### **Student Information Session**

## NRF Postgraduate Funding Opportunities for 2022















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## **Presentation Overview**

- NRF Mandate
- Eligibility Criteria
- Periods of Support
- Applicable Allowances
- Application Process
- Assessment Scorecards
- Online Application







## The NRF's Mandate

The objective of the NRF is to contribute to **National development** by:







Developing, supporting and maintaining national research facilities;



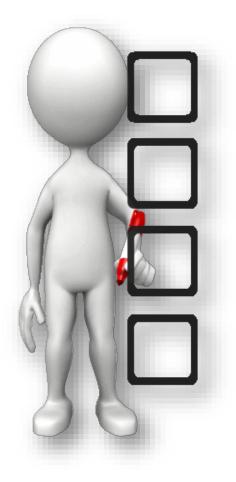
Supporting and promoting **public awareness of, and engagement** with, science; and



Promoting the development and maintenance of the national science system and support of Government priorities.







# **Eligibility Criteria**





## **Honours Level**

	Full Co	Partial Cost of Study		
Study Level	Exceptional Achievers	Financially Needy and Students with Disability	Other	
Honours	Average of ≥ 75% mark for major subjects in the final year of undergraduate study	Average of ≥ 65% mark for major subjects in the final year of undergraduate study	Average of ≥ 65% mark for major subjects in the final year of undergraduate study	
	Applicants for honours funding must be 28 years of age or younger in the year of application i.e. applicants must not be over 28 years by 31 December 2021. Only South African citizens and permanent residents are eligible for honours bursaries.			





## **Masters Level**

	Full Co	ost of Study Partial Cost of S		
Study Level	Exceptional Achievers	Financially Needy and Students with Disability	Other	
Master's	<ul> <li>Minimum average of 75% for all subjects at the honours level;</li> <li>OR</li> <li>Minimum average of 75% for all subjects for a Postgraduate diploma level;</li> <li>OR</li> <li>Minimum average of 75% for final year subjects of a four-year degree</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Minimum average of 65% for all subjects at the honours level;</li> <li>OR</li> <li>Minimum average of 65% for all subjects for a Postgraduate diploma;</li> <li>OR</li> <li>Minimum average of 65% for final year subjects of a four-year degree</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Minimum average of 65% for all subjects at the honours level;</li> <li>OR</li> <li>Minimum average of 65% for all subjects for a Postgraduate diploma;</li> <li>OR</li> <li>Minimum average of 65% for final year subjects of a four-year degree</li> </ul>	
	Applicants for master's funding must be 30 years of age or younger in the year of			
application i.e. applicants must not be over 30 years by 31 December 2021.				





## **Doctoral Level**

	Full Cost of Study		Partial Cost of Study		
Study Level	Exceptional Achievers	Financially Needy and Students with Disability	Other		
Doctoral	Minimum average of 75% for Master's degree	Minimum average of 65% for Master's degree	Minimum average of 65% for Master's degree		
	• •	nts for doctoral funding must be 32 years of age or younger in the year of on i.e. applicants must not be over 32 years by 31 December 2021.			

Open to all nationalities, however foreign citizens are only considered under PCS

\* Please note additional Eligibility requirements for NRF-SARAO, NRF- TWAS, NRF-DAAD at Masters and Doctoral levels





#### **Masters and Doctoral Extension**

- Applicants must be NRF scholarship-holders in 2021.
- Extensions will only be granted under exceptional circumstances and will be for either six (6) or twelve (12)
   months
- Applicants applying for extension support at the master's level must have registered for their master's degree in
   2020 or July 2019.
- Applicants applying for extension support at the doctoral level must have registered for their doctoral degree in
   2019 or July 2018.
- Only students pursuing full-time master's or doctoral studies in South Africa are eligible to apply.
- Applicants for extension support will be eligible for postgraduate funding at the same value as their 2021 funding.
- Applicants must have the support from their supervisor in order for the Extension application to be considered.







# **Exclusion for NRF Postgraduate Funding**

- Students supported through the NRF and are still within the eligible periods of support for masters and doctoral studies- should complete a
  progress report
- Students registered for masters before July 2020
- Students registered for doctoral degree before July 2019
- Students whose highest qualification is the same as the level under which they applying.
- Undergraduate qualifications, regardless of the NQF exit level;
- Postgraduate certificates or diplomas, regardless of NQF exit level;
- Students that deregistered and reapply for support can apply but their period of support will be from date of initial registration for degree
- Students pursuing a 100% masters coursework only and Professional masters and doctoral degrees
- Individuals on sabbatical leave from their employment
- Individuals (contracted or permanent) paid or unpaid working for more than 12 working hours per week
- Students in their pre-proposal year of their study





# Periods of Support







# **Periods of Support**

#### Periods of Support is based on date of initial registration for the degree:

Level of study	Maximum period of support
Honours	One (1) year
Master's	Two (2) years
Doctoral	Three (3) years
Master's upgrade to doctoral	Four (4) years
Extension Support for master's and doctoral	Six (6) or twelve (12) months





# Applicable Allowances







# NRF Allowances Applicable: FCS and PCS

	Funding per level of Postgraduate Study <sup>1</sup>						
Category	Honours		Master's		Doctoral		
	FCS	PCS	FCS	PCS	FCS	PCS	
Living and Transport allowance (Rand)	12 000 pa	n/a	30 000 pa	n/a	48 000 pa	n/a	
Food allowances (Rand)	27 000 pa	n/a	27 000 pa	n/a	27 000ра	n/a	
Maximum Accommodation allowance (Rand) <sup>2</sup>	53 350	53 350	64 020	64 020	64 020	64 020	
Maximum Tuition Fees (Rand) <sup>3</sup>	52 350	52 350	41 880	41 880	31 410	31 410	
Maximum (Rand)	144 700 pa	105 700 pa	162 900 pa	105 900 pa	170 430 pa	95 430 pa	
Electronic study Device allowance (Rand) <sup>4</sup>	10 000	n/a	10 000	n/a	10 000	n/a	
Maximum Assistive technology device (Rand) <sup>5</sup>	20 000	n/a	20 000	n/a	20 000	n/a	

<sup>1.</sup> The allowances per category will be reviewed on an annual basis subject to the agreed CPI-linked sector-wide increases and alignment with the *Guidelines for the Department of Higher Education and Training Bursary Scheme for Students at Public Universities*.

PCS: Students that are not eligible for accommodation allowance may access the living and transport allowance



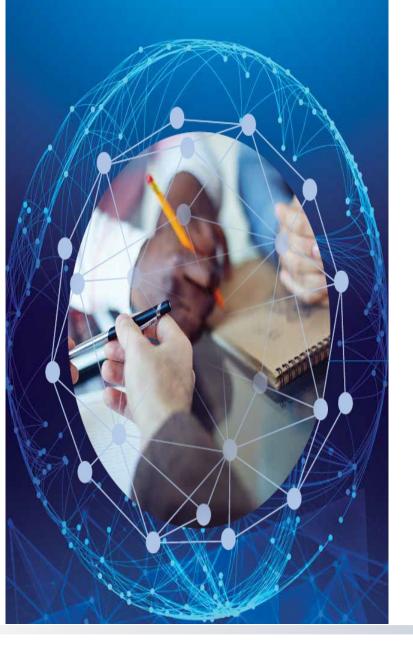


<sup>2.</sup> Accommodation fee will be capped and paid as per invoice. Limited to maximum cost of the equivalent university owned accommodation at a particular institution. Students accommodated in private rental accommodation must also provide proof of a valid lease agreement.

<sup>3.</sup> Tuition fee will be capped and paid as per invoice. Tuition fee is the agreed institutional fee for the actual programme of study. Registration fee to be included in the tuition fee allowance. Qualifying NRF funded students in possession of a provisional award letter are not required to pay an upfront registration fee.

<sup>4.</sup> The electronic study device allowance will be provided as a once-off allowance for the duration of the postgraduate studies.

<sup>5.</sup> The Assistive technology device allowance will be only for students with disability.



# **Application Process**

- Applications for funding must be submitted through the NRF Online
   Submission System at <a href="https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/">https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/</a>. Applicant must be registered on the NRF Online Submission System in order to create and complete an application.
- Further instructions on the application process are available in the Application and Funding Guide for which must be read in conjunction with the PG framework document.



### **Call documents**

- Framework = policy, different funding opportunities, eligibility criteria
- Application and Funding Guide = step-by-step instructions on how to complete an online application
- FAQ = provides answers to many questions asked by students and institutions
- Statement of Expectation = provides information about what is expected from the institutions, supervisors, students and NRF
- Other information related to DAAD, Nuffic and SARAO Scholarships

https://www.nrf.ac.za/bursaries/framework-documents/bursaries-framework-documents







# Scorecards





# Honours Funding Review Scorecard: New Applications

Review Criteria and Weighting	Description
1. Academic merit (40%)	Average percentage mark for major subjects in the final- year undergraduate courses.
2. Completion time for undergraduate degree (40%)	Time taken to complete the undergraduate degree.
3. Priority Research Area (20%)	Research aligned with one of the national research priority areas.





# Masters Funding Review Scorecard: New Applications

Review Criteria and Weighting	Description
1. Academic merit (35%)	Average percentage mark for the honours degree if completed; or Average percentage mark for major subjects in the final-year undergraduate courses for students currently registered for a honours degree; or Average percentage mark for major subjects in the third-year undergraduate courses for students in the final year of a four-year undergraduate degree.
2. Completion time for previous degree (15%)	Time taken to complete the honours degree if completed; or Time taken to complete the undergraduate degree if the honours degree is in progress; or Time taken to complete third-year undergraduate courses for students in the final year of a four-year undergraduate degree.
3. Priority Research Area (20%)	Research aligned with one of the national research priority areas.
4. Project Outline (30%)	Provide an overview of your research concept and your proposed aim.





# Doctoral Funding Merit Review Scorecard: New Applications

Review Criteria and Weighting	Description
1. Academic merit (30%)	Percentage mark for the master's degree if completed; or If the master's degree is in progress, average percentage mark for the honours degree; or  Average percentage mark for major subjects in the final year of a four-year undergraduate degree.
2. Completion time for previous degree (15%)	Time taken for completion of the master's degree if completed; or  If the master's degree is in progress, time taken to complete the honours degree or four-year undergraduate degree.
3. Track record or Research Outputs (15%)	Evidence of research outputs in accredited peer- reviewed publications and, presentations at conferences/symposiums.
4. Priority Research Area (10%)	Research aligned with one of the national research priority areas.
5. Originality of the Doctoral study (20%)	Problem statement, Identified knowledge gaps relating to the problem statement, Aim and Objectives of the study.
6. Potential Impact of the research (10%)	Potential to contribute to national research strategies and the strategic goals of the knowledge economy.





# Masters and Doctoral Extension Support Review Scorecard

Review Criteria and Weighting	Description		
1. Progress to date (25%)	Report on research work completed in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree.		
2. Reasons why the study could not be completed in the NRF maximum funding period (25%)	Explanation of why the study could not be completed within the NRF funding period.		
3. Work plan to complete the degree within the indicated timeframes (50%)	<ol> <li>Work plan for six (6) or twelve (12) months, indicating activities for completion of master's or doctoral degree, indicating the start and completion date of each activity;</li> <li>Proposed date for submission of the dissertation for examination;</li> <li>Timelines for corrections to dissertation from reviewers;</li> <li>Details of manuscripts to be drafted and submission timelines; and</li> <li>Proposed graduation date.</li> </ol>		





# Online Application Process



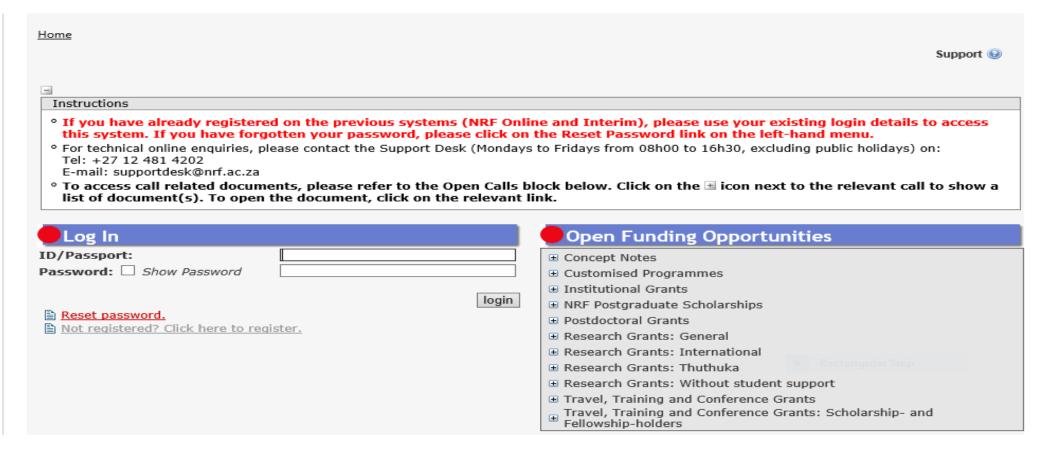




# **Completing an Online Application**

#### Register or Login using ID and Password





https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/.

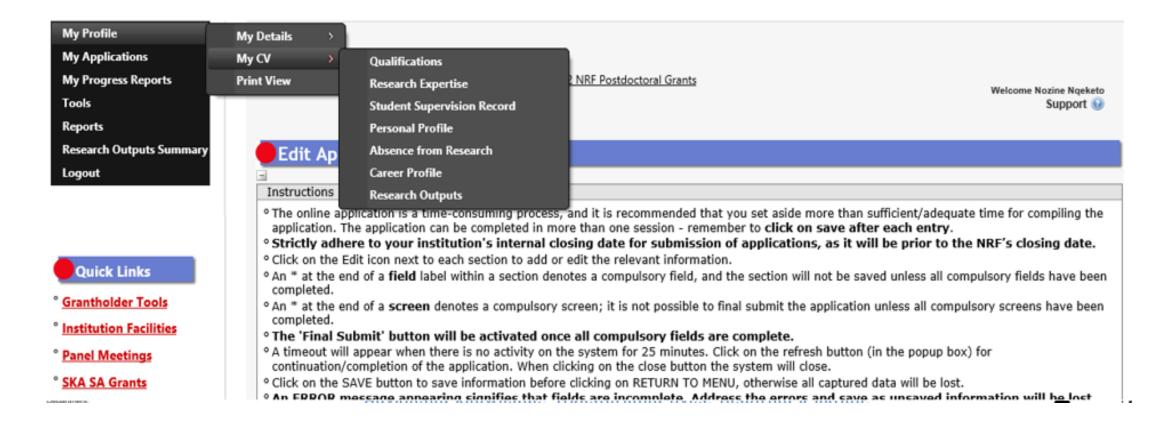






# **Completing an Online Application**

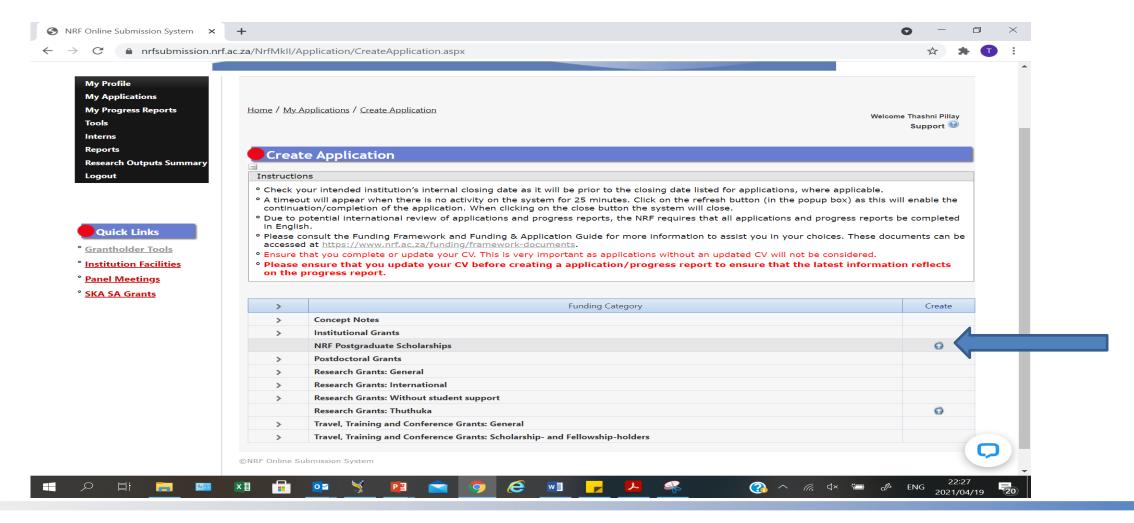
#### Landing Page - Your details and CV







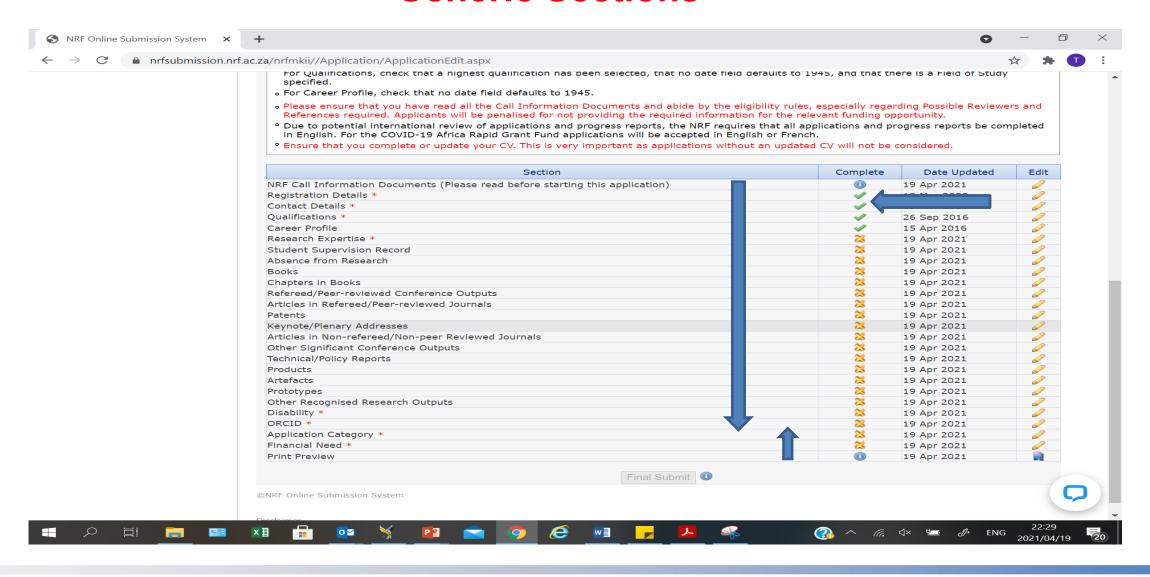
## **Create Application**







#### **Generic Sections**









### **Financial Need Section**



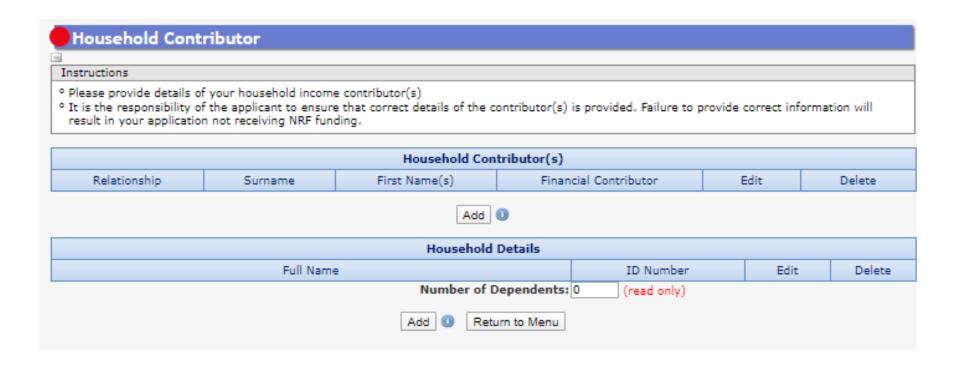






### **Household Contributor Section**

This section only pops out if an applicant has indicate that they want a financial means test.







#### **Financial Means Test**

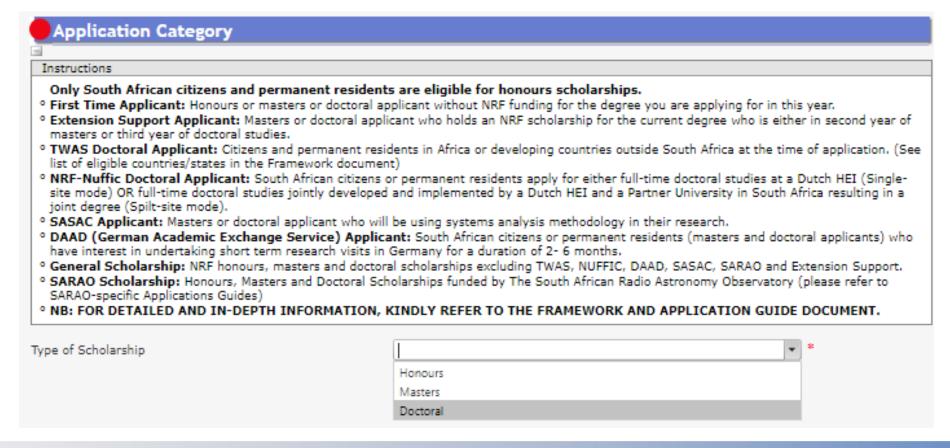
- Financial Needy Students- household income of less than R350 000 per annum
- Complete Consent Form for Financial means test co-signed by household contributors,
   commissioner of oaths
- Students previously supported by National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) or the Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme (ISFAP) will not be subjected to financial means testing-required to attach proof of NSFAS/ ISFAP
- Applicants who were previously funded by Funza Lushaka, Department of Military Veterans, or Department of Social Development (DSD) bursaries for their undergraduate studies must undergo a financial means test upon application for DSI-NRF postgraduate student funding





# **Application Category**

#### **Application Templates for H, M, D and Extension support**







# **Application Category**

#### Funding Opportunities – Scholarship applying for...

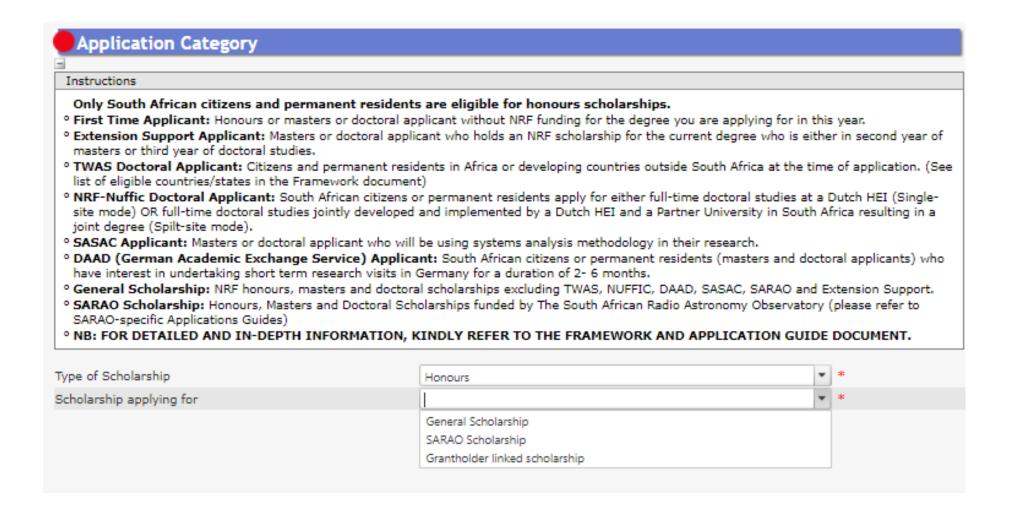
Funding Opportunity	Honours	Masters	Doctoral
General scholarship	X	X	X
Grantholder-linked scholarship	X	X	X
SARAO	X	X	X
DAAD		X	X
SASAC		X	X
TWAS			X
Nuffic			X

<sup>\*</sup>Please refer to the Framework for more details on each Funding Opportunity





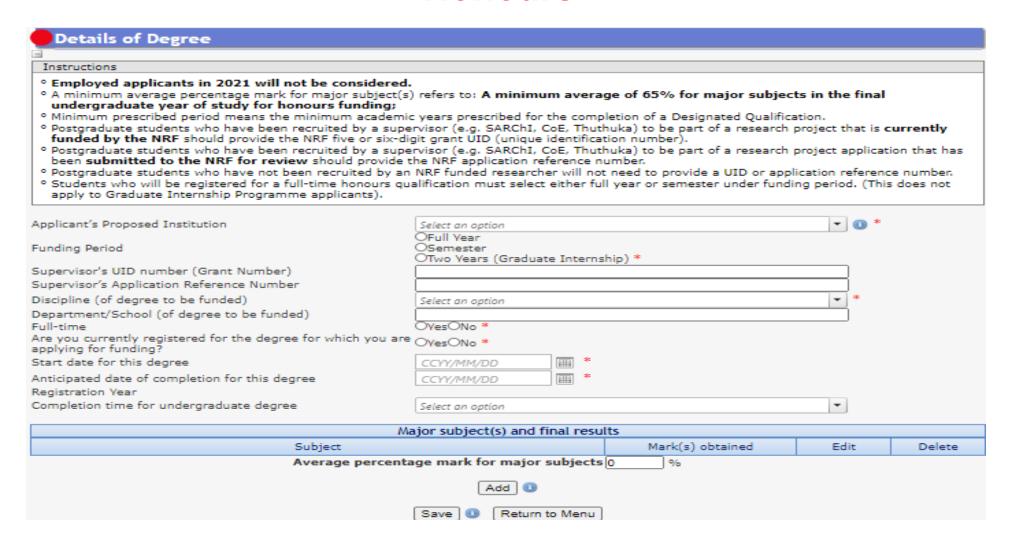
#### **Honours**







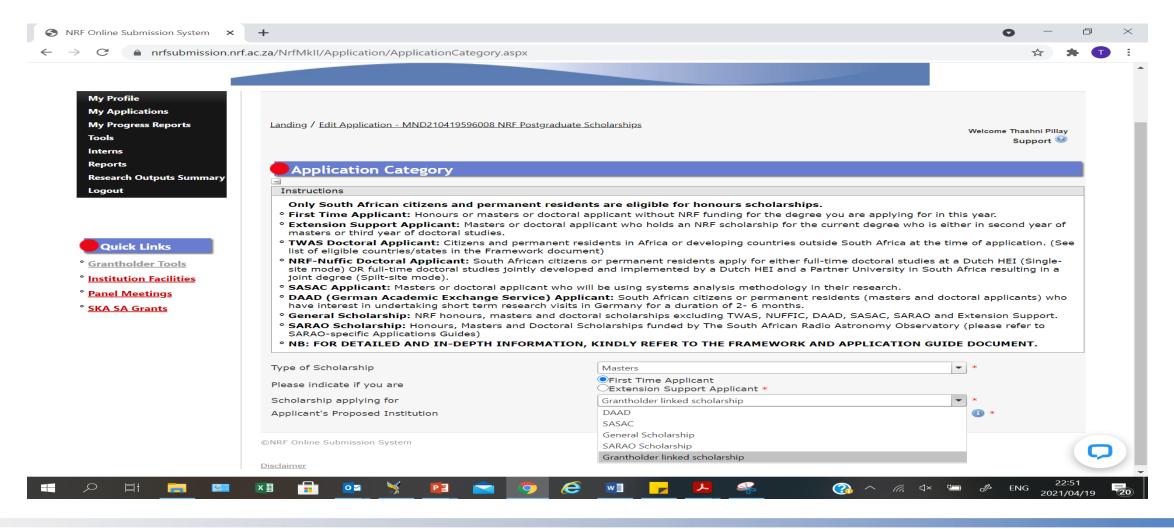
#### **Honours**







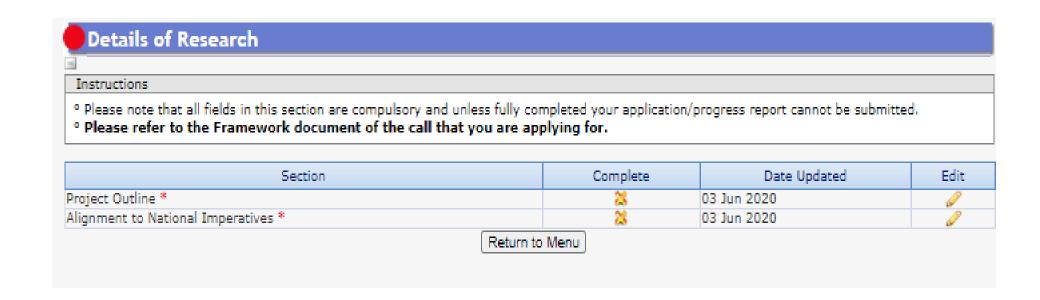
### **Masters**







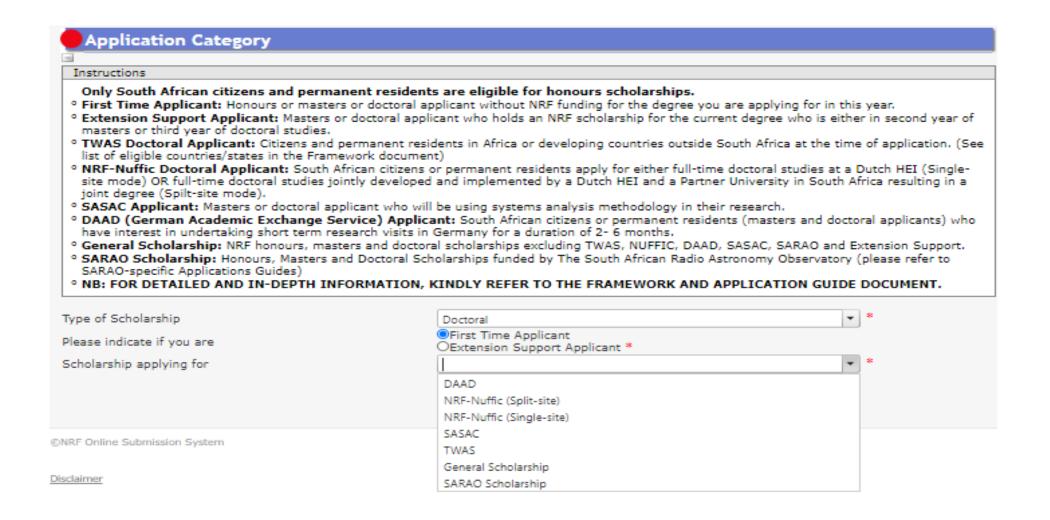
### **Masters**







#### **Doctoral**







## **Doctoral**





#### Instructions

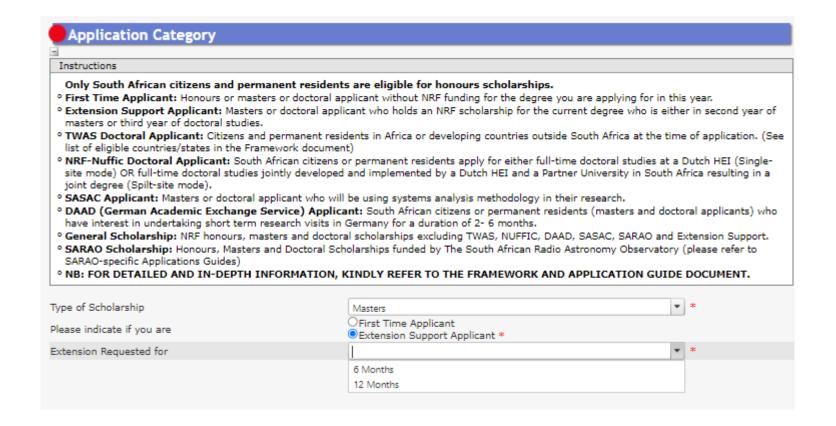
- O Please note that all fields in this section are compulsory and unless fully completed your application/progress report cannot be submitted.
- <sup>o</sup> Please refer to the Framework document of the call that you are applying for.

Section	Complete	Date Updated	Edit
Problem Statement (Originality of Doctoral Study) *	ä	03 Jun 2020	0
Aims and Objectives (Originality of Doctoral Study) *	×	03 Jun 2020	0
Potential Impact of the Research *	×	03 Jun 2020	0
Alignment to National Imperatives *	×	03 Jun 2020	0
Return to Men	<b>1</b>		





# **Extension (M&D)**







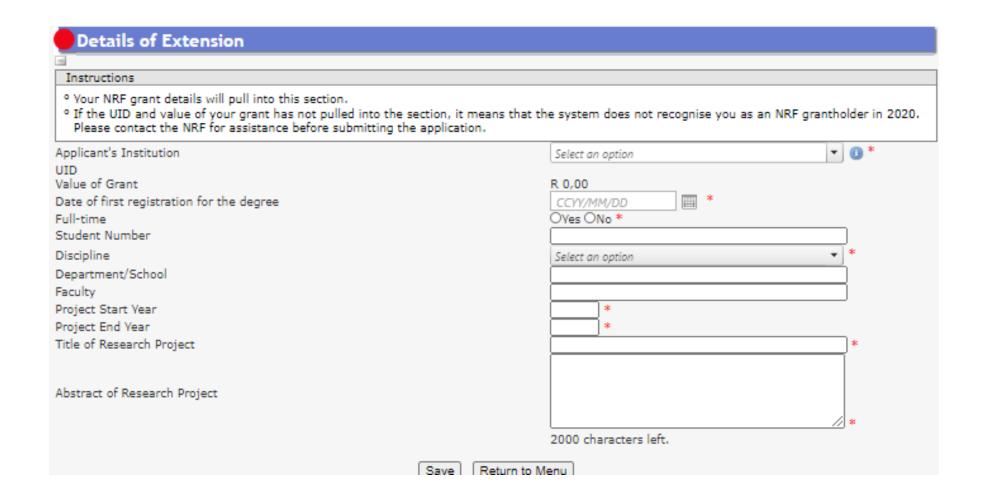
# **Extension (M&D)**

Application Category *	4	03 Jun 2020	0
Details of Extension *	23	03 Jun 2020	0
Original Problem Statement *	23	03 Jun 2020	0
Original Research Plan *	×	03 Jun 2020	0
Progress to Date *	×	03 Jun 2020	0
Reasons why the study could not be completed in the NRF maximum funding period *	×	03 Jun 2020	0
Work plan to complete the degree within the indicated timeframes *	23	03 Jun 2020	0
References *	23	03 Jun 2020	0
Print Preview	0	03 Jun 2020	





# **Extension (M&D)**



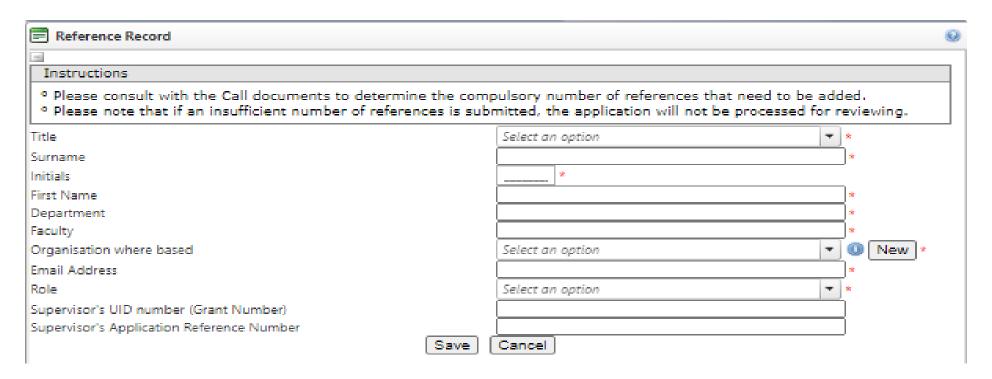




### **Reference Section**

- Masters, Doctoral, Extension: Supervisor
- Grantholder-linked: Supervisor UID or reference number required

\*If the supervisor does not respond, the application will be rejected.







### **Attachments**

- Certified ID copy or a valid passport (uploaded under Registration Details);
- Academic record on the university letterhead (if you owe fees letter from the university);
- Proof of disability;
- Proof of NSFAS/ISFAP

\*Please note additional requirements for NRF-SARAO, NRF-TWAS, NRF-DAAD at Masters and Doctoral levels. Refer to the Application and Funding Guide.





# **Tracking your Application**

#### Application in progress

Applicant still busy completing the application

#### Submitted to Institution

Application has been submitted by the applicant

# Application under designated authority review

Application being screened and scored by university DA

#### Application rejected by DA

The application has been rejected at the istitutional stage

#### Open for amendment

DA has opened the application for applicant to effect changes

#### Call closed

Application process closed and application not submitted to NRF

#### Submitted to NRF for review

Eligible applications submitted to the NRF

#### Declined for review by NRF

Application rescreened and rejected by NRF due to noneligibility

#### **External Evaluation**

Application being considered for funding

#### Successful

Successful application

# Unsuccessful due to constraints

Application deemed fundable, but unsuccesssful due to Budgetary constraints

## Unsuccessful due to review outcome

Application deemed unfundable during the review process

#### Withdrawn

The applicant has withdwawn the application





# **Summary**

- Adhere to the institutional closing date
- Read through the call documents
- Make sure you meet all the eligibility criteria
- Make sure that you apply for the correct scholarship/funding opportunity
- Ensure that all required documents are attached
- Follow up with your supervisor about submission of the referee report





# Thank you, Enkosi, Re a leboga, Siyabonga, Dankie



















