply for this programme. More information on www.sun.ac.za/pgo/funding

14. When will Private Bursaries outcome be available for 2025?

Private bursary results will be available April / May 2025.

15. When will HB & MJ Thom Bursary outcome be available for 2025?

The HB & MJ bursary feedback to students will be done in December 2024. Please note that only successful students will be communicated with, you should consider your application unsuccessful if you haven't received feedback after 3 months from the closing date.

16. When will Harry Crossley Bursary outcome be available for 2025?

Harry Crossley results available middle of December 2024.

50% of the payment will be done in March and the 2nd installment in July/August 2025 after receiving a positive progress report.

- **How will Harry Crossley payments be processed in 2025?**

The Harry Crossley scholarship pays out in two (2) instalments. The first instalment in the first semester (50% of scholarship value). The second instalment is 50% in the second semester, after all receipt of satisfactory progress report from your supervisor.

Postgraduate Level	Years of support for Full-time studies	Value of funding per annum
Masters	2 years – only if award was received in the first year of a Master's study.	R150 000
Doctoral	3 years – depending on the year of study for the first award.	R160 000

- **What if a student receives other funding during the course of the year?**

If a scholarship holder receives bursaries during the course of the year which results in the permissible maximum amount for all bursaries being exceeded then – the Harry Crossley scholarship is cancelled.

- **Am I eligible to hold the Harry Crossley Scholarship with the Postgraduate Scholarship Programme (PSP) simultaneously?**

Yes, but the PSP will be reduced to fall in line with the Harry Crossley Scholarship regulations as well as the university bursary maximum.

- **What if I accept a work opportunity?**

The Postgraduate Office, Division for Research Development should be informed in writing of any change in terms of any information on your application.

- **If I am a renewal applicant for the following year, how do I apply?**

The bursary coordinator will send renewal applications to all who qualify for renewal.

- **What if I deregister in the second semester of that year?**

Unfortunately, you will have to pay back the full amount received.

17. When will I receive the outcomes for the 2025 SU Postgraduate Scholarship Programme (PSP)?

PSP outcomes (notice of scholarship) will be shared with successful students between mid-December 2024 and end January 2025. Outcomes will be communicated to email addresses provided with the PSP application information.

Postgraduate Level	Years of support for Full-time studies	Maximum value of funding per annum
Honours	1 year	R140 000
Masters	2 years – depending on the year of study for the first award.	R150 000
Doctoral	3 years – depending on the year of study for the first award.	R160 000

18. If I am eligible for PSP renewal funding, what is the process for renewal funding?

You are required to submit an annual report which opens in November. **The link was shared with PSP students on 01 November 2024 and closed 30 November 2024.**

Renewal funding is subject to the receipt of satisfactory progress report from both student and supervisor. Master's students can be funded up to 2 registered years and PhD students can be funded up to 3 registered years.

19. How will the PSP payments be processed in 2025?

The PSP scholarship pays out in two instalments. The first instalment in the first semester (60% of scholarship value). The second instalment in the second semester, after receipt of satisfactory bi-annual progress reporting from both student and supervisor (remaining 40% of scholarship value).

- **What if a student receives other funding during the course of the year?**

If a scholarship holder receives bursaries during the course of the year which results in the permissible maximum amount for all bursaries being exceeded the PSP scholarship is cancelled.

- **What if I accept a work opportunity or choose to decline the PSP award?**

The Postgraduate Office, Division for Research Development and PSP coordinator, Ms Micah Dyer, should be informed in writing of any change in terms of any information on your application.

- **May I receive an advance on my PSP funding?**

Requests for advances on PSP funds will be accepted from **15 January 2025 only**.

→ **CONTINUING/RENEWAL PSP 2025 SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS:**

Approval of the annual progress report is required – therefore, advances on the scholarship funds can only be considered after this report has been submitted by the scholarship holder as follows:

- A complete satisfactory Annual student progress report.
- A complete satisfactory Annual supervisor report and recommendation for continued funding.
- The submission of your 2025 PSP contract and proof of registration.

The sooner you submit the complete progress report with the required documents, the sooner the report can be approved, and the sooner the stipend can be advanced to you.

→ **NEW PSP 2025 AWARDEES:**

- You must be registered for the degree as per your PSP 2025 application,
- You must have submitted the 2025 PSP contract and your proof of registration. (Please note by the submission of your PSP 2025 contract, you have accepted the PSP award and relevant terms and conditions).

Click on the following link to apply for an advance on your PSP 2025 Scholarship Funds:

<https://forms.office.com/r/JDtv7P9pTM>

20. When will the 2025 NRF Honours Scholarship application outcomes be available?

The provisional awards for the 2025 NRF Honours Scholarship will be communicated to all applicants by 15 February 2025.

21. When will the 2025 NRF Masters and Doctoral Scholarship application outcomes be available?

The NRF has undertaken to announce the outcomes of the NRF Masters and Doctoral Scholarship applications before the end of December annually. These outcomes will be emailed to all applicants by the Designated Authority (DA) from Stellenbosch University, and will also be published on the NRF's website: <https://www.nrf.ac.za/nrf-for-post-graduate-students/bursaries-scholarships/application-outcomes/>.

22. I was awarded the NRF Postgraduate (Honours/Masters/Doctoral) Scholarship for 2025 – Who may I contact for assistance?

Please email the NRF Institutional Designated Authority (DA), Mrs Betina van der Merwe (betina@sun.ac.za), for assistance.

23. When will I receive the NRF Scholarship Outcome letter and Conditions of Grant?

The email sent by the DA with the application outcomes will include instructions to provisionally successful applicants on where to obtain and download the NRF Scholarship Outcome letter and Conditions of Grant.

24. How do I accept the NRF scholarship?

The email sent by the DA with the application outcomes will include instructions to provisionally successful applicants on where and how to accept the scholarship, as well as a guideline document, explaining how the scholarship will be administered by the Postgraduate Funding Office and how to receive the scholarship funds.

25. May I accept the NRF Honours scholarship if I am not registered for the degree as per my NRF application?

No. You must officially register for the degree as per the NRF application submitted.

26. May I accept the NRF Masters or Doctoral scholarship if I am not registered for the degree as per my NRF application?

No. You must officially register for the degree as per the NRF application submitted. **NB:** If you decide to enroll for a different degree, you must submit a Request for Change in Project Details (endorsed by your prospective supervisor) to betina@sun.ac.za **before accepting the award on NRF Connect.**

PLEASE NOTE:

- All correspondence must be addressed to the NRF and include the application reference number.
- Students that are awarded funds linked to an existing NRF-funded grant (Grantholder linked scholarship) cannot change the degree to be funded without prior consultation with the Grantholder/Supervisor.

27. I was awarded the NRF scholarship for Masters study and applied with my final year undergraduate degree average. I have completed my Honours degree and obtained an average mark that is lower than 65% - can I accept the NRF scholarship?

No. The university is required to verify the mark obtained in the previous degree. If an academic mark of lower than 65% was obtained, the applicant is not eligible to accept the NRF scholarship.

28. I was awarded the NRF scholarship for Doctoral study and applied with my Honours degree average. I have completed my Masters degree and obtained an average mark that is lower than 65% - can I accept the NRF scholarship?

No. The university is required to verify the mark obtained in the previous degree. If an academic mark of lower than 65% was obtained, the applicant is not eligible to accept the NRF scholarship.

- 29. I was awarded the NRF Partial Cost of Study (PCS) scholarship based on the academic mark of my previous degree (65-74%); but I have now completed my degree and obtained an average mark of 75% (or higher) for the degree that qualifies me for admission to the degree to be funded. Can I be considered for receiving the NRF Full Cost of Study (FCS) scholarship?**

Yes, if a student was provisionally approved for the PCS award, yet is eligible to receive the FCS scholarship based on academic merit, a formal letter of request for consideration of adjusting the PCS award to FCS, together with proof of academic merit (an average mark of 75% or higher for the previous degree), must be emailed to the DA (betina@sun.ac.za) for submission to the NRF.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Approval of such request is not guaranteed as this is subject to the availability of funds.
- All correspondence must be addressed to the NRF and include the application reference number.
- No Changes to the NRF Honours scholarship will be allowed.

- 30. I was awarded the NRF PCS scholarship, but I applied to be considered under the Financial Need category as I am/was a NSFAS or ISFAP recipient. Can I be considered for receiving the FCS scholarship?**

Yes, if a student was provisionally approved for the PCS award, yet is eligible to receive the FCS scholarship based on financial need, a formal letter of request for consideration of adjusting the PCS award to FCS, together with proof of financial need (official proof of NSFAS/ISFAP funding received **or** confirmation of financial need by ISFAP/NSFAS), must be emailed to the DA (betina@sun.ac.za) for submission to the NRF.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Approval of such request is not guaranteed as this is subject to the availability of funds.
- All correspondence must be addressed to the NRF and include the application reference number.
- No Changes to the NRF Honours scholarship will be allowed.

- 31. I am an international student – am I eligible to receive the NRF FCS scholarship for Masters or Doctoral study?**

No, all international students will be eligible to receive the NRF PCS scholarship only, regardless of the academic mark achieved. Only South African citizens and permanent residents are eligible for FCS based on financial need / academic merit / living with a disability (subject to the availability of funds).

- 32. My NRF Outcome letter shows that I will receive an equipment grant and/or assistive device.**

The **equipment (electronic device) grant** is payable with the FCS scholarship only.

The **assistive device grant** is payable to persons living with a disability only.

33. I cannot accept the NRF scholarship for my Masters or Doctoral study by the deadline indicated in the outcomes email as my previous degree is incomplete. Can my scholarship be deferred?

Yes, an award can be deferred to the second semester of the year of award. A formal letter from the student requesting deferment of the award, including the reason for deferment and intended date of registration for the degree to be funded, together with an official letter of support from the proposed Supervisor confirming the intended date of registration for the degree to be funded, must be emailed to the DA (betina@sun.ac.za) for submission to the NRF.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Deferment of the NRF Masters or Doctoral scholarship to the next year will not be allowed.
- All correspondence must be addressed to the NRF and include the application reference number.

34. Do I have to pay registration / tuition / study fees if I was awarded and remain eligible to receive the NRF scholarship?

No. You may use the NRF Outcome Letter as proof of bursary, in order to register for the degree to be funded.

35. I have been awarded the NRF scholarship, but my project has changed, my supervisor has changed and I need to transfer my scholarship to / from another institution.

Please email the DA (betina@sun.ac.za) with your application reference number and Outcome Letter for instructions on submitting a Request for Change in Institution (Beneficiary) / Project / Supervisor to the NRF.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Students that are awarded funds linked to an existing NRF-funded grant (Grantholder linked scholarship) cannot change their project details/supervisor without prior consultation with the Grantholder/Supervisor.

36. May I hold other bursaries with the NRF scholarship?

Students who are awarded the NRF PCS or FCS scholarship are allowed to receive top-ups from any other source of funding up to the University Maximum (see amounts below), however the NRF Full Cost of Study (FCS) Scholarship may not be held together with a Full Cost scholarship from another Government source. Please refer to Clause 18.1 / 15.1 in the Conditions of Grant.

2025 (Combined) Institutional Maximum amount of scholarship funding allowed per student

Honours	R 216,000.00
Master's	R 302,000.00
PhD	R 356,000.00

37. What is the duration of NRF funding support that I will receive?

The period of funding support is calculated from the date of first registration for the Honours, Masters or Doctoral degree, regardless of when the student first receives the NRF funding.

Postgraduate Level	Years of support for Full-time studies
Honours	1 year
Masters	2 years
Doctoral	3 years
Masters upgraded to Doctoral	4 years
Extension Support for Masters and Doctoral	6 or 12 months

PLEASE NOTE:

- If a student was already registered (for the first year of Masters/second or third year of Doctoral degree study) when awarded the NRF funding, the funds will only be received for/from the year in which funding is awarded, and not for the period registered for the degree prior to receiving the award.

38. How do I Acknowledge the NRF on my thesis, publications, poster presentations, etc. for funding support received?

The scholarship-holder will acknowledge the financial assistance received from the NRF as follows on the Title page of the mini-thesis/dissertation as well as in all papers and publications that emanate from the research study funded by the NRF:

The financial assistance of the National Research Foundation (NRF) towards this research is hereby acknowledged. Opinions expressed and conclusions arrived at, are those of the author and are not necessarily to be attributed to the NRF.

Note: If statements concerning the research are made to the media, it should be stated explicitly that the scholarship-holder initiated the research and that it should under no circumstances be regarded as research done on behalf of or commissioned by the NRF.

39. Am I required to submit a Progress Report when I receive NRF funding?

Yes. You are required to submit an Annual Progress Report for each year that funding is received from the NRF. (**Submission deadline:** usually the last week of January of the year following the year that funding is received).

PLEASE NOTE:

- Failure to submit a progress report on time will result in the cancellation of the NRF Scholarship for subsequent years of the funding period and the Scholarship-holder will not be eligible to reapply for funding at the same postgraduate level or for the next level of study from the NRF. Your supervisor is required to recommend whether the funding should be renewed for the new academic year.

40. If I am eligible to receive NRF funding for the next academic year, how do I apply for the renewal of the scholarship?

You are required to submit an Annual Progress Report for each year that funding is received from the NRF to remain eligible to receive the renewal scholarship funds. (**Submission deadline:** usually the last week of January of the year following the year that funding is received).

41. May I receive an advance on my NRF funding?

Requests for advances on (available) NRF funds will be accepted from 15 January 2025 only.

CONTINUING/RENEWAL SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS:

Approval of the annual progress report is required – therefore, advances on the scholarship funds can only be considered after this report has been submitted by the scholarship holder on NRF Connect as follows:

- *completed with sufficient detail;*
- proof of registration for 2025 attached;
- completed recommendation for further support submitted by Main Supervisor; and
- approved by the NRF.

NEW NRF AWARDEES:

You must be registered for the degree as per your NRF application, and have Accepted the Award and Conditions of Grant (with all required documents attached) on NRF Connect.

Click on the following link to apply for an advance on your NRF Scholarship Funds:

<https://forms.office.com/r/JDtv7P9pTM>

42. Contact Details for the Stellenbosch University NRF Institutional Designated Authority (DA)

Honours/Masters/Doctoral ---- Betina van der Merwe ---- betina@sun.ac.za

Masters/Doctoral ---- Rozelle Petersen ---- rnp@sun.ac.za

43. Where do I find more information on 2025 postgraduate scholarships?

Bursary application information and procedures for postgraduate studies in 2024 can be found via our website [here](#). Take care to apply in time, as late applications will not be considered. Find additional bursary information on our Postgraduate Funding Office webpage.

Postgraduate Funding Office (PGFO)– Contact Details		
Rhodene Amos	Harry Crossley, Wilhelm Frank; Private Bursaries	ramos@sun.ac.za
Rozelle Petersen	NRF Masters and Doctoral scholarships, SKA and CSIR funding enquiries	rnp@sun.ac.za
Betina Van Der Merwe	Statutory Scholarships NRF Honours, Masters and Doctoral Scholarships	betina@sun.ac.za
Micah Dyer	Institutional Scholarships: Postgraduate Scholarship Programme (PSP)	psp@sun.ac.za micah@sun.ac.za
Jongi Ndlebe	Postgraduate Funding Information, HB & HB Thom Bursary, Departmental Bursaries	postgradfunding@sun.ac.za
Nugent Lewis	Postgraduate Funding Management FirstRand, Mandela Rhodes, Fulbright, Overseas Conference Grants, Discretionary	nugent@sun.ac.za

For answers to other questions please contact the most the relevant personnel or bursary administrators on our [CONTACT US](#) page.