



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)

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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 its 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.

Centre	UID	Queries	Website
CAPRISA (HIV Prevention)	96354	Sma.Mzobe@caprisa.org	www.caprisa.org
CIB (Invasion Biology)	41313	cib@sun.ac.za	http://academic.sun.ac.za/cib/bursaries.asp
CIMERA (Minerals & Energy)	91487	cimera@uj.ac.za	www.cimera.co.za
CoE-Food Security	91490	foodsecurity@uwc.ac.za	https://foodsecurity.ac.za/
CoE-Human (Human Dev)	91489	CoE.Human@wits.ac.za	https://www.wits.ac.za/coe-human/
CoE-MaSS (Maths & Stats)	91486	CoE-MaSS@wits.ac.za	www.wits.ac.za/coe-mass
CoE-Palaeosciences	86073	Christine.Steinger@wits.ac.za	https://www.wits.ac.za/coepalaeo/
CoE-Strong Materials	41292	info.CoE-SM@wits.ac.za	www.wits.ac.za/strongmaterials/bursaries/
CPHB (Plant Health Biotech)	40945	heidi.roos@fabi.up.ac.za	https://www.fabinet.up.ac.za/index.php
CTBR (Tuberculosis)	41744	mbhgapplications@sun.ac.za	www.tuberculosis.org.za/index.html Wits Node SU Node
SciSTIP (Scientometrics)	91488	mvn3@sun.ac.za	www0.sun.ac.za/scistip/

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!**

Deadlines

NRF ONE CALL 2020/21 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & UNIVERSITY INTERNAL CLOSING DATES FOR APPLICANTS

INTERNAL CLOSING DATES PER UNIVERSITY*/**														
Category	Funding Opportunity	Funding Year	Call Open Date	NMU	NWU	SU	UCT	UJ	UL	UP	UNISA	UWC	WITS	Funding Decision Outcomes
NRF Postgraduate Scholarships	Honours Scholarships	2021	08 April 2020	Monday, 31 August 2020	Monday, 31 August 2020	Friday, 30 October 2020	Saturday, 31 October 2020	Saturday, 31 October 2020	Friday, 27 November 2020	Saturday, 14 November 2020	Sunday, 27 November 2020	Thursday, 18 June 2020	Friday, 26 June 2020	01 January 2021
	First-time Masters Scholarships (Including SARAO Masters Scholarships)			Friday, 10 July 2020	Friday, 10 July 2020	Thursday, 18 June 2020	Tuesday, 30 June 2020	Friday, 22 June 2020	Monday, 06 July 2020	Monday, 13 July 2020	Friday, 17 July 2020	Sunday 14 June 2020	Friday, 26 June 2020	01 November 2020
	First-time Doctoral Scholarships (Including SARAO Doctoral Scholarships)			Friday, 10 July 2020	Friday, 10 July 2020	Friday, 3 July 2020	Tuesday, 30 June 2020	Friday, 22 June 2020	Tuesday, 14 July 2020	Monday, 13 July 2020	Friday, 17 July 2020	Sunday, 14 June 2020	Friday, 26 June 2020	01 November 2020
	Extension Support for Masters and Doctoral Studies			Friday, 10 July 2020	Friday, 10 July 2020	Friday, 3 July 2020	Tuesday, 30 June 2020	Monday, 20 July 2020	Tuesday, 14 July 2020	Saturday, 02 August 2020	Friday, 17 July 2020	Sunday, 14 June 2020	Friday, 26 June 2020	01 October 2020
	SARAO Honours Scholarships					Monday, 3 August 2020	Saturday, 15 August 2020	Wednesday, 05 August 2020		Friday, 31 July 2020	Friday, 7 August 2020	Friday, 15 May 2020	Friday, 26 June 2020	01 November 2020
	NRF-Nuffic Doctoral Scholarships (Split-site)			Monday, 20 July 2020	Monday, 20 July 2020	Friday, 3 July 2020	Monday, 15 June 2020	Friday, 22 June 2020	Tuesday, 14 July 2020	Friday, 07 August 2020	Friday 17 July 2020	Sunday 14 June 2020	Friday, 26 June 2020	01 November 2020

* 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;

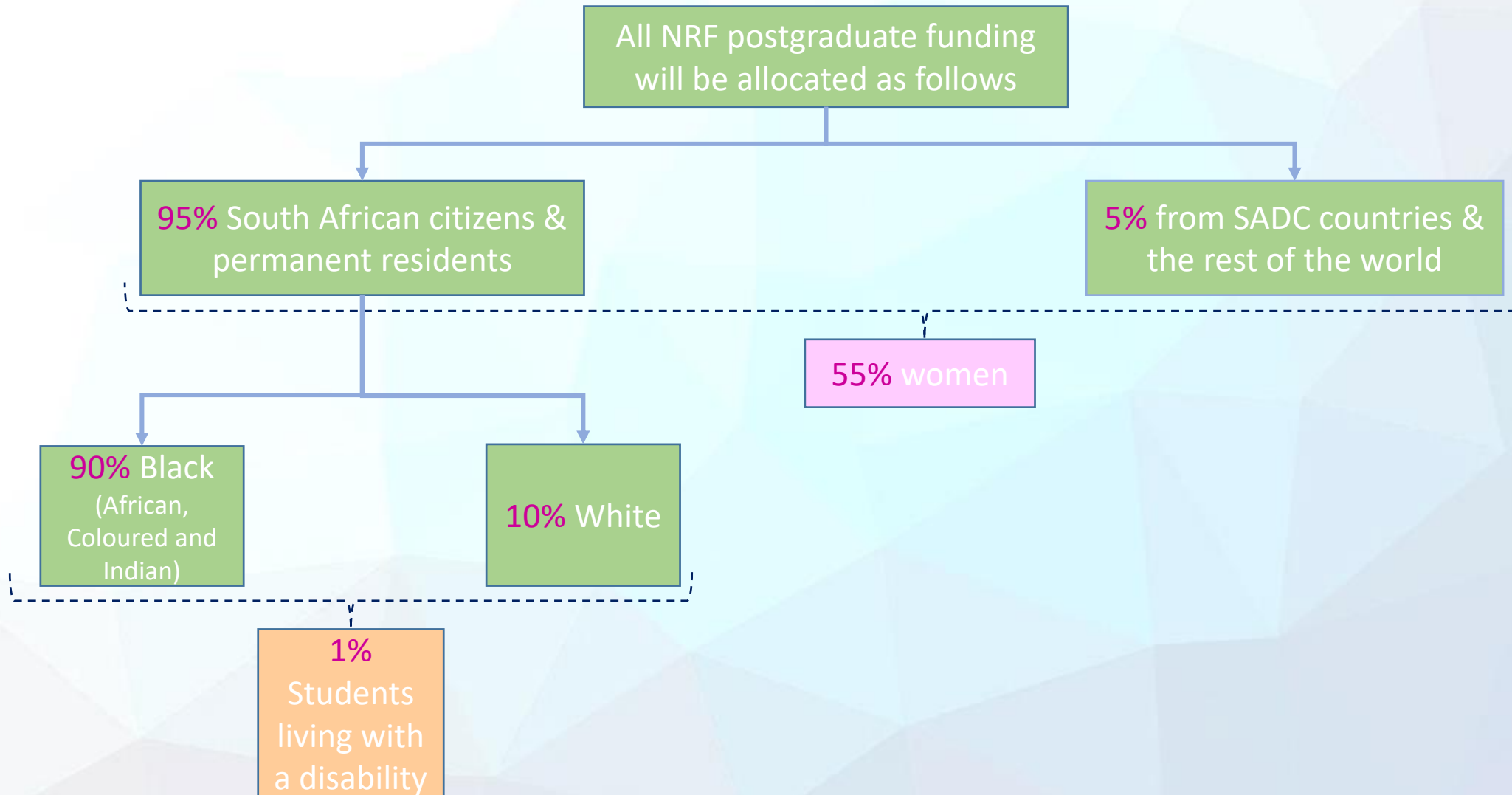
For Doctoral funding*: A minimum of **65%** at the Masters level

*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





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

Study Level	Full Cost of Study (FCS)		Partial Cost of Study (PCS)
	Exceptional achievers	Financial needy and students with disability	Other
Honours	Average of $\geq 75\%$ mark in final year of study	Average of $\geq 65\%$ mark in final year of study	Average of $\geq 65\%$ mark in final year of study
	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
	• Applicants for Masters Funding must be 30 years of age or younger in the year of application.		
Doctoral	• Minimum average of 75% for Masters	• Minimum average of 65% for Masters	• Minimum average of 65% for Masters
	Applicants for Masters Funding must be 32 years of age or younger in the year of application.		

Category	Funding per level of Postgraduate Study ¹					
	Honours		Masters		Doctoral	
	FCS	PSC	FCS	PCS	FCS	PCS
Personal care/living allowance	12 000 pa	n/a	30 000 pa	n/a	48 000 pa	n/a
Meal/Food allowance	27 000 pa	n/a	27 000 pa	n/a	27 000 pa	n/a
Maximum accommodation allowance ²	50 000	50 000	60 000	60 000	60 000	60 000
Maximum tuition fees ³	50 000	50 000	40 000	40 000	30 000	30 000
Electronic study device allowance ⁴	10 000	n/a	10 000	n/a	10 000	n/a
Total (Rand)	149 000 pa	100 000 pa	167 000 pa	100 000 pa	175 000 pa	90 000 pa
Maximum assistive technology device ⁵	20 000	n/a	20 000	n/a	20 000	n/a

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