



# Catalyst Fund for Science

## BURSARY SUPPORT

to postgraduate students at  
Stellenbosch University

### Context

Research has become a powerful tool in the global economy. Worldwide developments in science, technology and innovation are fundamentally altering the way people live, communicate and transact, with profound effects on economic growth and development. South Africa's National Development Plan has prioritised an increase in doctoral output from 1 876 in 2012 to 5 000 by 2030 in order to improve the country's research and innovation capacity and to create much-needed jobs over the next years. The majority of South Africa's new knowledge is developed within universities and research councils.

### Unique value proposition – The Faculty of Science

At Stellenbosch University (SU), the Faculty of Science offers a first-class research environment and a wide range of institutional support and expertise to ensure the success of its postgraduate students.

SU is committed to developing the next generation of South African scientists - a group of innovative and critical thinking men and women who can play an active role in the development of our society and who will be catalysts to creating the knowledge-intensive economy that is so crucial to South Africa's growth and development. Against this background and in light of severe funding cuts to higher education institutions in South Africa, the Faculty of Science has launched the Catalyst Fund for Science to support qualifying and deserving postgraduate students.

### Request for support

In order to be able to offer bursaries to its postgraduate students, the Faculty requires approximately R11 million per year. Our request to you is to consider funding a full bursary or make a contribution towards this Fund. Contributions can be paid into the following bank account:

ORGANISATION NAME	Stellenbosch University
BANK	Standard Bank
BRANCH	Stellenbosch
BRANCH CODE	05 06 10
ACCOUNT NAME	University of Stellenbosch
ACCOUNT NUMBER	073006955
Reference	Catalyst fund FoS

**CONTACT: Anneke Müller**

**Fundraiser: Faculty of Science, Stellenbosch University**

**Tel: +27 21 808 4904 • Email: [annekem@sun.ac.za](mailto:annekem@sun.ac.za)**



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“Worrying about money as a student really affects your ability to focus.”

Dr Bali Sishi

Senior Lecturer, Physiological Sciences  
Stellenbosch University

I have done all my degrees – undergraduate and post-graduate – at Stellenbosch University. Once I had completed my doctorate, I began working here as a junior lecturer and, more recently, as a senior lecturer. My work involves lecturing, research and engagement in social impact projects. The thing I love most about my field of work is spending time in the lab, asking questions and doing experiments. I am a real lab rat!

I am the oldest of three kids and started my undergraduate degree without any funding. Worrying about money when you are a student really affects your ability to focus. My first year was really hard but I set my sights on finishing my degree.

When you get a bursary, you need good financial management skills, and I had those. My mom always taught me to pay my debts, and then see what was left. So I paid for my studies and accommodation up front for each year, and then divided the rest of the funding according to the months.

I believe that more should be done to get kids excited about the sciences. Kids need to be able to experience that eureka moment with the sciences. But there’s a lack of resources in the classrooms and sometimes no lab at all. Kids don’t like mathematics and are even afraid of it. It takes time to solidify an understanding of the sciences, and so often there are also problems with the quality of teaching. I have also been involved at science expos for school learners and in community-based research, where I can assist my colleagues in providing translation in Xhosa-speaking communities.

I am full of appreciation for the bursaries I received. There are many students who are still in dire need of funds. I would like to encourage those who fund students through bursaries to carry on doing so. The funding goes a long way.