

# POSTGRADUATE FUNDING

2025

[www.sun.ac.za/pgo/funding](http://www.sun.ac.za/pgo/funding)



forward together  
sonke siya phambili  
saam vorentoe

## Contact

3015 Krotoa Building, Stellenbosch  
[postgradfunding@sun.ac.za](mailto:postgradfunding@sun.ac.za)

Website  
[www.sun.ac.za/pgo/funding](http://www.sun.ac.za/pgo/funding)



# INTRODUCTION

**Welcome to the Postgraduate Funding Booklet brought to you by the Postgraduate Funding Office (PGFO) at Stellenbosch University!**

This booklet is packed with the latest and most important information regarding funding opportunities available to postgraduate students at our esteemed university.

We understand that securing funding for your postgraduate studies can be quite challenging, especially in today's rapidly changing economic landscape. That is why it is even more crucial to apply for available scholarship opportunities in a timely manner. This booklet is designed to help you navigate the various funding opportunities available as a postgraduate student.

In this booklet, you will find a comprehensive breakdown of funding options administered internally by SU through structures such as the Postgraduate Office. You will also find information on funding administered independently or via external sources such as bursaries from external companies or organizations.

It is essential to note that while this booklet provides information on all University-administered bursaries for postgraduate students, **it is not an exhaustive list** of all funding opportunities available. To ensure that you don't miss out on any other funding opportunities, we encourage you to engage in your own research and reach out to funding organisations independently.

Towards the end of the booklet, you will also find more information on other sources of funding, as well as external resources that may be useful in your funding search.

Good luck with your funding applications, and we look forward to seeing you achieve your academic and career goals!



3015 Krotoa Building, cnr Victoria and Ryneveld Street, Stellenbosch, 7600



+27 21 808 4208



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# MEET THE TEAM

The Postgraduate Funding team deals with a range of internal, external, private, company and statutory funding instruments. The team is also responsible for administering all departmental bursaries via all of our 10 faculties to all postgraduate scholarship recipients.

**Jongisizwe Ndlebe**

**postgradfunding@sun.ac.za**

Administrative Officer:

Information and Communication, Discretionary Funding Support, Departmental Bursaries, Coordinator: HB & MJ Thom Bursary

**Betina van der Merwe**

**betina@sun.ac.za**

Administrative Officer: Statutory Funding NRF, CSIR, MRC, SARAO

**Rhodene Amos**

**ramos@sun.ac.za**

Coordinator: Private and Prestige Scholarships, Harry Crossley Foundation, Private Bursaries

**Micah Dyers**

**micah@sun.ac.za**

Coordinator: Institutional Scholarships (Postgraduate Scholarship Programme) Discretionary Funding Support

**Rozelle Petersen**

**rnp@sun.ac.za**

Head: Postgraduate Funding

A photograph of three bronze statues of figures in traditional African attire, possibly Zulu, standing on a green lawn. The figure on the left is seated, the middle one is kneeling, and the one on the right is standing. In the background, there are trees and a white building under a clear blue sky.

**#SUpostgrad**

# NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS



The National Research Foundation (NRF) is the main funder of postgraduate studies in South Africa. The NRF offers partial and full-cost scholarships to Honours, Master's, and Doctoral students. Please visit [www.nrf.ac.za](http://www.nrf.ac.za) for more information.

## GENERAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The National Research Foundation invites all 2025 postgraduate students full-time students not in salaried employment (contractual or permanent) while studying, to apply for funding support. You should apply for this funding opportunity even if you are not sure if you are going to be offered admission to your chosen degree programme.

The NRF minimum academic requirement for postgraduate funding is 65%. Applicants for Honours, Master's and Doctoral funding must be 28, 30 and 32 years of age or younger respectively in the year of application. Successful applicants will be funded either at Full Cost Study (FCS) or Partial Cost of Study (PCS). The FCS funding will be awarded to South African citizens and permanent residents only, who are either financially needy (i.e., those whose combined household family income is less or equal to R350 000 per annum), living with a disability or exceptional academic achievers. The PCS funding will be awarded to 5% of international students including South African citizens and permanent residents who could not be funded under FCS but meet other minimum requirements for the NRF scholarship funding criteria.

**Values:** Scholarships are available at partial or full cost.

### CLOSING DATES

Honours financial means test: 02 September 2024  
Honours General scholarships: 22 November 2024  
Honours SARAO scholarships: 20 August 2024  
First-time Master's scholarships: 19 July 2024  
First-time Doctoral scholarships: 19 July 2024  
Master's and doctoral Extension Support: 15 September 2024

**NRF applications are completed online at:**  
<https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za>

## DAAD-NRF

All fields are funded. Applicants must be SA citizens or permanent residents. The programme targets candidates who are working towards a Master's or Doctoral degree. Preference will be given to full-time registered young South Africans or full-time SU staff members (SA citizens/SA permanent residence status) studying towards a Doctoral qualification.

For more information, visit [www.nrf.ac.za](http://www.nrf.ac.za)

### Scholarship Values

Partial and full-cost Master's and doctoral scholarships are offered.

### Deadlines:

Master's: 19 July 2024  
Doctoral: 19 July 2024

## NRF - MINDS

Applicants must be citizens from an African country and reside in any African country. SA citizens do not qualify. The priority research fields are Water-Energy-Food Nexus; Smart Economy; African Heritage (People, Spaces and Settlements); Information and Communication Technologies; Artificial Intelligence and Robotics; and Health and Well-being.

Applicants must produce evidence of demonstrated leadership abilities or potential

For more information, visit [www.nrf.ac.za](http://www.nrf.ac.za)

### Scholarship Values

Partial and full-cost doctoral scholarships are offered.

### Deadline(s)

Doctoral - 19 July 2024



# SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY (SARAO)

Applications for the SARAO Honours, Master's and Doctoral studies are to be completed online on the NRF submission system: <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za>

## Honours Scholarships

South African citizens and permanent residents. BSc Honours in Physics, Electronics, Astronomy or Astrophysics or Computer Science. Minimum of 65% for the major subjects in the final year of undergraduate studies. Applicants must be 28 years of age or younger.

## Master's Scholarships

South African citizens and permanent residents, AND citizens of Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia. Studies must be relevant to the scientific and technical goals of the SKA and MeerKAT radio telescopes. A minimum of 65% for all subjects at Honours level or 65% for all final year subjects of a four-year degree. Applicants must be 30 years or younger.

## Doctoral Scholarships

South African citizens and permanent residents, AND citizens of Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia. Studies must be relevant to the scientific and technical goals of the SKA and MeerKAT radio telescopes. A minimum of 65% for Masters. Applicants must be 32 years or younger.

**Scholarship Values:** Full-cost scholarships at Honours, Masters and doctoral level.

## Deadline/s:

Honours - 20 August 2024

Master's - 31 August 2024

Doctoral - 31 August 2024

[www.sun.ac.za/pgofunding](http://www.sun.ac.za/pgofunding)



# CSIR BURSARY PROGRAMME

The CSIR bursary programme financially supports full-time, unemployed students in obtaining qualifications in areas that are deemed a priority by the CSIR. This programme is intended for full-time studies for Honours, Master's or PhD degrees at any South African public university. The focus areas for the bursary support are restricted to the following research areas:

## Areas for Honours Bursary

- Computer Science
- Information Technology
- Information System
- Geospatial Information Systems
- Software Engineering
- Electronic Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Chemical Engineering

## Areas for Masters and Doctoral Bursary

- Computer Science
- Information Systems
- Computer Engineering
- Electronic Engineering
- Biochemistry
- Biotechnology
- Microbiology
- Biomedical Engineering
- Physics
- Analytical Chemistry
- Chemical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering

Application forms will be published on [www.sun.ac.za/pgo/funding](http://www.sun.ac.za/pgo/funding)

## Useful Tips

- All applications must be accompanied by the following supporting documents:
- Proof of South African Identity Document (ID) or Passport (for international students) and Permanent Residency – Official and certified university degree certificates
- Transcript of academic record indicating a minimum accumulative academic achievement in the previous degree.
- Recommendation letter by Supervisor (compulsory for Masters and Doctoral applicants)
- Admission letter indicating full-time registration (if available).
- This will be required if the application is successful.
- Reference letters (if available). This will be required if the application is successful.

## Scholarship Values:

Masters: R120 000;

Doctoral: R150 000

**Deadline(s):** TBC

## CSIR Inter-Bursary Programme

The IBS postgraduate bursary support is intended in funding students approved for or registered for full-time studies for Honours/ 4th year Engineering/Postgraduate Diploma, Masters or PhD degrees at any South African public university. The focus areas for the bursary support are restricted to the following research areas:

Aerospace | Composites | Modelling and Digital Sciences | Microsystems Technology| Titanium (Manufacturing Elements | Photonics | Biotechnology | Biopharming | Bioprocessing | Biocatalysis | Information and Communications Technology | IKS (Indigenous Knowledge Systems | Health

The detailed **eligibility** guidelines document, FAQ document, advert, and link to access the online application forms for Honours, Masters and Doctoral levels are attached below. To apply visit [www.sun.ac.za/pgo/funding](http://www.sun.ac.za/pgo/funding)

## Scholarship Values:

- Honours - R100 000
- Master's - R120 000
- Doctoral - R140 000

**Deadline:** TBC



# HB & MJ THOM SCHOLARSHIPS

The HB & MJ Thom Scholarship programme is designed to recognise and reward outstanding post-matric leadership in various fields such as sports, culture, academics, religion, and more. The scholarship is open to students who have completed an undergraduate qualification and now would like to proceed to complete a postgraduate qualification at SU.

While a good academic record is not mandatory for eligibility, the University prefers applicants who have excelled in their previous academic pursuits. In addition to meeting the stipulated criteria, candidates must also submit two testimonials and a comprehensive CV along with their completed application form.

To qualify for the scholarship, applicants must demonstrate exceptional achievements in at least two of the following categories: participation in SU student leadership structures, engagement in sports, involvement in cultural activities or community service, or leadership roles in religious organizations. The applicant must provide specific examples of their leadership accomplishments, highlighting three exceptional achievements in these areas.

The scholarship committee will evaluate the applications and select the most deserving candidates based on their leadership abilities, academic achievements, and overall potential to make a positive impact in their chosen field.

Scholarship recipients will receive financial assistance towards their tuition and living expenses

## Qualifying Criteria

- South African citizens only
- Full-time Honours, Master's, and Doctoral studies
- All fields of study are considered

**Scholarship values:** Partial scholarships offered at Honours, Master's, and doctoral level

## Deadline

**30 September 2024;** and outcomes will be available by December of each year.

[www.sun.ac.za/pgo/funding](http://www.sun.ac.za/pgo/funding)

## Next Generation South African Leaders





# HARRY CROSSLEY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The Harry Crossley Foundation is a private funding organisation operating in Cape Town with their main focus being on tertiary education and research.

## CRITERIA

The Harry Crossley Scholarship Programme at Stellenbosch University is a prestigious scholarship that provides financial assistance to exceptional students who demonstrate academic excellence (an average of 70% or more in previous degree studies).

The Harry Crossley Scholarship Programme covers tuition fees, accommodation, and living expenses. In addition to financial support, recipients of the scholarship also benefit from a range of personal development opportunities.

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must have completed their undergraduate studies with outstanding academic results.

All fields are funded (excluding Theology and Political Science)

## SCHOLARSHIP VALUES

- Master's - R150 000
- Doctoral - R160 000

## TIMELINES

Applications will open on  
<http://my.sun.ac.za>  
on 15 July 2024

Deadline:  
**30 September 2024**





# VARIOUS PRIVATE BURSARIES

## SASOL - STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY BURSARY

Full-time Master's and Doctoral studies in Chemistry and Process Engineering

SA Citizens only.

Deadline: 15 March 2025

Outcome: end of May 2025

Enquiries: [postgradfunding@sun.ac.za](mailto:postgradfunding@sun.ac.za)

## ERNST ETHEL AND ERIKSEN TRUST

Full time Master's and Doctoral studies (financial need considered)

Apply on <http://eriksentrust.co.za>

SA Citizens only for study at a SA university, must have completed Honours to apply.

Opening around August 2024

Deadline: 30 September 2024

Consult the SU Bursary and Loans Calendar for more opportunities

[www.sun.ac.za/calendar](http://www.sun.ac.za/calendar)

## LIST OF PRIVATE BURSARIES ON THE SU BURSARY SYSTEM

- Opening date: **01 August 2024**
- Deadline: **First Friday in December**

Applications are to be completed online at

**<http://my.sun.ac.za>**

**Afrikaans** - de Jager, CJ / de Villiers, Anna / Hymne Weiss / Hertzog, JBM General / Smith, JJ

**Anthropology** - Uys, Dirkie

**Arts** - de Klerk, DP

**Botany** - de Villiers, OT / Boonstra

**Drama** - Engelen, Fred

**Education** - La Grange, AJ / Pauw, DAA

**Engineering** - La Grange, Phillip (for Electronic Engineering) / Louw, Tienie (for Astronautical Engineering)

**English** - Victoria League (Honours student(s) who would like to focus on teaching of the English language)

**Economics** - Uys, Dirkie

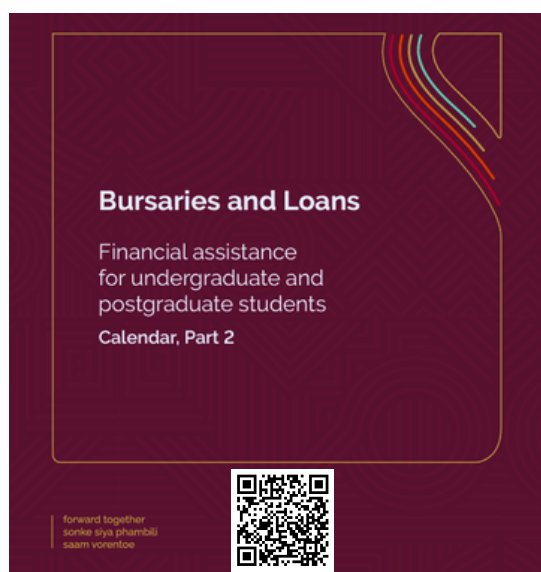
**History** - Blommaert / Dekker, HP / Conradie, GD

**Mathematics** - Cillie

**Psychology** - La Grange, AJ

**Political Science** - Uys, Dirkie

**Viticulture and Oenology** - Theron, CJ



# STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME (PSP)

The Stellenbosch University Postgraduate Scholarship Programme is designed as a collaborative initiative to support, foster and strengthen our postgraduate talent, enhance student access and promote research excellence. This programme offers various scholarships to postgraduate students across all faculties, including Honours, Master's, and Doctoral degrees. The scholarships are awarded based on academic merit, financial need, or both. The values of the scholarships vary depending on the availability of funding, with some offering partial funding and others offering full funding. The application process is open from August to October each year, and successful applicants are notified from December to March.

## CRITERIA

- Each faculty determines its academic requirement(s); typically a minimum of 65% average in your previous degree (or your major) is required.
- Students must intend to register for full-time studies (no part-time programmes are supported unless stated otherwise).
- Honours, Master's and Doctoral degrees are supported (excluding postgraduate diplomas, certificates or advanced bachelor's degrees).
- Applicants may not be employed for more than 20 hours per week.
- Focus on further developing research excellence at our institution.

## SCHOLARSHIP VALUES

- Scholarships vary depending on the availability of funding.
- Partial and full scholarships are available based on academic performance/financial need.

## TIMELINES

Call announcement **01 September 2024** on [www.sun.ac.za/pgo/funding](http://www.sun.ac.za/pgo/funding)

Closing date: **31 October 2024**

Outcomes are available from December to February of each year

[www.sun.ac.za/pgo/funding](http://www.sun.ac.za/pgo/funding)



# PSP 2025

## Supporting research excellence and student access

Although encouraged to do so, admission confirmation to your relevant degree programme is not required to apply for the PSP.



# open4research

## www.open4research.eu/stellenbosch

Welcome to the Stellenbosch University Open4Research platform for the identification of international research funding opportunities.

The Open4Research repository houses thousands of funding opportunities from around the world. Postgraduate students (with an @sun.ac.za email) can easily filter and search using keywords and narrow down opportunities to cover the costs of their studies, conference attendance and other budgetary expenses.

Visit the website for more information:

<https://www.open4research.eu/stellenbosch>

To navigate the Open 4 Research platform

- Use the "Search for funding" and/or "Browse funding" options (tabs at the top or 'buttons' below)
- For some of the most recent research funding opportunities highlighted by Open 4 Research refer to "News" (tab above) or "Funding news" (window to the right)
- Refer to "Help & advice" (tab above) for more details on how to search
- For general enquiries, please contact [research@sun.ac.za](mailto:research@sun.ac.za)



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## Open 4 Research


Welcome to the Stellenbosch University Open 4 Research platform for the identification of international research funding opportunities.

To navigate the Open 4 Research platform:

- Explore the "Search for funding" or "Browse funding" options (tabs at the top or 'buttons' below)
- Attend the SU Division for Research Development's info sessions on 22 Feb, 26 April, 28 June, 23 Aug, 25 Oct 2023
- Contact [research@sun.ac.za](mailto:research@sun.ac.za) or [pmotsomane@sun.ac.za](mailto:pmotsomane@sun.ac.za) for general enquiries
- Contact [contracts@sun.ac.za](mailto:contracts@sun.ac.za) for budgets related to research grant applications

Please click on the buttons below to view more information about each category.

[Search for funding](#)

[Browse funding](#)

Worldwide funding news related to coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

[Learn more](#)

### Funding news

- 12-05-2023  
▶ [AI Projects for the Common Good: BMAS Civic Innovation Programme Supports Development of People-Centred AI Applications](#)
- 12-05-2023  
▶ [Ars Legendi Prize for Higher Education Teaching in Germany Now Open for Nominations and Applications](#)
- 12-05-2023  
▶ [GOSH Children's Charity Announces 2023 National Funding Call](#)
- 12-05-2023  
▶ [OER Communities: New BMBF Initiative Supports Development for Open Educational Resources](#)
- 11-05-2023  
▶ [DASA Launches Competition Focused on Humans in Systems](#)



# POSTGRADUATE OFFICE (PGO)



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