



**RISA**

Research and Innovation  
Support and Advancement

**NRF Bursary & Scholarship Rules,**  
**Values and Distributions**  
**FY: 2010/11**

*Grant Management & Systems Administration*

**Version 6.0**

**September 2009**

# Contents

<b>ABBREVIATIONS.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PART 1: FREE STANDING SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<i>a. Prestigious and Equity Scholarships (Full-time study/research only) .....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>b. DoL Scarce skills Scholarships for students with disabilities.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>c. Innovation Scholarships/Fellowships.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>d. DAAD and SABI Scholarships.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>e. SABI Fellowships.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>f. SANHARP.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>g. NSTF/THRIP Bursaries.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<b>PART 2: GRANTHOLDER-LINKED BURSARIES .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>a. Focus Area Programmes; Blue Skies Programme; Thuthuka; Research Niche Areas; Competitive Support for Rated Researchers; Competitive Support for Unrated Researchers.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>b. SANAP, ACEP, AOP &amp; MWGR.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>c. Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) .....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>d. SARChI.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>e. THRIP .....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>f. Nanotechnology Flagships Programme .....</i>	<i>7</i>
<b>PART 3: GENERAL ISSUES AND RULES .....</b>	<b>8</b>

## Abbreviations

DAAD	German Academic Exchange Service
DoL	Department of Labour
SA	South Africa(n)
SABI	South African Biosystematics Initiative
SANHARP	African Nuclear Human Asset & Research Programme
THRIP	Technology Human Resources in Industry Programme
NSTF	National Science & Technology Forum
AOP	African Origins Programme
ACEP	African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme
SANAP	South African National Antarctic Programme
MWGR	Multi-wavelength Astronomy Programme
IKS	Indigenous Knowledge Systems
SARChI	South African Research Chairs Initiative

## Part 1: Free Standing Scholarships and Fellowships

Free-standing scholarships and fellowships are awarded directly to students undertaking full-time study on a competitive basis. Students must apply for these awards themselves, and remain responsible for the submission of all required documentation.

The distribution for these scholarships is targeted at only SA citizens only.

### a. Prestigious and Equity Scholarships (Full-time study/research only)

In South Africa	Value (pa)	Duration
Honours/BTech (Final Year) (Block grant)	R 15 000	1 year
Masters degree (Block grant)	R 33 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 55 000	3 years
Postdoctoral Fellowship	R 90 000	2 years
<b>Abroad</b>		
Doctoral degree	US\$ 12 000	3 years
Postdoctoral Fellowships	US\$ 16 000	2 years

Once-off Travel Grant during tenure of Masters, Doctoral, Postdoctoral award of R5 000

### b. DoL Scarce Skills Scholarships for students with disabilities

Scholarships	Value (pa)	Duration
Honours	R 30 000	1 year
Masters degree	R 50 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 75 000	3 years
<b>Postdoctoral Fellowships</b>		
Postdoctoral Fellowship <sup>1</sup>	R 100 000	2 years

Disabled students qualify for a further R15 000 for assistive devices (on request).

### c. Innovation Scholarships/Fellowships

Scholarships	Value (pa)	Duration
Honours	R 35 000	1 year
Masters	R 60 000	2 years
Doctoral	R 90 000	3 years
<b>Postdoctoral Fellowships</b>		
Stipend	R 150 000	
Contribution towards running expenses	R 30 000	
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>R 180 000</i>	2 years
Minimum contribution from HEI towards running expenses	R 15 000	

<sup>1</sup> Made up of R90k for stipend and R10k for running

**d. DAAD Scholarships**

Scholarships	Value (pa)	Duration
Masters degree	R 40 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 65 000	3 years

**e. SABI Scholarships & Fellowships**

Scholarships	Value (pa)	Duration
Masters degree	R 40 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 65 000	3 years
Postdoctoral Fellowships		
Postdoctoral	R 120 000	
Running Expenses	R 50 000	
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>R 170 000</i>	<i>2 years</i>

**f. SANHARP**

Degree	Value (pa)	Duration
Honours	R 67 000	
Masters degree	R 85 000	
Doctoral degree	R 100 000	

**g. NSTF/THRIP Bursaries**

Degree	Value (pa)	Duration
First year undergraduate SET students	R 50 000	3 years

**Part 2: Grantholder-linked Bursaries**

Grantholders may nominate qualifying students linked to his/her research plan where funds have been awarded in the following four categories:

- Grantholder-linked student assistantships – for full-time students in the final year of an undergraduate degree/diploma, and full-time Honours/4th year BTech students
- Grantholder-linked post-graduate bursaries – for full-time or part-time Masters and Doctoral students (not for staff)
- Grantholder-linked Post-doctoral Fellowships
- Grantholder-linked Staff Development Grants – for staff registered for M or D only

The distribution for these bursaries is targeted at the following ratios:

- Final year Undergraduate and Honours/BTech student assistantships: 100% SA citizens with a minimum ratio<sup>2</sup> of 1:1 for Black<sup>3</sup> and White participants within a grant.
- Masters bursaries: 90% to South Africans and 10% to candidates from other African countries within the Programme.
- Doctoral bursaries: 80:15:5 (SA:Other Africans:Rest of the World).
- Post-doctoral Fellowships: .Open for researchers in South Africa iwithin 5-year Post-doctoral period.

<sup>2</sup> With the emphasis on Black students

<sup>3</sup> Inclusive of Africans, Indians and Coloureds

**a. Focus Area Programmes; Blue Skies Programme; Thuthuka; Research Niche Areas; Competitive Support for Rated Researchers; Competitive Support for Unrated Researchers**

<b>Full time Studentships</b>	<b>Value (pa)</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Final year Undergraduate Degree/Diploma	R 8 000	1 year
Honours/BTech	R 15 000	1 year
<b>Full time Bursaries</b>		
Masters degree	R30 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 45 000	3 years
<b>Part time Bursaries</b>		
Masters degree	R 10 000	3 years
Doctoral degree	R 12 000	5 years
<b>Fellowships</b>		
Postdoctoral	R 80 000 (pro rata pm)	2 years
<b>Staff development grants</b>		
Masters	R 30 000	3 years
Doctoral	~ R 30 000	5 years

Staff Development grants (bursaries) are awarded within these Programmes and are for staff members<sup>4</sup> registered for Masters and Doctoral degrees who are not grantholders in their own right. These staff members must be supervised or co-supervised by the grantholder or a team member (depending on the Programme) and must be directly involved in the grantholder's NRF approved project. These grants are intended towards research operating costs and the cost of travel and accommodation to meet with (co-)supervisors.

Grants usually range between R15 000 and R30 000 depending on the nature of the research and the proximity of the student in relation to the supervisor.

**b. SANAP, ACEP, AOP & MWGR**

<b>Full time Studentships</b>	<b>Value (pa)</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Final year Undergraduate	R 8 000	1 year
Honours/BTech	R 25 000	1 year
<b>Full time Bursaries</b>		
Masters degree	R40 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 65 000	3 years
<b>Part time Bursaries</b>		
Masters degree	R 10 000	3 years
Doctoral degree	R 12 000	5 years
<b>Fellowships</b>		
Postdoctoral	R 90 000 (pro rata pm)	2 years
<b>Staff development grants</b>		
Masters/Doctoral	R 15 000 – R 30 000	
Depending on nature of research and proximity of student to supervisor		

<sup>4</sup> At State supported SA universities with no restriction on race and gender

### c. Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS)

Full time Studentships	Value (pa)	Duration
Final year Undergraduate Degree/ Diploma	R 15 000	1 year
Honours/BTech	R 35 000	1 year
Full time Bursaries		
Masters degree	R60 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 90 000	3 years
Part time Bursaries		
Masters degree	R 30 000	3 years
Doctoral degree	R 45 000	5 years
Fellowships		
Postdoctoral	R 160 000 (pro rata pm)	2 years
Staff development grants		
Masters/Doctoral	R 15 000 – R 30 000	
Depending on nature of research and proximity of student to supervisor		

### d. SARCHI

Full time Studentships	Value (pa)	Duration
Honours/BTech	R 15 000	1 year
Full time Bursaries		
Masters degree	R33 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 55 000	3 years
Fellowships		
Postdoctoral	R 120 000 (pro rata pm)	2 years

### e. THRIP

Student bursaries are matched as part of the overall project budget. The student must participate in the project (i.e., spending  $\geq 20\%$  of time on the project) and the bursary must be provided by one of the investing industrial partners. The financial contribution of the investing industrial partner must be at least 10% of the bursary amount.

These could be at any of the following levels: fourth year undergraduates; Honours; Masters and/or PhD. Postdoctoral fellowships are catered in the same way.

### f. Nanotechnology Flagships Programme

Full time Studentships	Value (pa)	Duration
Final Year/Undergraduate Degree/diploma	R 6 000	1 year
Honours/BTech	R 20 000	1 year
Full time Bursaries		
Masters degree	R40 000	2 years

Doctoral degree	R 60 000	3 years
<b>Fellowships</b>		
Postdoctoral	R 80 000 (pro rata pm)	2 years

### Part 3: General Issues and Rules

- All fellowships, scholarships and bursaries are paid on receipt of a claim submitted by the institution.
- Bursaries and scholarships are not awarded for parallel degrees, i.e., for a second degree at the same level of a degree already held by the applicant.
- Students may hold only one scholarship or bursary from the NRF and other state funded organisation.
- Students may hold scholarships or bursaries other than their NRF support on condition that the other support is not contractually binding or does not have a job offer attached to it. This includes most bursary schemes operated by firms.
- The rule that Postdoctoral Fellows must move to a university other than the one where the Doctorate was obtained at, is applied with discretion. Should an award at the same university be required, a strong motivation must be submitted with the nomination, providing reasons as to the choice of the candidate.

AP/September 2009