DST-NRF Collaborative Postgraduate Training Call for 2016

The Department of Science and Technology (DST), through the NRF has made significant investment towards supporting “next generation” and “emerging researchers.” Funding is derived through a contractual agreement between the DST and the NRF for the management of funding for HCD. The Collaborative Postgraduate Training funding instrument aligns with the National Human Resource Strategy, the Ten-Year Innovation Plan of the DST and, to the strategic objective of the NRF that seeks to promote and support research through human resource development.

The Collaborative Postgraduate Training funding instrument is a complementary funding instrument which will enable multi-institutional collaborate training of a cohort of postgraduate students in a specific scarce skill discipline or priority research area. The training must involve a collaborative network of postgraduate students and supervisors led by the applicant. It is located within the Human and Infrastructure Capacity Development (HICD) directorate and managed within the Next Generation Researchers (NGR) cluster of Human Capital Development (HCD) funding instruments. The NRF invite applications, for a three-year grant, from applicants at public universities in South Africa.

The objectives of this funding instrument are:

- To train a cohort of students in a specified scarce skill discipline or emerging research area spanning the physical, natural, social and human sciences, engineering and technology fields;
- To facilitate postgraduate training within a collaborative multi-institutional network; and
- To improve institutional capacity in order to enhance postgraduate training programmes at public universities in South Africa.
1. Areas of support

The Collaborative Postgraduate Training funding instrument supports students who wish to pursue their postgraduate studies in specific scarce skill disciplines or priority research areas, namely; the physical, natural, social and human sciences, engineering and technology fields.

2. Eligibility Criteria

2.1 Eligibility criteria for applicants

Eligibility criteria for the lead applicant hosting the Collaborative Postgraduate Training grant are listed below. The applicant must:

- hold an academic position at a South African public university for the full duration of the awarded grant;
- hold a doctoral degree and have proven postgraduate supervision experience to host and supervise postgraduate students;
- demonstrate existing collaborations with national and international research institutions and universities for research and postgraduate training;
- demonstrate access to research funding by the applicant and consortium members to cover the research costs for the projects to be undertaken by the postgraduate students; and
- Include at least two (2) Historically Disadvantaged Higher Education Institutions, one of which may be the lead institution, in the Collaborative Postgraduate Training Initiative (refer to Addendum 1).
- Grant holders of SARChI and Centres of Excellence are not eligible to apply.

2.2 Eligibility for students nominated for scholarships

The following eligibility criteria apply for the nominated students:

- Students must be either South African citizens or in possession of South African permanent residency (87%) as well as a limited percentage of international students (13%);
- Honours, fourth-year students, masters and doctoral students must be registered and be based at any South African public university;
- Students enrolling for Masters studies must hold a Honours, B. Tech or four-year degree;
- Students enrolling for Doctoral studies must hold a Master's level qualification;
- Postgraduate student beneficiaries may not concurrently hold the study support with another NRF scholarship or any other funding support from a South African government source; and
- Individuals that already hold a degree at the level for which they are nominated, are not eligible for support.

### 2.3 Demographics targets for postgraduate students

Student nominations shall be made as follows:

- 87% to South African (including permanent residents);
- 5% to students from the South African Development Community (SADC) region
- 4% to students from the rest of Africa ;and
- 4% to students from non-African countries

The overall student composition shall comprise of 55% women, 80% Black (African, Coloured and Indian) and 4% students with disabilities

### 3. Application requirements

The lead applicant will apply for the Collaborative Postgraduate Training grant indicating the following:

- Details of lead applicant and university;
- Objectives of the Collaborative Postgraduate Training initiative;
- Motivation indicating alignment with national priorities, scarce skill area and/or a vulnerable discipline;
- Expected outputs and outcomes in advancing HCD in the given discipline;
- Collaborating partners;
- Partner universities where students will be registered for postgraduate studies;
- Postgraduate supervisors and research projects for training of postgraduate training;
- Availability of research running costs;
- Requested number of scholarships at Honours, Masters and Doctoral levels; institutional capacity and mobility; and
- Motivation for part-time student support where applicable.
All postgraduate supervisors that will be listed in the application must register and complete their CVs on NRF online submissions. These CVs will be pulled through as attachments to the application automatically.

4. **Awarding Principle**

Student scholarships (60%) will be released on the basis of student nominations and approval by the lead applicant’s institution. All funds will be released to the lead applicant’s (i.e. grant-holder’s) institution. Scholarships not taken up within six (6) months of the grant award to the lead applicant will be cancelled for reallocation unless otherwise approved by the NRF.

These awards will be managed in terms of standard NRF financial policies and procedures. The payment of the grant by the NRF to successful applicants will be administered by the Grants Management and Systems Administration (GMSA) Directorate to the relevant institutions’ cost centres. The institution will in turn administer the funds on behalf of the successful grant holder to the value of the full sum awarded by the NRF.

5. **Conditions of the award**

For continuous monitoring of the funding instrument, the grant holder will be required to submit an Annual Progress Reports (APR) in a format provided by the NRF, against deliverables as outlined in the application form and the signed Conditions of Grant. At the end of the three-year funding period, a final report must be submitted listing the outputs and expenditure of the previous years, as well as containing a final assessment of progress made in relation to project objectives. Scholarships for qualifying continuing students will be released upon submission of an Annual Progress Report in accordance with the NRF Scholarship Agreement.

*Block Grant awards to institutions will be made in August 2016, all funds for full-time and part-time postgraduate students (Honours, Masters, and Doctoral) must be taken up by end January 2017. All unused funds will be cancelled and/or re-distributed under the programme. In addition, no carry forwards will be considered under the DST-NRF Collaborative Postgraduate Training.*

6. **Value of the Scholarship and funding period**

6.1 **Types of financial support**

The budget allocation must take into consideration the targets for the programme viz. sixty percent (60%) for postgraduate scholarships and forty percent (40%) for institutional capacity and mobility. Each application shall indicate projected costs, for
years one, (1) two (2) and three (3). The total requested budget (Human Capital Development, Infrastructure and Operational cost) under this programme cannot exceed R1 500 000 per annum.

6.2 Institutional capacity and mobility

The following budget items may be included in the application and all requests must be fully motivated for in the application.

- Small to medium-sized equipment costing no more than R200 000 (two hundred thousand rand);
- Specialised computer software required for postgraduate training;
- Postgraduate training workshops;
- Travel and Subsistence for International guest lecturers.

6.3 Postgraduate scholarships

The duration and value for postgraduate scholarships is listed in Table 1. These values will be reviewed annually to maintain alignment with the Innovation Bursaries for Honours, Masters and Doctoral students.

Table 1: Scholarship values and maximum periods of support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Level</th>
<th>Scholarship Value for 2016/17 (Rand per annum)</th>
<th>Maximum Funding Period (Years)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honours full-time</td>
<td>50 000</td>
<td>One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honours part-time</td>
<td>20 000</td>
<td>Two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters full-time</td>
<td>80 000</td>
<td>Two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters part-time</td>
<td>30 000</td>
<td>Three</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral full-time</td>
<td>110 000</td>
<td>Three</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral part-time</td>
<td>40 000</td>
<td>Five</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The period of support is calculated from the first year of registration for the study or research regardless of NRF funding. Overall, only 10% of postgraduate bursaries will be awarded for part-time studies in this funding instrument. These values maybe revised in 2017.
7. **Application Process**

Applicants may apply by following the steps below:

- Applications must be submitted through an online application process to the NRF.
  - Applicants must apply for the 2016 Collaborative Postgraduate Training by accessing the link: [https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/](https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/)
  - Register / Login using your ID number and password.
  - Select create new application from the list of existing calls.
  - Select the call for which you are applying to viz. Collaborative Postgraduate Training call for 2016.
  - Remember to complete all sections of the application as incomplete applications will not be considered for support by the NRF. Please follow the step-by-step directions supplied in the Funding Guide.
  - Please attach your ID document or passport.
  - Remember to submit your application on completion.
  - Complete applications will be directed to the host University for Verification before being forwarded to the NRF for further processing. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the university has approved the application and forwarded it to the NRF.
  - Incomplete applications will not be considered.
  - Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered (please refer to section 2 for details on eligibility for the Collaborative Postgraduate Training.
  - Please contact the NRF if you have any queries.
  - The closing date for submitting applications is 13 May 2016.

Please take note of your institutions internal closing dates as these will be set before the actual call closing date.

8. **Selection criteria and review process**

The applications submitted to the NRF will undergo a technical review to ensure accountability and appropriate utilisation of funds to be awarded. The proposal will be approved for funding for a three-year period. However, funding for years two and three will be released to grant-holders on an annual basis, subject to satisfactory progress. Once the grant has been approved and the Conditions of Grant has been signed by the grant-holder, student nominations will be approved by the NRF in line with DST-NRF equity targets.
8.1 Proposal review criteria

- Supervisory capacity of the lead applicant and supervisors at the collaborating partner institutions;
- Alignment with national priorities, scarce skill area and/or a vulnerable discipline;
- Expected outputs and outcomes in advancing HCD in the given discipline;
- Collaborative partnerships for HCD training;
- Access to research running costs, indicate the value and source of such funding; and
- Requested budget.
8.2 Assessment criteria

The assessment criteria for the applications are set out in the scorecard illustrated in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Scorecard for the evaluation of application**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Sub-Criteria</th>
<th>Weight (Total = 100%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Track Record of Applicant</td>
<td>Past research outputs (Journal articles, conference presentations and proceedings, book chapters, patents and awards), the candidate’s research experience, postgraduate supervision experience, and experience to host a cohort of postgraduate students.</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Human Capital Development</td>
<td>Student involvement/training outlined, Expected outputs and outcomes in advancing HCD, Representation from designated / under-represented groups, alignment with national priority/scarce skill area and/or vulnerable discipline.</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Potential Research Outputs</td>
<td>Details of envisaged realistic outputs of the research such as publications, conference proceedings, toolkits, policy documents.</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Collaboration on Research Project</td>
<td>Collaboration between institutions include historically disadvantaged higher education institutions. Existing research collaborations with national and international research institutions and universities demonstrated.</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Running Cost and Requested Budget</td>
<td>Access to research grant or funding to support the research to be undertaken by the Postgraduate students and feasibility of the requested budget. Must indicate the value of available or previous funds and source of funding. Sixty percent (60%) of the total budget should be allocated towards human capital development (HCD) and forty percent (40%) towards operating costs. The forty percent is inclusive of Small to medium-sized equipment costing no more than R200 000 (two hundred thousand rand); Specialised computer software required for postgraduate training; Postgraduate training workshops; Travel and Subsistence for International guest lecturers. The total requested budget (Human Capital Development, Infrastructure and Operational cost) under this programme cannot exceed R1 500 000 per annum.</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9. **NRF contact persons**

*For programme related enquiries, please contact:*

Ms. Malaika Koali-Leboa
Professional Officer: Human and Infrastructure Capacity Development (HICD)
Telephone: 012 481 4050
E-mail: koali-lebona.malaika@nrf.ac.za

*For Grants Management related enquiries, please contact:*

Ms. Melissa Govender
Professional Officer: Grants Management and Systems Administration (GMSA)
Telephone: 012 481 4311
E-mail: melissa.govender@nrf.ac.za

*For Reviews and Evaluation related enquiries, please contact:*

Ms. Singathwa Mbangeni
Professional Officer: Reviews and Evaluation (RE)
Telephone: 012 481 4269
E-mail: singathwa.mbangeni@nrf.ac.za
Addendum 1:

Historically Disadvantaged Higher Education Institutions and Campuses / Sites in South Africa.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Historically Disadvantaged Universities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>University of Fort Hare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>University of Limpopo</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mangosuthu University of Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>University of Venda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>University of the Western Cape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Walter Sisulu University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>University of Zululand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Historically Disadvantaged University Campuses / Sites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Central University of Technology (Welkom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Durban University of Technology (ML Sultan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>University of Johannesburg (Soweto)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>University of KwaZulu-Natal (Westville)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (Missionvale)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>University of the Free State (QwaQwa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>North West University (Mafikeng)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>University of Pretoria (Mamelodi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tshwane University of Technology (Shoshanguve and Ga-Rankuwa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Vaal University of Technology (Sebokeng)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>University of South Africa (East Rand)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DHET 2014