Study Support for Completing Part-Time Doctoral Students Call for 2015

1. Background

The funding programme aims to provide funding to part-time registered doctoral students in order to enable them to complete doctoral studies and thereby increase graduation and throughput rates. Currently, the NRF mostly provides funding for full-time studies. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has committed funding to part-time registered doctoral students to complete their studies.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the part-time study support programme are to:

- Provide an opportunity for completing doctoral students to submit their dissertations for examination;
- Ease the burden of supervision by facilitating the completion of doctoral degrees;
- Effect transformation in the knowledge workforce in South Africa, with respect to race, gender and persons with disabilities; and
- Develop a cohort of potential candidates for effective industry-academia partnerships that will be composed of mentors and role models for the next generation of researchers.

3. Areas of Support

Support will be provided to students currently pursuing research based doctoral degrees in all areas of Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematical Sciences (STEM) as well as the Social Science and Humanities (SSH) at public universities.

4. Value of the Scholarships

Support for completion of studies will be made on a pro rata basis not exceeding twelve months. For the 2015 academic year, the value of the bursaries will be a maximum of R10 000 per month for ten months or R100 000 per annum. Candidates will be expected to submit a budget indicating how the funds will be utilised.
5. Criteria for Selection

5.1. Eligibility

In selecting applicants for consideration for funding, the following criteria will apply:

- Fellowships are open to only *bonafide* South African citizens or permanent residents.

- Applicants must currently be registered for a doctoral degree and be in final year of the research activities.

- Students who are academically deserving but financially needy will be given priority.

- Priority will be given to those that are in the process of finalizing their thesis for examination and/or preparing a submission of a manuscript to an accredited journal.

- All NRF scholarships awards should be held as primary funding towards the research study.

- Fellowships must not be held simultaneously with a fellowship from any other government or NRF administered source.

- Fellowship-holders are allowed to hold non-binding supplementary grants or emoluments to half the value of the NRF award or should the host university have an institutional capped value, the award can be supplemented to the university capped value for the level of study.

5.2. Equity

In line with the national imperative of equity and redress, the programme prioritises support for appropriately qualified blacks, women and students with disabilities without sacrificing quality. The programme will strive to meet the set equity targets of 80% blacks, 60% women and 4% people with disabilities.

5.3 Institutional Accountability

Applications must include a letter of support from the supervisor of the research as well as the Human Resources (HR) Manager of the employing organisation. The letter from the employing organisation must:

- confirm the employment status of the candidate; and
commit to allow the candidate time away from work in order to finalise and submit the thesis.

6. How to apply for funding

Applicants can apply by following the steps below:

- Applications must be submitted through an online application process to the National Research Foundation

- Applicants can apply for the Study Support for Completing Part-Time Doctoral Students Call for 2015 by accessing the link: [https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/](https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/)

- Register/Login using your ID number and password.

- Go to my applications.

- Select create application.

- Select the call for which you are applying Study Support for Completing Part-Time Doctoral Students Call for 2015.

- Remember to complete all compulsory sections of the application.

- Please attach the necessary documents in one PDF file in the following order: ID document, proof of permanent residence (if applicable) and certified academic transcripts, HR support letter.

- Should you not follow the guidelines for attaching the necessary documents your application will not be considered.

- Remember to submit your application on completion.

- Completed applications will go to the host university for verification before being forwarded to the NRF for further processing.

- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered (please refer to section 5.1 for details on eligibility for the Study Support for Completing Part-Time Doctoral Students.

- Please contact the university postgraduate office or research office if you have any queries.

- The closing date for submitting applications is **31 October 2014**.

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

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