

ALLOCATION OF POSTGRADUATE BURSARIES OFFERED BY THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE in 2014

As with 2013, the Faculty of Science (FoS) will again assist research active staff through the allocation of MSc and PhD bursaries to selected students (please see the 2013 call for context). Due to the constraint of the 2014 budget, however, the FoS will only be able to support 3 new MSc and 3 new PhD bursaries and continue to meet our obligations to students selected for support in the 2013 round (6 MSc and 3 PhD bursaries).

Important considerations for the 2014 allocation:

- As with 2013 an important aim is that the Faculty Bursaries (FBs) will be used to attract students who would otherwise be lost to the system due to their inability to secure financial support from other sources for postgraduate study (i.e., NRF, Harry Crossley, Wilhelm Frank etc).
- Consequently, evidence not only of academic merit but also of “failed” attempts to obtain bursary support elsewhere will be critical considerations in awarding FBs.
- The monetary values of the FoS bursaries are benchmarked against those awarded in the NRF’s Competitive Programme for Rated Researchers—R60,000 for PhD and R40,000 for MSc.
- FoS bursaries may not be held simultaneously with any other bursary/scholarship (except the Stellenbosch Merit Bursaries) but supplementation up to R20,000 p.a. is permitted. These must be non-binding emoluments.
 - Note that the current guidelines (i.e., 2014) for the allocation of SU merit bursaries (and the amounts) are¹:

Degree programme	Total bursary amount per degree programme	Bursary amount per year	Award period per degree programme
Honours	R17 000	R17 000	1 year
Master’s	One-year master’s: R25 000	R15 000 in 2014 R10 000 upon graduation in Dec 2015/Mar 2016	1 year
	Two-year master’s: R42 000	R17 000 in 2014 R15 000 in 2015 R10 000 upon graduation in Dec 2016/Mar 2017	2 years
Doctorate	R60 000	R20 000 in 2014 R20 000 in 2015 R20 000 upon graduation in Dec 2016/Mar 2017	2 years

- Duration of funding - Two years of support at the MSc level and three years of support for PhD; funding runs for a calendar year from date of registration. Funding for the second/third year is based on exceptional progress in the preceding year as assessed by the

¹ Courtesy of the Manager: Postgraduate & International Student Funding

biannual departmental progress reports, and is the positive recommendation of the supervisor(s).

- Qualifying criteria:
 - Only for SA citizens and for full-time study
 - Academic merit and exclusive registration in a department of the Faculty of Science
 - MSc bursaries are made to students who are already in possession of an Honours degree, and to PhD students who hold an MSc. Provision will be made for upgrades from MSc to PhD.
 - Bursary holders will be allowed to undertake a maximum of 12 hours teaching per week, tutorial and demonstration duties for remuneration.
- Applications - Applicants provide a comprehensive CV (including academic record) and evidence that they have tried for funding at other sources and been unsuccessful. The application must be endorsed by the potential supervisor and submitted to the Dean's Office via the HOD. The HOD (and departmental management committee) should, where there are multiple applications from a single department, prioritize the applications on critical need. While not definitive this will help inform the final selection of FB awardees.

Please note the following proviso:

The scheme may be reconsidered should NRF bursaries become more freely available, the financial situation of the Faculty deteriorate to the point where the scheme cannot be continued or students begin using the Faculty scheme in preference to bursaries available elsewhere. The scheme should remain financially viable provided the students supported are additional students who would not have been able to study without bursary support, but not if the scheme supports students who could have received bursaries elsewhere and are therefore not additional to the Faculty. Funding will be put aside and ring-fenced for each student for the normal duration of the bursary and therefore should it be necessary to terminate the scheme, students already on the scheme will receive support for the full period of the bursary.

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS AT THE DEAN'S OFFICE
March 31 2014

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