South African Square Kilometre Array Project
Undergraduate and Honours Bursary Programme
Call for applications for 2015

Application Guide

Read this guide carefully before completing an application form

Applications must be submitted via the Financial Aid / Research Office at the university where you intend registering for the degree.
Closing date for application is 15 August 2014

1. Eligibility for an SKA SA undergraduate or honours bursary

The following students are eligible for an SKA SA undergraduate or honours bursary

1.1. South African citizens ONLY.

1.2. Students who wish to study, or are studying, towards a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Physics AND Mathematics, at a South African university.

1.3. Students who wish to study towards a Bachelor of Science – Honours (Astronomy / Astrophysics) degree at a South African university; and who majored in Physics AND Mathematics at undergraduate level.

1.4. Students who wish to study, or are studying, towards a Bachelor of Engineering degree (Electronic Engineering ONLY), at a South African university.

1.5. Students who have achieved a minimum C in mathematics and science in Grade 12, or a minimum 60% for major subjects at undergraduate level.

1.6. Students who intend to pursue postgraduate research in radio astronomy, or in an engineering discipline relevant to radio astronomy.
2. Conditions of an SKA SA undergraduate or honours bursary

2.1. The award of an SKA SA undergraduate or honours bursary to a student will be based on academic performance, determined through the evaluation of the student's most recent Grade 12, or university results. Other selection criteria include academic merit, leadership qualities, and previous award of prizes and honours.

2.2. Students currently completing Grade 12 must include a certified copy of their most recent Grade 12 results with their applications and, when available, a certified copy of their final Grade 12 results.

2.3. Students currently completing first year, second year or third year of their degree, must include a certified copy of ALL university results - from first year to the current year of study, and a certified copy of their final Grade 12 results.

2.4. Students who are awarded a bursary will have to provide proof of registration with a South African university before any funds will be paid to the university, for the student.

2.5. After a bursary is awarded, a change in course of study or institution where the studies are to be undertaken requires approval from the SKA SA. (SKA SA reserves the right not to approve such changes).

2.6. After a bursary is awarded, continued funding is dependent on satisfactory academic performance (maintaining a minimum 60% average in June and December). All successful students will be required to submit their university academic transcripts in June and December of each year, for evaluation by the SKA SA. Students who do obtain a minimum of 60% will not receive further funding from SKA SA.

2.7. Students who do not obtain the degree for which the bursary was awarded, relinquish their studies, or leave the tertiary institution during the period for which the bursary was awarded, will have to refund all payments of the bursary already received.

2.8. On completion of the studies supported by means of the bursary, students are required to submit a copy of their degree to the SKA SA.
3. Structure of an SA SKA undergraduate or honours bursary for 2015

3.1. First year in 2015, up to and including honours level

Maximum bursary duration: 4 years
Maximum bursary grant in 2014 (all inclusive): R 95 000.00

3.2. Second year in 2015, up to and including honours level

Maximum bursary duration: 3 years
Maximum bursary grant in 2014 (all inclusive): R 95 000.00

3.3. Third year in 2015, up to and including honours level

Maximum bursary duration: 2 years
Maximum bursary grant in 2014 (all inclusive): R 95 000.00

3.4. Honours level (BSc Physics and Mathematics) / Fourth year (BEng), in 2015

Maximum bursary duration: 1 year
Maximum bursary grant in 2014 (all inclusive): R 95 000.00

4. Payment of an SA SKA undergraduate or honours bursary

4.1. Funds will be paid to the university, where the student is registered, in two instalments. The first instalment will be paid at the start of the academic year (February) and the second instalment will be paid in July / August, subject to satisfactory academic performance.

4.2. The amount remaining after tuition (and residence fees, if relevant) has been paid to the university must be used by the student to pay for living costs (rent, food, travel etc.) and for books and stationery.

4.3. No additional funding will be provided for any reason.

4.4. Any other non-SKA SA funding received by a student must be declared to the SKA SA in writing.
5. Application process

5.1. Application forms can be found online at https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/

5.2. Only one application form per student must be completed and submitted.

5.3. Enquiries may be directed to SKA SA: amashemola@ska.ac.za

5.4. In completing an application form for a bursary from the SKA SA, you accept the conditions listed above.

5.5. No late or incomplete applications will be accepted.

5.6. Successful students will be notified by 1 November 2014.

5.7. The SKA SA reserves the right not to accept any application in part or in whole. The decision of the SKA SA will be final and no correspondence will be entered into after the decision.

5.8. As a business unit of the National Research Foundation, the SKA SA is committed to employment equity and redress.