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Foundation

NRF-Nuffic Doctoral Application and Funding Framework for Funding in 2022 Academic year

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1. Background

One way to achieve South Africa's aspiration to produce the requisite research workforce is to expand doctoral training programmes. International partnerships and networks between scientists and research institutions, with a focus on training doctoral students, creates an opportunity for international exposure of doctoral students and, for research collaborations. In recognition of the long standing collaboration between South Africa and the Netherlands in education and research and, with the ambition to strengthen postgraduate training while enhancing sustainable collaboration between South African and Dutch higher education institutions (HEIs), an agreement was entered into in 2017 between the NRF and Nuffic. This is an implementing agreement under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Science & Technology (2015) between South Africa and the Netherlands.

Some of the relevant highlights of the cooperation in research between South Africa and the Netherlands include the South Africa Netherlands Research Programme on Alternatives in Development (SANPAD), that ran from 1997 to 2013 and the Desmond Tutu Training Programme (DTTP) that commenced in 2009. The DTTP was jointly established by the NRF and Vrije University Amsterdam (VUA) to enable the training of doctoral candidates under the supervision of the VUA researchers and their South African counterparts. Following the signing of individual agreements between VUA and several South African universities, the awarding of joint doctoral degrees in South Africa was made possible.

The NRF-Nuffic partnership supports institutional level agreements between Dutch and South African HEIs in order to enable full-time joint doctoral degrees through the split site mode. The roles of the NRF and Nuffic are described in detail in the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA). Briefly, the NRF bears responsibility for the implementation of the scholarship programme, through *inter alia* publishing the call and managing the application and selection processes. Nuffic will act as the coordinator between the Dutch HEIs¹ and the NRF, to promote the programmes among various stakeholders and facilitate links between researchers in the two countries. This framework document may be amended periodically to ensure synergy with the NRF and Nuffic postgraduate funding policies.

In 2021, the NRF introduced the *DSI-NRF Postgraduate Student Funding Policy* wherein postgraduate funding allocations will be underpinned by the principles of equity of opportunity; representivity; prioritisation; and enhanced access, success and throughput. This Postgraduate

¹ See Annexure 1 for a list of participating Dutch Higher Education Institutions.

Funding Policy gives effect to the Ministerial guidelines for improving equity in the distribution of DSI/NRF Bursaries and Fellowships (2013). Citizenship, age, gender and disability will be considered in the allocation of funding, with transformation of the postgraduate cohort as the core objective. Financial need is included as a criterion for determining the level of funding. To attract and retain a diverse range of students, funding levels will be increased to cover the full cost of study for students who meet required criteria.

The purpose of this framework document is to outline the funding principles and implementation guidelines. The context within which the NRF functions is informed by various strategic frameworks, legislation, policies and plans of Government. This framework document must be read together with the Strategic Policy Framework on Disability for the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) System (2018); The Strategy for Human Capacity Development for Research, Innovation and Scholarships (2016); National development Plan (2030); Guidelines for the Department of Higher Education and Training Bursary Scheme for Students at Public Universities (2021) and The Ministerial Guidelines for Improving Equity and the Distribution of DST/NRF Bursaries and Fellowships (2013).

It is acknowledged that meaningful and fundamental transformation must include and extend beyond demographics of the knowledge-workforce and take into account other aspects of the knowledge enterprise. Additionally, it is critical that disability is appropriately addressed along with other areas of transformation. The Strategic Policy Framework on Disability for the PSET (2018), defines Disability as *“the loss or elimination of opportunities to take part in the life of the community, equitably with others, encountered by persons having physical, sensory, psychological, developmental, learning, neurological or other impairments, which may be permanent, temporary or episodic in nature, thereby causing activity limitations and participation restriction within mainstream society. These barriers may be due to economic, physical/structural, social, attitudinal and/or cultural factors.”*

2. Objectives

The objectives of this funding instrument are to:

- Strengthen cooperation and internationalisation between Dutch and South African HEIs through joint supervision of doctoral candidates;
- Foster sustainable institutional collaboration between South African and Dutch HEIs, contributing to the bilateral research agendas;
- Promote and advance science, research and innovation;

- Support the development of a critical mass of globally competitive knowledge-workers in South Africa in prioritised areas;
- Contribute towards increasing the number and quality of South African postgraduate students in all areas of Science, Engineering, Technology, the Social Sciences and Humanities; and
- Effect transformation in the percentage representation of postgraduate students from designated groups, namely black, female and persons with disabilities.

3. Areas of Support

The NRF-Nuffic doctoral scholarships are intended to support doctoral candidates to pursue full-time studies at South African public universities, in all areas of Science, Engineering, Technology, Social Sciences and Humanities, including Indigenous Knowledge Systems, focusing on research aligned with one of the National Priority Research Areas.

The broad disciplines supported by the NRF and Nuffic are: Accounting, Actuarial Science, Agricultural Sciences, Astronomy, Astrophysics, Auditing, Bioinformatics, Biotechnology, Cellular and Molecular Biology, Chemistry, Climate Change, Computer science, Cosmology, Demography, Drug Discovery and Development, Earth Sciences, Earth Observation, Ecology, Economic Sciences, Education, Engineering, Environmental Sciences, Financial Management, Functional Genomics, Geology, Global Change, Society and Sustainability, Health Sciences, Information Science, Information Systems, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Law, Mathematical Sciences, Marine Sciences, Medicinal Plant, Medical sciences, Nanotechnology, Nuclear Technologies in Medicine and Biosciences, Palaeosciences, Polar Science, Physics, Renewable Energy, Social Science and Humanities, Space Science, Statistics, Transportation Studies and Tourism.

The overall percentage of supported students by the NRF will be 80% from the Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) disciplines and 20% from the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH).

4. Eligibility

4.1. Institution and Supervisor Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in this doctoral training initiative, participating institutions and supervisors must meet the following requirements:

- Dutch HEIs will waive tuition fees or in the case that a tuition fee applies, this will not be charged to the NRF or the individual scholarship awardee;
- Dutch HEIs will provide research running costs (i.e. costs that can reasonably be expected to accrue during the course of the doctoral research period) and access to research infrastructure;
- Doctoral supervisory capacity must be in place at both the Dutch HEIs and the South African Partner Institution;
- Supervisors must commit to evaluate the academic suitability of the applicant and endorse the research proposal (including timeframes) **before** the application is submitted for merit review. Supervisors may do this through email correspondence with the applicant and *via* other electronic media such as Skype or video conferencing;
- The supervisors will complete a ‘supervisor response’ which will be linked to the student application. This will seek to confirm that the necessary research infrastructure, resources and funds for undertaking the research and supporting the doctoral student exists within their faculty/school/department.
- As part of the supervisor response, supervisors must also provide confirmation of a collaborative research project including a plan for co-supervision and mobility visits for the duration of the four (4)-year doctoral study. A maximum budget of €21 600 has been allocated for international visits in the split site mode for the four-year duration of the doctoral studies while the NRF scholarship is still valid. Students and supervisors must jointly agree on the frequency and duration of the international visits over the four (4)-year period of study, within the amount budgeted. **Supervisors may support more than one (1) applicant per project each year;**
- A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the Dutch and South African HEIs in respect of awarding joint degrees² must be in place. Where such an agreement does not exist, a template may be requested from the NRF; and

4.2. Applicant Eligibility

The NRF’s minimum academic requirements for postgraduate funding are as follows:

Applicants must have obtained a minimum of 65% at the master’s level. A student with a classification of “Pass” or “Pass with distinction” will not be allowed to apply for the current call. Only students with a numerical pass mark may apply for NRF funding.

² A joint degree in this context refers to a single doctoral degree awarded by joint decision of the Dutch HEI and Partner University in South Africa upon successful completion of a jointly defined and entirely shared doctoral study programme. This means that all Participating Institutions are responsible for the entire programme and not just their own separate parts. The offering of joint degrees is limited to institutions with existing Memoranda of Agreement for joint degrees.

The eligibility criteria for funding at Full Cost of Study (FCS) and Partial Cost of Study (PCS) listed in Table 1 apply to all first-time applicants.

Table 1. Eligibility criteria for first time applicants for the NRF-Nuffic doctoral scholarships for Full Cost of Study and Partial Cost of Study for the 2022 academic year.

Study Level	Full Cost of Study		Partial Cost of Study
	Exceptional Achievers	Financially Needy and Students with Disability	Other
Doctoral	Minimum average of 75% for Master's degree	Minimum average of 65% for Master's degree	Minimum average of 65% for Master's degree
	Applicants for doctoral funding must be 32 years of age or younger in the year of application i.e. applicants must not be over 32 years by 31 December 2021.		

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. However, it does not guarantee funding if you fall under these three categories. Refer to section 13 for further information on considerations for funding. **PCS funding** will be awarded to South African citizens, permanent residents.

The entry age requirement is 32 years for doctoral studies, in the year of application, regardless of first year of registration.

4.3. Eligibility for first-time applicants for doctoral funding who commenced their studies on a part-time basis

Students who commenced their doctoral studies on a part-time basis and wish to be considered for funding for completion of their studies on a full-time basis, may apply and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Students who will be registered on a full-time basis for their second and third year of doctoral studies in 2022 may apply, and the initial date for registration of the degree will be taken into consideration to determine the support period if applicant is successful.

5. Students not Eligible for NRF-Nuffic Doctoral Funding

The following categories of individuals are not eligible to apply for funding under this initiative.

- Students who are currently registered for doctoral studies in the Netherlands.
- Students who are already in the 3rd year of doctoral study in 2021 at the South African institution.

- Individuals who have previously or are currently receiving NRF funding for a doctoral study.
- Individuals that already hold a doctoral degree.
- Students who hold NRF funding for first, second, or third-year doctoral studies in 2021, are not eligible to apply for funding as new students. These continuing students must submit all required Progress Reports (PR) on the NRF Online Submission System by the stipulated cut-off date to receive funding for the 2022 academic year, as per the Conditions of Grant and NRF approved funding level.
- Students who will be in their pre-proposal year in 2022.
- Students who de-registered from a degree and are applying for funding for the same level may apply, however the first date of registration for the original degree will be taken into account when determining the eligible period for NRF funding.
- Students who intend to register for, or are studying for a professional doctoral degree. Further clarification of the professional degrees may be obtained from the Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework (HEQSF) approved by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET).
- Individuals who will be in a salaried (contractual or permanent) employment³ that exceeds 12 hours of work per week, while pursuing doctoral studies may not hold NRF-Nuffic doctoral funding for full-time studies. The above-mentioned 12 hours of work per week only applies to the institutional students' services such as teaching, tutorials and assistance or demonstration duties during the year of study.
- Individuals that are on sabbatical leave from their current employment.
- Individuals who will be in contractual or permanent employment, whether salaried or unpaid, that exceeds 12 hours of work per week, while pursuing honours, master's or doctoral studies may not hold DSI-NRF Postgraduate Student Funding for full-time studies. The above-mentioned 12 hours of work per week only applies to the institutional students' services such as teaching, tutorials and assistance or demonstration duties during the year of study.
- Students who hold South African/Netherlands government funding for a doctoral degree.
- Students with a classification of "Pass" or "Pass with distinction", and have not been allocated a numerical pass mark for their master's degree by their university.

³ An "employee" will be understood in terms of Section 213 of the Labour Relations Act 66 of 1995 which is defined as (a) any person, excluding an independent contractor, who works for another person or for the State and who receives, or is entitled to receive, any remuneration; and (b) any other person who in any manner assists in carrying on or conducting the business of an employer, and "employed" and "employment" have meanings corresponding to that of "employee".

- Individuals who first registered for the doctoral study in 2018 or before.

6. Financial Means Test

The DHET currently defines **financially needy students** as individuals who come from households with a **combined net family income of no more than R350 000** (three hundred and fifty thousand rand) per annum.

Applicants will be subjected to a financial means test to determine their financial need. 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.

The NRF acknowledges that there are financially needy students that may not have undergone a financial means test prior to applying to the NRF for postgraduate funding, and therefore, a financial means tests for those applicants' will be facilitated in partnership with ISFAP. Applicants that need to undertake a financial means test must provide the following:

- Completed NRF-ISFAP consent form certified by a commissioner of oath and uploaded to the Financial Need section of the application;
- Consent form must be co-signed by the household contributor(s) whom the financial means test will be conducted against and their ID numbers must be included on the online application form; 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.

The above checks and assessments by NRF-ISFAP will be conducted strictly in accordance and/or in compliance with the provisions of the National Credit Act No 34 of 2005.

Applicants who were previously funded by Funza Lushaka, Department of Military Veterans, or Department of Social Development (DSD) bursaries for their undergraduate studies must undergo a financial means test upon application for NRF postgraduate funding. Typically, students funded by Funza Lushaka, Department of Military Veterans or DSD are nominated by the funder and financial need is not a criterion in the award of the undergraduate bursaries

(although the bursaries are administered *via* NSFAS), hence they will be subjected to a financial means test at the postgraduate level.

7. Applicable Allowances

Successful applicants will be funded either at FCS or PCS. The **FCS** will cover **tuition fee, accommodation** (i.e., university owned accommodation or private rental accommodation), **living and transport allowance, food allowance** and a once-off allowance for **electronic study device** (Table 2). In the event that a student is not residing in university owned accommodation or private rental accommodation, they will be eligible for **tuition fee, living and transport allowance, food allowance** and a once-off allowance for **electronic study device**.

The **PCS** will cover **tuition fee and accommodation costs only** for students that are residing in university owned accommodation and private rental accommodation (Table 2). In the event that a student is not residing university owned accommodation or private rental accommodation, they will be eligible for **tuition fee and living and transport allowance only**.

Table 1: Annual NRF allowances applicable for FCS and PCS for doctoral studies under the split site mode.

Category	Doctoral ¹	
	FCS allowance per annum	PCS allowance per annum
Living and transport allowance (Rand)	48 000	n/a
Food allowances (Rand)	27 000	n/a
Maximum Accommodation allowance (Rand) ²	64 020	64 020
Maximum Tuition Fees (Rand) ³	31 410	31 410
Maximum (Rand)	170 430	95 430
Maximum Assistive technology device (Rand) ⁴	20 000	n/a
Electronic study Device allowance (Rand) ⁵	10 000	n/a

1. The allowances per category will be reviewed on an annual basis subject to the agreed CPI-linked sector-wide increases and alignment with the *Guidelines for the Department of Higher Education and Training Bursary Scheme for Students at Public Universities*.

2. Accommodation fee will be capped and paid as per invoice. Limited to maximum cost of the equivalent university owned accommodation at a particular institution. **Students accommodated in private rental accommodation must also provide proof of a valid lease agreement.**

3. Tuition 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 allowance. Qualifying NRF funded students in possession of a provisional award letter are not required to pay an upfront registration fee.

4. The Assistive technology device will be only applicable to students living with a disability.

5. The electronic study device allowance will be provided as a once-off allowance for the duration of the postgraduate studies.

Students living 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. **An assistive device** is defined as any device, product, equipment or tool that is designed or adapted to enable persons with disabilities to participate in activities, tasks or actions including: (i) **mobility aids** such as wheelchairs, prostheses and crutches as well as service animals (ii) **communication aids** such as hearing aids, Frequency Modulation (FM) systems; (iii) **sensory aids** such as white canes; noise reducing headphones and coloured lenses (iv) **technology aids** such as computers for alternate and augmentative communication, screen readers, magnifiers, texts in audio format (Strategic Policy Framework on Disability for the PSET, 2018).

8. Application Process

Applications for funding for doctoral studies in the 2022 academic year must be submitted to the university where students intend to study, through the NRF Online Submission System at <https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/> - NRF Postgraduate Scholarships. Students must first identify the university where they will be registered for their doctoral degree before submitting an application to the NRF.

South African universities at which students intend to register for doctoral studies, will set their own internal cut-off dates for applications and applicants must abide by those dates.

Further instructions on the application process are available in the NRF-Nuffic Doctoral Funding Application and Funding Guide for 2022 which must be read in conjunction with this framework document.

8.1. Continuing NRF funded doctoral students

All current NRF funded students who are eligible for a second or third year of funding must submit a Progress Report and not a new application. Refer to section 15. A new application should only be submitted for consideration to be funded for the next level of study (i.e. postdoctoral funding).

9. Attachments

Applicants must refer to the DSI-NRF Postgraduate Student Application and Funding Guide for 2022, for a list of required attachments as these may differ for each scholarship category.

10. Review of Applications and Selection Criteria

10.1. Applications for split site doctoral studies

Applications submitted under the split site mode will be assessed by review committees at the public universities in South Africa at which the applicants intend to register. Universities will use the same scorecard presented in Table 2 to review applications. Only applications that are recommended for NRF funding based on the review outcome, may be submitted to the NRF by the university's Designated Authority (DA). Review scores and recommendations must be uploaded onto the NRF Online Submission System by the DA when approving an application on the system. Applications which are not recommended for institutional reviews should be rejected by the university DA on the NRF Online Submission System and a formal feedback should be sent to applicants by the university. Appeals that relate to the review of applications by the universities must be responded to by the respective institutional DA. Refer to section 12 on the role of the NRF and the universities regarding the feedback that must be provided to applicants.

The DA must submit a report on the review process, including comments from the reviewers, and signed by either the Deans of Faculties or the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research.

10.2. Transparency and Accountability

To be compliant with the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act (Act 3 of 2000) and in order to respond to appeals from students, the reports on the review process undertaken must include proof of the following:

- The names of committee or panel members of subject experts that participated in the review of applications for NRF postgraduate funding;
- Minutes of the review meeting and sign-off by the Chairperson of the review committee;
- Recommendations made by the panel on whether applications are recommended or not recommended for funding, with clearly stated reasons; and
- Correctly allocated scores against each criterion as per weighting provided in the scorecard.

10.3. Standardised Scorecard for Reviewing Applications

The standardized scorecard presented in table 2 below must be used to review applications for doctoral funding.

Table 2: Scorecard for the assessment of applications for Doctoral Funding

Criteria	Description	Weight
Academic merit*	Percentage mark for the master's degree if completed; or if the master's degree is in progress, average percentage mark for the honours degree; or Average percentage mark for major subjects in the final year of a four-year undergraduate degree.	30%
Completion time for previous degree	Time taken for completion of the master's degree, or if the master's degree is still in progress, time taken to complete the honours degree or four-year undergraduate degree.	15%
Track record or research outputs	Evidence of research outputs in accredited peer-reviewed publications and, presentations at conferences/symposiums.	15%
Priority research area	Research aligned with one of the national research priority areas.	10%
Originality of the doctoral study	Problem statement, Identified knowledge gaps, Aim and Objectives of the study.	20%
Potential impact of the research	Potential to contribute to national research strategies and the strategic goals of the knowledge economy.	10%
		100%

11. Feedback to applicants

Applicants must refer to the DSI-NRF Postgraduate Student Application and Funding Guide for 2022, regarding the role of the NRF and the universities on feedback for applications submitted.

12. Appeals

Appeals relating to the review process will be undertaken by the university that reviewed the application. Appeals are only based on an unsuccessful outcome during the review process by the university i.e. unfair comment from the review panel or scientific merit. Appeals that relate to the review of applications by the institutions must be responded to by the respective institutional DA and it is the responsibility of the applicant to request formal review feedback

from the institution. Appeals may not be lodged against the funding decision taken such as PCS funding or not being awarded funding due to budget constraints.

13. Equity and redress

The NRF applies measures for enhancing equity, fairness, and justice in accordance with the South African Constitution. The NRF adheres to the Immigration Act of 2002 which states that the holder of a permanent resident permit "has all the rights, privileges, duties and obligations of a citizen, save for those rights, privileges, duties and obligations which a law or the Constitution explicitly ascribes to citizenship".

In line with the national imperative of enhancing equity of postgraduate student access, success and throughput using funding, all postgraduate funding must prioritise support for appropriately qualified applicants from designated groups *viz.* Black, female and persons living with disabilities, while ensuring that only applications that meet the merit review and selection criteria are supported. Additionally, the NRF will prioritise applicants who are financially needy, yet academically capable and previously funded by the NSFAS, NRF and/or ISFAP.

The **South African citizens and permanent residents' targets** are disaggregated in terms of **race, gender and disability** as follows:

- **90%** Black (African, Coloured and Indian);
- **10%** White;
- **55%** women; and
- **1%** Students living with a disability.

When funding decisions are made by the NRF, consideration will be given to ensuring the need to strengthen research capacity in scarce skills, priority skills and knowledge fields as well as to accelerate the demographic transformation.

Allocation of funding will be determined by the following criteria: Recommendation by institutional peer- review panel; NRF Annual Performance Plan (APP) targets; Institutional rate of scholarship awards uptake; Doctoral enrolments at each university; Institutional spread; Knowledge domains as specified by the funder; Financial needy as determined by ISFAP facilitated household means test; Previously NRF, NSFAS and/or ISFAP funded students and Availability of budget.

14. Funding Details

The funding is designed for students enrolled in a full-time, four (4)-year doctoral degree in the split site mode. The Dutch HEI will waive tuition, provide research running costs⁴ and access to research infrastructure. Costs that will be covered by the NRF are detailed in Tables 3 below and are in alignment with NRF funding for doctoral studies in South Africa which may be adjusted from time to time.

Successful applicants will be funded either at FCS or PCS as detailed in table 1 above and in addition, a **maximum budget of €21 600** (twenty one thousand and six hundred Euros), has been allocated for international visits in the split site mode for the four-year duration of the doctoral studies (Table 3), while the NRF scholarship is still valid. Students and supervisors must jointly agree on the frequency and duration of the international visits over the four (4)-year period of study, within the amount budgeted.

Table 3: Funding values for NRF-Nuffic Doctoral Studies in South Africa and the Netherlands (i.e. split site mode)

Category	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Grand Total
SA Funding (FCS/PCS)*	R170 430/ R95 430	R170 430/ R95 430	R170 430/ R95 430	R170 430/ R95 430	R681 720/ R381 720
Travel grant**	€5 400	€5 400	€5 400	€5 400	€21 600⁵

* Students will be funded at FCS (R170 430 pa) or PCS (R95 430 pa) based on financial need and registered at SA public university. For details on the FCS and PCS refer to table 1.

** Travel grant for traveling to the Netherlands includes airfare, accommodation, visa, medical insurance and subsistence.

15. Progress Reporting

All students who were first funded before 2021 (refer to section 15.2) and new students funded in 2021 (refer to section 15.1) must submit Progress Reports endorsed by the Supervisor to ensure continuation of funding. All **continuing students** that are eligible for a continuation of scholarship funding for the next year of study must **submit a Progress Report (PR)** and not a new application. Final year students must submit final year reports.

⁴ Research running costs refer to costs that can reasonably be expected to accrue during the course of the research period.

⁵ Note that although the allocation for travel grant is presented annually in the table, successful applicants have flexibility on when and how often to travel up to the capped amount of €21 600.

15.1. Bi-annual progress reports for doctoral students commencing with NRF FCS or PCS postgraduate funding in 2021

All students receiving DSI-NRF postgraduate student funding at either FCS or PCS from the 2021 academic year are required to submit Bi-annual Progress Reports on the NRF Online Submission System on the dates indicated in the NRF Conditions of Grant (CoG).

The progress reports will open throughout the year for doctoral students. However, the students will be expected to submit the reports to the NRF as follows:

- a. Doctoral students must submit the first report by end August 2021 and second report by mid-February 2022.
- b. Doctoral students funded under NRF-Nuffic doctoral scholarship, by end of their funding period, they must have submitted 8 progress reports.

15.2. Progress Reports for doctoral students funded before 2021 academic year

The following continuing students that received NRF funding before 2021 must submit all required Progress Reports based on their signed CoG on the NRF Online Submission System in order to receive continuation funding in 2022. These continuing students, as indicated below, are expected to submit the progress reports once a year.

- a. Doctoral students who are eligible for a third and fourth year of support for doctoral studies in 2022;
- b. Doctoral students who have upgraded from a master's to a doctoral degree and who are eligible for a third or fourth year of funding for doctoral studies in 2022.

Failure to submit a progress report on time will result in the cancellation of a grant for the subsequent year(s) and the grant-holder will not be eligible for further funding at doctoral level. The student will also not be allowed to apply for funding for the next level of study if they have failed to comply with the progress reporting as per the CoG.

16. Financial Control

The DSI-NRF Postgraduate Student Funding 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 NRF Grants Management and Systems Administration (GMSA)

Directorate to the relevant institutions. Grant-holders will have their funds administered by the South African institution to the value of the full sum awarded by the NRF.

17. Monitoring and Evaluation by the NRF

The NRF will continuously monitor and review the progress of the students at an individual and institutional level. On an ongoing basis, the NRF will undertake institutional visits and focus group discussions which will be conducted at the host universities.

18. Selected Conditions of Grant (CoG)

Successful applicants that receive a provisional award for postgraduate funding from the NRF are required to complete and sign the NRF CoG, which will be forwarded at the time of the award. The signed CoG must be submitted together with the required documents. The Student-Supervisor Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) clarifying expectations and preferences in managing the research project, must be signed by both the student and supervisor and submitted with the midyear reports due by the end of August. The CoG includes amongst others the following conditions for the grant award:

- a. Postgraduate funding awarded for the 2022 academic year, that is not taken up by 30 April 2022 will be automatically cancelled for reallocation unless otherwise approved by the NRF.
- b. All DSI-NRF postgraduate student funding shall be held as the primary funding towards the research study.
- c. Students on FCS may not receive another FCS scholarship from any other government or private sector funder.
- d. If a student receives financial support from another source, DSI-NRF postgraduate student funding may be awarded, however, the allocations must be reduced accordingly. The NRF may not pay for any amounts already covered by another funder. Universities and students must report this information to the NRF in writing, so that funding adjustments may be made.
- e. Students on FCS funding may not receive another FCS scholarship from any other government or private sector funder. However, additional funding can be sourced for shortfall on tuition fees and accommodation.
- f. Students on PCS funding may receive supplementary funding from another source, provided that the total funding received from the NRF and other sources does not exceed that of the NRF FCS funding and any shortfall on tuition fees and accommodation.

- g. Where a university provides a fee waiver for doctoral studies, the funds allocated for the fees will not accrue to the student, but will be made available as a research grant to cover running expenses of the postgraduate research project.
- h. Grant-holders will be allowed to undertake teaching, tutorials, assistance or demonstration duties to a maximum of 12 hours per week, during the year of study, and the student may be remunerated for his/her services rendered at the normal university tariff for services.
- i. Students are expected to undertake at least 80 hours of Academic Service Work per annum in the form of structured, university determined academic support activities. University determined academic support activities may include tutoring/mentoring of other students; volunteering for orientation of new students and on career days; or science engagement activities. Academic support activities must be included in the student-supervisor MoU and reported on in the student Bi-annual Reports. Please refer further to the Statement of Expectations for DSI-NRF Postgraduate Student Funding available under call documents on the NRF website.
- j. The grantholder must obtain the degree, for which the postgraduate funding was awarded, by the contractual date, which is within one (1) year after NRF funding has ceased, and must notify the NRF via the university DA of the completion of the degree.
- k. Should the grantholder not complete the degree for which the postgraduate funding was awarded, the total funds received from the NRF, must be returned to the NRF together with interest at the prevailing prime rate charged by the NRF bankers, unless a de-registration is approved by the NRF due to exceptional and extenuating circumstances.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that:

- They have read and understood the requirements as laid out in the DSI-NRF Postgraduate Student Application and Funding Framework as well as the DSI-NRF Postgraduate Student Application and Funding Guide for 2022;
- All attachments are translated into English as a medium of communication;
- A suitable SA supervisor and a Dutch supervisor have been identified;
- First-time doctoral applicants, the master's supervisor, identified SA doctoral supervisor and the identified Dutch supervisor submit the required report via the NRF Online system;
- The application is completed in full and the information furnished is correct;
- They adhere to their South African university's internal closing date; and
- The South African university has received the application for funding submitted on the Online Application system.

Relevant documents on National Priority Research Areas:

1. <http://www.dst.gov.za/index.php/resource-center/strategies-and-reports/143-the-ten-year-plan-for-science-and-technology>
2. <http://www.dst.gov.za/index.php/resource-center/strategies-and-reports/174-national-research-a-development-strategy-2002>
3. http://www.gov.za/sites/www.gov.za/files/Science_Technology_White_Paper.pdf
4. http://www.gov.za/sites/www.gov.za/files/Bioeconomy%20Strategy_a.pdf
5. http://www.gov.za/sites/www.gov.za/files/PALEO_STRATEGY_DST_Final_.pdf
6. http://www.gov.za/sites/www.gov.za/files/DST_Nanotech_18012006_0.pdf
7. http://www.gov.za/document?search_query=strategy&field_gcisdoc_doctype=All&field_gcisdoc_subjects=518&start_date=&end_date=&=Search
8. <http://www.gov.za/about-sa/science-technology>

19. NRF and Nuffic Contact Details

For technical enquiries relating to the NRF Online Submission System, please contact the Support Desk (Mondays to Fridays from 08h00 to 16h30) on: Tel: 012 481-4202 or E-mail: supportdesk@nrf.ac.za.

For programme related enquiries, please contact:

For NRF South Africa:

Mr Nelson Komane

Professional Officer: Human and Infrastructure Capacity Development (HICD)

Telephone: 012 481-4219

E-mail address: nelson@nrf.ac.za

For Nuffic Neso South Africa:

Ms Huba Boshoff

Chief Representative Officer

Email address: hboshoff@nuffic.nl

Annexure 1: Participating Dutch Higher Education Institutions

Institution	Field of Study/ Faculty	Contact Person/Supervisor	Email Address
Academic Center for Dentistry Amsterdam	Preventive dentistry; Cardiology	Catherine Volgenant	c.volgenant@acta.nl
Erasmus University Rotterdam, International Institute of Social Studies	Child rights	Kristen Cheney	cheney@iss.nl
	Social Sciences; Social Policy; Development Economics	Andrew Fischer	fischer@iss.nl
	International Law; Human Rights; Socio-legal Research; Refugee Law	Jeff Handmaker	handmaker@iss.nl
	Politics and Governance of Development and International Political Economy	Wil Hout	hout@iss.nl
	Innovation in Informal Sector; Inclusive Innovation; Frugal Innovation; 4th Industrial Revolution Technologies and Local Innovation for Inclusive Development	Peter Knorringa	knorringa@iss.nl
	Health Economics	Matthias Rieger	rieger@iss.nl
Erasmus MC University Medical Center Rotterdam	Epidemiology of Cardiometabolic Disorders	Maryam Kavousi	m.kavousi@erasmusmc.nl
	Genetics; Life Science; Molecular Medicine	Stefan Barakat	t.barakat@erasmusmc.nl
	Viral infection; Inflammation and Cancer Research: mainly focus on Coronavirus, Hepatitis Virus and Liver Cancer; Virus-host Interactions; Antiviral Drug Development; Stem Cells in Cancer Development and Therapeutic Targeting	Qiuwei Abdullah Pan	q.pan@erasmusmc.nl
	Thyroid Hormone Regulation in Health and Disease	Edward Visser	w.e.visser@erasmusmc.nl
Eindhoven University of Technology (Centre for Wireless Technology at the Electrical Engineering department of)	Radio Science, specialising in Low-Frequency Radio Astronomy	Mark J. Bentum	m.j.bentum@tue.nl
	Microwave Filter Design	Elmine Meyer	Email.e.meyer@tue.nl
	Antenna Design for Radio Astronomy	David S. Prinsloo	d.prinsloo@tue.nl

Protestant Theological University	Theology & Religious Studies	Albert Nijboer	a.s.nijboer@pthu.nl
University of Amsterdam	Department of Health: Non-Communicable Disease	Charles Agyemang	c.o.agyemang@amsterdamumc.nl
	Department of Industrial Psychology and People Management	Adams Byron	b.g.adams@uva.nl
University of Groningen	Integrated Research on Energy, Environment and Society; Energy and Sustainable Research Institute Groningen, Faculty of Science and Engineering	Klaus Hubacek	k.hubacek@rug.nl
	Energy Conversion; Energy and Sustainable Research Institute Groningen, Faculty of Science and Engineering	P.V. Aravind	a.purushothaman.vellayani@rug.nl
	Food, Energy, Water Systems Nexus; Faculty of Science and Engineering	Sanderine Nonhebel	s.nonhebel@rug.nl
	Biomass Conversions to Fuel; Microreactor Technology; Engineering and Technology Institute Groningen (ENTEG), Faculty of Science and Technology	Wiebren de Jong	w.de.jong@rug.nl
	Integrated Research on Energy; Environment and Society; Energy and Sustainable Research Institute Groningen, Faculty of Science and Engineering	Jun Yue	Yue.jun@rug.nl
	Energy Conversion; Energy and Sustainable Research Institute Groningen, Faculty of Science and Engineering	Eric Heeres	h.j.heeres@rug.nl
	Biological Rhythms; Ornithology, Faculty of Science and Engineering	Barbara Helm	b.helm@rug.nl
	Soil Microbiome; Plant-microbe Interactions; Microbial Ecology; Metagenomics, Faculty of Science and Engineering	Joana Falcao Salles	j.falcao.salles@rug.nl
		Corine Eising	c.m.eising@rug.nl
	Ecology & Evolution; Biodiversity and Climate Change; Brain, Cognition and Neurobiology; Medical Biology; Evolutionary Medicine, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Zernike Institute for Advanced Materials, Faculty of Science and Engineering	Jan Peter Birkner	j.p.birkner@rug.nl
	Groningen Biomolecular Sciences & Biotechnoloy Institute, Faculty of Science and Engineering	Engel Vrieling	e.g.vrieling@rug.nl
Quantum Gravity, Kapteyn Astronomical Institute, Faculty of Science and Engineering	Anupam Mazumdar	anupam.mazumdar@rug.nl	

Kapteyn Astronomical Institute, Faculty of Science and Engineering: other	Lucia van der Voort	l.van.der.voort@rug.nl
Faculty of Science and Engineering: other	Liza ten Velde	l.ten.velde@rug.nl
Real estate and land policy, Faculty of Spatial Sciences	Arno van der Vlist	a.j.van.der.vlist@rug.nl
Population and Health, Faculty of Spatial Sciences	Hinke Haisma	h.h.haisma@rug.nl
Spatial planning and complexity, Faculty of Spatial Sciences	Gert de Roo	g.de.roo@rug.nl
Performance of - and collaboration in - Public-Private partnerships, Faculty of Spatial Sciences	Stefan Verweij	s.verweij@rug.nl
Social Networks and Natural Resource Governance; Environmental Policy Networks; Social Networks and Environmental Inequalities, Faculty of Spatial Sciences	Christina Prell	c.l.prell@rug.nl
Nature and Spatial Change, Faculty of Spatial Sciences	Frans Sijtsma	f.i.sijtsma@rug.nl
Climate Change and Resourceful Communities, from a Geographical/Socio-spatial perspective; Nature and Spatial Change, Faculty of Spatial Sciences	Ina Horlings	l.g.horlings@rug.nl
Environmental Impact Assessment in the Anthropocene: The role of EIA in Decision-making throughout the planning cycle - Faculty of Spatial Sciences	Jos Arts	jos.arts@rug.nl
Transport Poverty in South Africa: Comparing Rural South Africa and its Metropolitan Regions, Faculty of Spatial Sciences	Taede Tillema	t.tillema@rug.nl
Development Studies, Human Geography, Faculty of Spatial Sciences	Frank Vanclay	Frank.Vanclay@rug.nl
Faculty of Spatial Sciences, other	Sanne Ponsioen	s.n.ponsioen@rug.nl
Faculty of Medical Sciences	Joyce Fongers	j.e.fongers@rug.nl
Governance, Sustainable Economy, Culture, Campus Fryslân	Joop Houtman	m.i.p.w.van.der.vlugt@rug.nl
Global Health Law, Faculty of Law	Birgit Toebes	b.c.a.toebes@rug.nl
Faculty of Spatial Sciences, other	David Patterson	d.w.patterson@rug.nl
Housing rights, Human rights, etc. Faculty of Law	Michel Vols	m.vols@rug.nl

	Land rights, Faculty of Law	Leon Verstappen	l.c.a.verstappen@rug.nl
	Arts, Culture and Media / Film, Faculty of Arts	Annie van den Oever	a.m.a.van.den.oever@rug.nl
	Intersections of Care and Religious Diversity, with a focus on Gender, Sexuality and the Dynamics of Religion and Secularity, Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies	Brenda Bartelink	b.e.bartelink@rug.nl
	Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences	Maike van der Vlugt	gradschool.bss@rug.nl
	Other enquiries: Department for International Strategy and Relations	Erik Haarbrink	e.j.haarbrink@rug.nl
University of Twente	Quantitative Remote Sensing of Vegetation Traits; Remote Sensing of Vegetation Health and Disease; Spatial Agriculture; Food Security; Geoinformation for Monitoring Natural Resources	Andy Nelson	a.nelson@utwente.nl
		Roshanak Darvishzadeh	r.darvish@utwente.nl
Utrecht University including University Medical Centre	Julius Center for Health Sciences and Primary Care: Epidemiology; Public and Global Health; Cardiovascular Disease; HIV; Integrated Chronic Care; Maternal and Child Health	Kerstin Klipstein-Grobusch	k.klipstein-grobusch@umcutrecht.nl
	Clinical Epidemiology; Clinical Trials; Cardiovascular Disease	Diederick E. Grobbee	grobbee@umcutrecht.nl
	Biostatistics	Marinus Eijkemans	M.J.C.Eijkemans@umcutrecht.nl
	Languages; Literature and Communication; Dutch Linguistics	Marjo van Koppen	j.m.vankoppen@uu.nl
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	Science Policy; Technology Commercialization; Business Valorization; Innovation and Technology Management; Technology Readiness; Energy and Sustainability; Life Science Industry Innovation; Personalized Drugs, Devices, Drug Repurposing; Drug Development; AI in Healthcare	Sandra Hasanefendic	s.hasanefendic@vu.nl
	Health Professions Education	Rashmi Kusrkar	r.kusrkar@amsterdamumc.nl
	Computational Chemistry	Matthias Bickelhaupt	f.m.bickelhaupt@vu.nl
	Environmental, Food Systems, Land Use Planning	Peter Verburg	peter.verburg@vu.nl
	Developmental psychology	Paula Sterkenburg	p.s.sterkenburg@vu.nl
	Environmental Science; Exposure assessment	Marja Lamoree	marja.lamoree@vu.nl