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## COMMUNIQUÉ

### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND INNOVATION – NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION (DSI-NRF) POSTGRADUATE FUNDING POLICY

#### **Amendments to the payment process of the NRF Postgraduate Scholarships**

The 2021 academic year marks the commencement of the implementation of the DSI-NRF Postgraduate Funding policy with the first cohort of honours, masters and students to be funded at either Full Cost of Study (FCS) or Partial Cost of Study (PCS). The NRF is cognisant of the challenges encountered by some institutions regarding the payment of student allowances and stipends, and the feedback received from institutions is being given due consideration in an effort to make the administration of the new postgraduate scholarships easier, and to provide clarity where required.

The NRF will engage further with institutions with the view to streamlining the payment process commencing in the 2022 academic year. However, to address the more pressing issues that have been communicated to the NRF, the following updates to the payment process have been authorised for the 2021 academic year and are effective immediately:

#### **Payment of allowances to students**

In order to be audit compliant, payments for allowances must be made either on a monthly or quarterly basis to students. This provision is being made for the 2021 academic year to accommodate institutions that have not as yet implemented systems and processes for monthly payments of student allowances.

#### **Payments may be made according to the semester of registration**

If the student registered in the first half of the year (first semester), regardless of the month of registration, and is registered for the full year, the student is eligible for the full year scholarship which must be made available to the student.

Likewise, if the student registers in the second half of the year (second semester), only half the scholarship may be made available for the 2021 academic year. The payment rules for each of the allowances still apply.

### **Payment of allowance for electronic study device**

The institution and the NRF will **not** require quotations or proof of purchase for the electronic study device allowance. The allowance will be made available only once irrespective of whether the student receives NRF funding for a further postgraduate degree(s).

### **Contact persons for enquiries**

For enquiries related to NRF Postgraduate Funding Grants Management, you may contact Ms Melissa Govender on [melissa.govender@nrf.ac.za](mailto:melissa.govender@nrf.ac.za) and 012 481 4311.

For enquiries related to the DSI-NRF Postgraduate Funding Policy, you may contact Ms Busisiwe Sibiya on [busisiwe.sibiya@nrf.ac.za](mailto:busisiwe.sibiya@nrf.ac.za) and 012 481 4166.

**23 August 2021**

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