New NRF Postgraduate Funding Call 2021

Application Process for selected DSI-NRF Centres of Excellence, hosted by UWC / SU / Wits

(including CAPRISA, CIB; CIMERA; CoE-FoodSecurity; CoE-HumanDevelopment; CoE-MaSS; CoE-Palaeosciences; CoE-StrongMaterials; CPHB; CTBR; SciSTIP)

This document was produced jointly by CoE-Palaeosciences and CoE-MaSS to assist prospective NRF Hons/M/PhD applicants seeking 2021 funding.
Introduction
NRF is implementing a new Postgraduate Funding Policy wherein postgraduate funding allocations will be underpinned by the principles of equity of opportunity; representation; prioritisation; enhanced access, success and throughput.

Prospective **New Applicants** (Honours/Masters/Doctoral Funding) are alerted that the NRF is changing its bursary application process for the 2021 funding round. The **application submission deadlines are much earlier this year** than they have been in the past.

The DSI-NRF CoEs will not be accepting applications directly for new bursary applications (Honours/Masters/Doctoral Funding); this includes existing CoE postgraduate students applying for funding for a **NEW** degree (e.g. a 2020 CoE Masters student applying for a 2021 CoE PhD)

**Helpful Documents:**
1. NRF Postgraduate Scholarships 2021 Frequently Asked Questions
2. NRF Postgraduate Scholarships Application and Funding Framework 2021
3. NRF Postgraduate Scholarships Application and Funding Guide 2021 *(where to insert the CoE unique UID# is highlighted in yellow on this document - see page 18)*

*Students who are currently receiving a CoE bursary and who will be continuing with their current degree in 2021 NEED NOT APPLY. We will be sending a CoE Renewal Form / Annual Progress Report to you in semester 2*
Grantholder-linked Postgraduate Bursaries: Unique Identifiers (UIDs)
Who must apply using NRF One Call

The DSI-NRF Centres of Excellence will not be accepting applications directly for any new bursary applications (Honours/Masters/Doctoral funding for 2021).

All new applications must be submitted via the NRF One Call Online Submission System: https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/ This includes existing CoE Postgraduate Students applying for funding for a NEW degree (e.g. a 2020 CoE Masters student applying for 2021 CoE PhD student funding).

Please make sure that you put the relevant NRF UID Number into your application in the relevant block, so that the NRF can pass your application on to the correct CoE for consideration.
Who is your Institution?

When applying to the NRF, your Institution is that University **where you will be registered** for your 2021 degree. This is probably the same University where your 2021 Research Supervisor(s) is based. You must submit your application to the NRF listing the University that you will be registering with in 2021.

**Please note:**
Your Institution is **NOT** the University where your CoE has it’s Admin Hub / CoE Offices.

If you are unsure if this applies to you, please contact the relevant address listed above. We are here to help you.
Centre UID Numbers

Each DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence has a unique NRF funding code called a **UID Number**. When you submit your application via the NRF Online Submission System, you must **include the UID Number** of the CoE that you are interested in applying to. Please make sure that you put the relevant NRF UID Number onto your application in the relevant block, so that the NRF can pass your application on to the relevant CoE for consideration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Centre</th>
<th>UID</th>
<th>Queries</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAPRISA (HIV Prevention)</td>
<td>96354</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Sma.Mzobe@caprisa.org">Sma.Mzobe@caprisa.org</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.caprisa.org">www.caprisa.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIB (Invasion Biology)</td>
<td>41313</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cib@sun.ac.za">cib@sun.ac.za</a></td>
<td><a href="http://academic.sun.ac.za/cib/bursaries.asp">http://academic.sun.ac.za/cib/bursaries.asp</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIMERA (Minerals &amp; Energy)</td>
<td>91487</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cimera@uj.ac.za">cimera@uj.ac.za</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.cimera.co.za">www.cimera.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CoE-Food Security</td>
<td>91490</td>
<td><a href="mailto:foodsecurity@uwc.ac.za">foodsecurity@uwc.ac.za</a></td>
<td><a href="https://foodsecurity.ac.za/">https://foodsecurity.ac.za/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CoE-Human (Human Dev)</td>
<td>91489</td>
<td><a href="mailto:CoE.Human@wits.ac.za">CoE.Human@wits.ac.za</a></td>
<td><a href="https://www.wits.ac.za/coe-human/">https://www.wits.ac.za/coe-human/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CoE-MaSS (Maths &amp; Stats)</td>
<td>91486</td>
<td><a href="mailto:CoE-MaSS@wits.ac.za">CoE-MaSS@wits.ac.za</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.wits.ac.za/coe-mass">www.wits.ac.za/coe-mass</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CoE-Palaeosciences</td>
<td>86073</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Christine.Steining@wits.ac.za">Christine.Steining@wits.ac.za</a></td>
<td><a href="https://www.wits.ac.za/coepalaeo/">https://www.wits.ac.za/coepalaeo/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CoE-Strong Materials</td>
<td>41292</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info.CoE-SM@wits.ac.za">info.CoE-SM@wits.ac.za</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.wits.ac.za/strongmaterials/bursaries/">www.wits.ac.za/strongmaterials/bursaries/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPHB (Plant Health Biotech)</td>
<td>40945</td>
<td><a href="mailto:heidi.roos@fabi.up.ac.za">heidi.roos@fabi.up.ac.za</a></td>
<td><a href="https://www.fabinet.up.ac.za/index.php">https://www.fabinet.up.ac.za/index.php</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SciSTIP (Scientometrics)</td>
<td>91488</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mvn3@sun.ac.za">mvn3@sun.ac.za</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www0.sun.ac.za/scistip/">www0.sun.ac.za/scistip/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Deadlines

• The NRF deadline is in mid-August, but your university might have an earlier closing date. Please check with your Supervisor(s) and/or your 2021 University Research Office about your University internal closing date.

• Because all new CoE applications must be submitted through the NRF One Call Application System, your CoE will not be able to accept any late applications under any circumstances.

• If you miss your Institution’s internal deadline, you will unfortunately miss out on the opportunity to secure any 2021 funding from the NRF or any CoE. Please don’t miss the (funding) bus!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Funding Opportunity</th>
<th>Funding Year</th>
<th>Call Open Date</th>
<th>NMU</th>
<th>NWU</th>
<th>SU</th>
<th>VCT</th>
<th>UJ</th>
<th>UL</th>
<th>UP</th>
<th>UNISA</th>
<th>UWC</th>
<th>WITS</th>
<th>Funding Decision Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First-time Masters Scholarships (including SARAO Masters Scholarships)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>08 April 2020</td>
<td>Friday, 10 July 2020</td>
<td>Friday, 10 July 2020</td>
<td>Thursday, 18 June 2020</td>
<td>Tuesday, 30 June 2020</td>
<td>Friday, 22 June 2020</td>
<td>Monday, 06 July 2020</td>
<td>Monday, 13 July 2020</td>
<td>Friday, 17 July 2020</td>
<td>Sunday, 14 June 2020</td>
<td>Friday, 26 June 2020</td>
<td>01 November 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-time Doctoral Scholarships (including SARAO Doctoral Scholarships)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Friday, 10 July 2020</td>
<td>Friday, 10 July 2020</td>
<td>Friday, 3 July 2020</td>
<td>Tuesday, 30 June 2020</td>
<td>Tuesday, 14 July 2020</td>
<td>Monday, 13 July 2020</td>
<td>Friday, 17 July 2020</td>
<td>Sunday, 14 June 2020</td>
<td>Friday, 26 June 2020</td>
<td>01 November 2020</td>
<td>01 October 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension Support for Masters and Doctoral Studies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Friday, 10 July 2020</td>
<td>Friday, 10 July 2020</td>
<td>Friday, 3 July 2020</td>
<td>Tuesday, 30 June 2020</td>
<td>Tuesday, 14 July 2020</td>
<td>Saturday, 02 August 2020</td>
<td>Friday, 17 July 2020</td>
<td>Sunday, 14 June 2020</td>
<td>Friday, 26 June 2020</td>
<td>01 October 2020</td>
<td>01 November 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SARAO Honours Scholarships</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Monday, 3 August 2020</td>
<td>Saturday, 15 August 2020</td>
<td>Wednesday, 09 August 2020</td>
<td>Friday, 31 July 2020</td>
<td>Friday, 7 August 2020</td>
<td>Friday, 15 May 2020</td>
<td>Friday, 26 June 2020</td>
<td>01 November 2020</td>
<td>01 November 2020</td>
<td>01 November 2020</td>
<td>01 November 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRF-Nuffic Doctoral Scholarships (Split-site)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Monday, 20 July 2020</td>
<td>Monday, 20 July 2020</td>
<td>Friday, 3 July 2020</td>
<td>Monday, 15 July 2020</td>
<td>Tuesday, 14 July 2020</td>
<td>Friday, 17 July 2020</td>
<td>Saturday, 15 August 2020</td>
<td>Friday, 14 June 2020</td>
<td>Friday, 26 June 2020</td>
<td>01 November 2020</td>
<td>01 November 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* All dates were correct at the time of this table being published, however, we encourage prospective applicants to confirm the above dates via their Institution’s official websites and notices, in case of changes to this schedule.

** If your Institution is not listed above, please consult your Institution directly for internal closing dates as their closing dates were not available to us at the time of this document being published.
Eligibility Criteria and Equity & Redress Targets
New NRG Postgraduate Funding Policy

The following will be considered in the allocation of funding with transformation of the postgraduate cohort as the core objective:

• Citizenship
• Age
• Academic Requirements
• Financial need is now included as a criterion for determining the level of funding
• Equity and Redress Targets
  • Diversity
  • Gender
  • Disability
Citizenship

• 95% students that are South African citizens & permanent residents
• 5% students from SADC countries and the rest of the world

Age

• **Honours funding**: applicant must be 28 years of age or younger in the year of application. Only South African citizens and permanent residents are eligible for Honours bursary

• **Masters funding**: applicant must be 30 years of age or younger in the year of application

• **Doctoral funding**: applicant must be 32 years of age or younger in the year of application
Academic Requirements

The NRF minimum academic requirements for postgraduate funding are as follows:

**For Honours funding:** A minimum average of 65% for major subjects in the final undergraduate year of study;

**For Masters funding:** A minimum average of 65% of all subjects at the Honours level OR a minimum average of 65% of all subjects at the postgraduate diploma level OR a minimum average of 65% of the final year subjects of a four-year degree;

**For Doctoral funding**: A minimum of 65% at the Masters level

*Where some universities classify Masters students’ results in the categories of “Pass” or “Pass with distinction”, the university must disclose to the NRF the numerical mark for making such classification.*
Financial Means Test

• Applicants for NRF postgraduate funding who were previously supported by National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) or the Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme (ISFAP) will not be subjected to a financial means test, however, they must attach **proof in the form of an official university stamped financial statement or signed agreement with NSFAS or ISFAP**

• All other applicants (including those who received Funza Lushaka, Department of Military Veterans, or Department of Social Development (DSD) bursaries for their undergraduate studies) need to undertake a financial means test and must provide the following information:
  - Completed NRF-ISFAP consent form certified by a commissioner of oath; and
  - Consent to the NRF-ISFAP, and/or such other person or entity that the NRF-ISFAP may designate, the absolute right and permission to conduct creditworthy checks, affordability assessments and to verify his/her combined household income in order to ascertain whether they qualify for NRF-ISFAP funding
Equity and Redress Targets

All NRF postgraduate funding will be allocated as follows:

- **95%** South African citizens & permanent residents
- **5%** from SADC countries & the rest of the world

Further breakdown:

- **55%** women
- **90%** Black (African, Coloured and Indian)
- **10%** White
- **1%** Students living with a disability
Funding Levels
Full Cost & Partial Cost of Study

• Some will receive full cost funding and some only part cost funding

• Criteria apply to all applicants for Honours, Masters and Doctoral funding

• **Full Cost of Study (FCS)** funding will be awarded to South African citizens and permanent residents only, who are either:
  • financially needy,
  • living with a disability, or
  • exceptional academic achievers

• **Partial Cost of Study (PCS)** funding will be awarded to South African citizens, permanent residents (that do not meet criteria above) and to international students
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Level</th>
<th>Full Cost of Study (FCS)</th>
<th>Partial Cost of Study (PCS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exceptional achievers</td>
<td>Financial needy and students with disability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honours</td>
<td>Average of ≥ 75% mark in final year of study</td>
<td>Average of ≥ 65% mark in final year of study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>• Minimum average of 75% of all subjects at the Honours level; OR • Minimum average of 75% of all subjects at the Postgraduate diploma; OR • Minimum average of 75% of the final year subjects of a four-year degree</td>
<td>• Minimum average of 65% of all subjects at the Honours level; OR • Minimum average of 65% of all subjects at the Postgraduate diploma; OR • Minimum average of 65% of the final year subjects of a four-year degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral</td>
<td>• Minimum average of 75% for Masters</td>
<td>• Minimum average of 65% for Masters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Applicants for Honours Funding must be 28 years of age or younger in the year of application. Only South African citizens and permanent residents are eligible for Honours Masters Funding must be 30 years of age or younger in the year of application. Applicants for Masters Funding must be 32 years of age or younger in the year of application.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Honours</th>
<th>Masters</th>
<th>Doctoral</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FCS</td>
<td>PSC</td>
<td>FCS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal care/living allowance</td>
<td>12 000 pa</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>30 000 pa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meal/Food allowance</td>
<td>27 000 pa</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>27 000 pa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum accommodation allowance</td>
<td>50 000</td>
<td>50 000</td>
<td>60 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum tuition fees</td>
<td>50 000</td>
<td>50 000</td>
<td>40 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic study device allowance</td>
<td>10 000</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>10 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (Rand)</td>
<td>149 000 pa</td>
<td>100 000 pa</td>
<td>167 000 pa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum assistive technology device</td>
<td>20 000</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>20 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1The allowances per category will be reviewed on an annual basis for adjustment where applicable.
2Accommodation fee will be capped and paid as per invoice. Limited to maximum cost of the equivalent university owned on-campus accommodation at a particular institution. Students accommodated in private accredited accommodation must also provide proof of lease agreement.
3Tuition 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. Qualifying NRF funded students are not required to pay registration fee upfront.
4The electronic study device allowance will be provided as a once-off for the duration of the postgraduate studies.
5Students with a disability may apply for additional funding for an assistive technology device of up to R20 000. This is the maximum amount allowed during the tenure of the scholarship.

pa = per annum
Funds allocated in ZAR (Rand)
Your Application
Your Application

• Part of your application will require you to have a **project outline** that is **within your CoE’s Research Focus Areas**, so please check their website or other digital media platforms (see slide#8) to make sure that your project area is aligned directly to the research interests of your CoE.

• You will also need to identify an appropriate **Research Supervisor** at the University where you would like to study in 2021. The best way to do this is to make contact with the relevant Dept/School that you want to register in, and do the necessary enquiries with your preferred Supervisor. The Supervisor needs to **support your application** so we highly recommend that you do this well in advance.

• Once you have submitted your application on the NRF One Call Online System, **please email your completed NRF Application Reference Number through to your CoE** (see slide#8) so that they can be on the lookout for your application.
If you have any additional queries that are not included in the official NRF documentation linked on slide#4, please feel free to contact your relevant CoE at the contact details listed on slide#8 of this presentation for further assistance. We are here to assist you!

Don’t forget to email your NRF Application Reference Number through to your relevant CoE once you have submitted it to NRF One Call Online. See slide#8 for emails.

Impilo imayelana nezikhathi, ungalindi, zidale
Ubomi bu malunga nemizuzwana, musa ukulinda, ukudala
Life is about moments, don’t wait, create them