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Research Chairs & Centres of Excellence (RCCE)

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South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI)

**Document:**

Framework & Funding Guide for the co-funded DSI/NRF-UniZulu SARChI Research Chair in Hydrology

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. Strategic Background.....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1. Context .....	3
1.2. The co-funded DSI/NRF-UniZulu SARChI Research Chair in Hydrology.....	5
1.3. Aims and Objectives of co-funded SARChI Chairs.....	5
<b>2. Guiding Principles.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3. Accountability for Chairs.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>4. Minimum Requirements of Candidates.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5. Application, Review and Selection Process.....</b>	<b>9</b>
5.1. Review and Selection process.....	11
5.2. Award levels.....	12
<b>6. Management of the Research Chairs.....</b>	<b>13</b>
6.1. Duration of the Research Chair .....	15
6.2. Funding Levels .....	15
<b>7. Postgraduate Student Funding Policy.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>8. Evaluation and Impact of Research Chairs.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>9. Ethical Clearance .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>10. NRF Contact Persons.....</b>	<b>21</b>

## 1. Strategic Background

### 1.1. Context

The *White Paper on Science and Technology* (1996) and the *National Research and Development Strategy* (2002) emphasised the need for South Africa to transform its Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) workforce. Other policy and strategies of government, including the *Human Resource Development Strategy* (2009) and the *Medium Term Strategic Framework* (2009), flagged the shortage of high-level skills as a significant constraint in the development of the economy and society. Accordingly, South Africa must produce a preponderance of highly skilled individuals; particularly in SET, to achieve the goal of “*an equitable, sustainable, and inclusive growth path that brings decent work, sustainable livelihoods, education, health, safe and secure communities, and rural development*”.

In order to achieve the abovementioned goal, the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) was established in 2006 by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI). This funding instrument is managed by the National Research Foundation (NRF) through a contractual agreement with the DSI. SARChI is a strategic intervention of the South African government designed to attract and retain research excellence and innovation at South African public universities, Research Councils and National Research Facilities. In particular, SARChI is aimed at increasing scientific research capacity through the development of human capacity and stimulating the generation of new knowledge. SARChI is also intended to support and advance transformation of South African society in terms of demographics and the knowledge economy, so that there is equitable and inclusive participation in the generation of knowledge and the generation of such knowledge translates into socio-economic benefits.

For the purpose mentioned above and to date, 257 Research Chairs under the auspices of the SARChI were awarded in various disciplines and research fields at South African public universities and Science councils as at February 2022. Of these awarded, 212 are operational, 5 Chairs are yet to be operationalised and 60 Chairs have since inception been rescinded, phased out and/or ended their funding cycle. Of the operational Chairs 87% were recruited from South African public universities. Thus, the SARChI has been successful in retaining leading South African researchers and attracting leading foreign researchers and expatriate researchers to South Africa. However, the SARChI has not been as successful in ensuring racial and gender equity. For instance, females comprise 48% of the Chair-holders while Blacks; in particular Africans and Coloureds are grossly underrepresented, collectively accounting for only 35% of all Chair-holders.

It is in this context that the NRF constantly explore innovative approaches to grow and strengthen the SARChI Funding Instrument, especially in the face of budgetary constraints. Consequently, the NRF has initiated the establishment of international bilateral chairs with other African countries (e.g., Namibia), European countries (e.g., United Kingdom and Switzerland) and has also established co-funded chairs in partnership with other government departments (e.g., Department of Higher Education and Training), other Science Councils (e.g., South African Medical Research Council) as well as the private sector (e.g. First Rand Foundation, Anglo American and Nedbank). To further strengthen this quadruple helix of collaboration between (i) the South African government departments and their respective implementing agencies or science councils, (ii) universities, (iii) private sector partners, and (iv) international partners; the NRF has explored establishment of co-funded chairs with respective universities **to accelerate transformation** at like-minded universities and within the National System of Innovation (NSI) through the SARChI Funding Instrument.

## **1.2. The co-funded DSI/NRF-UniZulu SARChI Research Chair in Hydrology**

In a continued effort to strengthen SARChI, the NRF has entered into a co-funded agreement with the University of Zululand (UniZulu) to establish the DSI/NRF-UniZulu SARChI Research Chair in Hydrology.

South Africa, like many countries, faces water insecurity. Despite the development of adequate strategies and policies for the management and protection of the country's water resources, climate change and the geographic conditions have put immense pressure on the water resources. Within the current limited resources, the country is unable to face the challenges, including limitations within the knowledge production and expertise in the hydrology research field. In addition, these water policies and strategies have failed to deliver equitable water supply to households and communities. According to Stats SA (2018), despite various improvements nearly one-third (37.6%) of the households received poor water. About 20% of the population did not have proper sanitation.

The development, establishment, maintenance and protection of water resources can only be achieved through a logical, transformative and interdisciplinary scientific research approach with a strong foundation.

It is against this background that NRF and UniZulu would like to establish a co-funded Research Chair in Hydrology.

## **1.3. Aims and Objectives of co-funded SARChI Chairs**

The core focus of co-funded Chairs is to assist willing universities and other public research entities to accelerate transformation and maintain research excellence consistent with requirements of the SARChI in research areas aligned to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and National Priorities such as South Africa's Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) priority outcomes and the

DSI-driven Grand Challenges (Table 1). For this reason, the main aim of co-funded SARChI Chairs is also to strengthen and improve research and innovation capacity of public universities to produce high quality postgraduate students and research outputs. The objectives remain as follows:

- Expand the scientific research and innovation capacity of South Africa;
- Improve South Africa’s international research and innovation competitiveness, while responding to social, economic and transformation imperatives of the country;
- Attract and retain excellent researchers and scientists;
- Increase the production of Masters, and Doctoral graduates; and
- Create research career pathways for young and mid-career researchers, with a strong research, innovation, and human capital development output trajectory.

**Table 1: International, National and NRF Priority Areas in which Chairs must be aligned**

SDGs	MTSF Priority Outcomes	DSI’s Grand Challenges	NRF Research Agenda
<b>Goal 1: No Poverty</b>	none	none	Health and Wellbeing
<b>Goal 2: Zero Hunger</b>	Consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services (P3)	Bio-economy: Agriculture	
<b>Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being</b>	Education, skills and health (P2)	Bio-economy: Health Innovation	
<b>Goal 4: Quality Education</b>	Education, skills and health (P2)	none	Smart Connected Economy and Society
<b>Goal 5: Gender Equality</b>	Social cohesion and safe communities (P5)	none	The Environment and Us
<b>Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation</b>	none	none	Resource Security (Resilience and Sustainability)
<b>Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy</b>	none	Energy Security	Particles and Forces: minute to massive
<b>Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth</b>	Economic transformation and job creation (P1)	none	The World of Work

			(WoW)
<b>Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure</b>	none	Bio-economy: Industry and Environment	Smart Connected Economy and Society
<b>Goal 10: Reduced Inequality</b>	Social cohesion and safe communities (P5)	none	People, Places and Settlements
<b>Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities</b>	Spatial integration, human settlements and local Government (P4)	none	
<b>Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production</b>	Consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services (P3)	none	The Environment and Us
<b>Goal 13: Climate Action</b>	none	Global Climate Change	
<b>Goal 14: Life Below Water</b>	none	none	Origins and Futures
<b>Goal 15: Life on Land</b>	none	none	
<b>Goal 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions</b>	A capable, ethical and developmental state (P6)	Human and Social Dynamics	Nation Building
<b>Goal 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal</b>	A better Africa and world (P7)	none	none

## 2. Guiding Principles

The following principles will inform the awarding of the co-funded Chair:

- The host institution will contribute **50%** of funding towards the Chair for **its duration**. This must be preceded by a signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the host institution and the NRF.
- Application for the Chair is administered through a closed call <sup>1</sup>only accessible to a South African public university/institution, which would have signed the abovementioned MoA with the NRF. **Only females of any race and Black candidates, especially Africans and Coloureds of any gender will be awarded this Chair. Candidates must meet the minimum requirements for a SARChI Chair (outlined in**

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<sup>1</sup> This particular Call is closed to UniZulu because it's the approved host institution.

**section 4.1.**) All applications will be subjected to the same robust peer-review and adjudication processes for the SARChI.

- The research proposal must be aligned to at least one SDG and at least one MTSF priority outcome and/or one DSI Grand Challenge (see Table 1 above).
- Each application for the Research Chair must be in alignment with the university's Research Strategy, and its Programme and Qualification Mix (PQM) approved by the Department of Higher Education and Training;
- The Chair-holder will be expected to dedicate at least 80% of their time conducting research and supervising an average of 10 Masters and Doctoral students per annum as well as mentoring Emerging Researchers or postdoctoral fellows. Demographics of postgraduate students supervised by the Chair at all levels (i.e. Honours, Masters and Doctoral) must adhere to the Ministerial guidelines on improving equity and are outlined on section (6.3).
- Research Chairs are **tenable at Tier 1 and Tier 2 levels (Table 2)**. Tier 1 is for Chairs who are Established Researchers and are recognised internationally as leaders in their respective fields and have received substantial international recognition for their research contributions. Tier 2 is for Chairs that are established, recognised nationally in their respective fields and are likely to be upgraded to tier 1 in one or two funding cycles.
- Candidates appointed without an NRF rating are encouraged and required to get rated within the first funding cycle.
- If the Chair is taken up by a candidate who is a current academic staff member, consistent with the SARChI principle of additionally, the university must immediately initiate a process to fill the vacated position with a suitably qualified candidate.



### **3. Accountability for Chairs**

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor responsible for research at UniZulu will be directly accountable for the Research Chair. The Chair will fit into the normal management structures of the host institution, but the DVC of Research will remain the accounting officer for the SARChI.

### **4. Minimum Requirements of Candidates**

The applicants may be current staff members, new or potential recruits of UniZulu. Applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. The candidate must have a doctoral qualification in the relevant field
2. The candidate must be an Associate or a full Professor<sup>2</sup> at the time of application
3. Must be an established researcher that is at least recognised nationally in their respective research field
4. Must have an extensive research profile, including peer-reviewed journal articles and other recognised knowledge outputs
5. Must have an extensive student supervision record and the ability to attract, recruit and train postgraduate students in the field of study that they are applying for.

### **5. Application, Review and Selection Process**

The co-funded DSI/NRF-UniZulu SARChI Research Chair in Hydrology will be a closed call to applicants from UniZulu who are established researchers and meet the minimum requirements as outlined above. The application must include, (i) the suitability of a candidate for appointment to the Chair position; (ii) a research and activity plan with concomitant budget drafted by the applicant, (iii) a letter of endorsement from UniZulu. All applications must be endorsed by the UniZulu's

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<sup>2</sup> Candidates that are still applying for professorship at their respective institutions should not apply until these have been approved.

Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC) of Research<sup>3</sup>. The proposal must be led by the institution with technical aspects authored by the proposed nominated candidate and approved by the institution to submit to the NRF. The application should give details on:

- I. The readiness and commitment of the institution to provide an enabling environment to ensure the success of the Research Chair;
- II. Strengths, capabilities, strategic environment and competencies of the institution;
- III. The alignment of the proposed Research Chair with the proposed thematic area and the strategic plan of the institution;
- IV. The potential of the proposed Research Chair to enhance the international research and/or innovation competitiveness within the discipline;
- V. The potential of the research to impact on transformation, the social and/or economic development of the country;
- VI. The research focus of the Research Chair;
- VII. A proposed plan on how the Research Chair will fulfil SARChI objectives, including the strategic considerations mentioned in the proposal; and
- VIII. Specific objectives, outputs and outcomes for the five-year period.

**Candidate(s)<sup>4</sup> must use the NRF online system, *NRF Connect* at <https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za> to register and/or update her/his *curriculum vitae* and complete the application.**

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<sup>3</sup> The online application will automatically alert the DVC of Research about applications and require an endorsement. Applicants are also encouraged to get in touch with the UniZulu office of the DVC of Research prior application.

<sup>4</sup> No commitment should be given to the candidate(s) by the university before the NRF has officially informed the University of the Award by means of a review panel outcomes letter.

The selection of candidates will be based on the merit of each candidate's full research proposal. This will include the strength of the candidate's profile, including her/his qualifications and experience, knowledge outputs in the discipline of the Research Chair and postgraduate student supervision track record. This will also include an assessment of the candidate's research and activity plan in respect of their ability to deliver on SARChI objectives, as well as the proposed budget.

The full proposal must also give specific details on:

- Proposed teaching<sup>5</sup> to research time ratio;
- Research objectives for the first five-year period;
- Expected knowledge<sup>6</sup> outputs in the first five-year period;
- Expected human capital<sup>7</sup> outputs in the first five-year period; and
- Existing and planned collaborations in the first five-year period.

### 5.1. Review and Selection process

Proposals submitted by candidates will be reviewed via a two-tier process, namely, postal peer-reviews by subject specific experts with relevant expertise in the respective applications' research area and panel reviews comprising of individuals from broad disciplines covering the directed and thematic areas identified for this call for SARChI applications. The review panels comprising of individuals from broad disciplines will draw on the expert reviewers' written feedback and make recommendations to the NRF for the approval of research programmes and plans and on the suitability of the candidate for appointment as a SARChI Chair. Such review panels will comprise of respected individuals with

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<sup>5</sup> Teaching of postgraduate students only. Note: Chair-holders may not spend more than 20% of their time on undergraduate teaching and/or management responsibilities not related to activities of the Research Chair.

<sup>6</sup> Peer-reviewed journal articles, peer-reviewed conference proceedings, scholarly books and book chapters, patents, invited keynote presentations, conference presentations etc.

<sup>7</sup> Numbers of Masters and Doctoral graduates and completed postdoctoral fellowships.

knowledge and insights of the Higher Education System and the NSI and will consider the recommendations of the review panels and select the Research Chairs to be awarded, taking into account the strategic objectives of SARChI and the transformation needs of the sector.

## 5.2. **Award levels**

The broad objectives of university co-funded Research Chairs are to accelerate transformation at interested universities/institutions committed to co-fund the Chair, and to also strengthen research and innovation capacity in areas aligned to SDGs and national priorities. Following the peer-review of the full proposal and the *curriculum vitae* of the candidate, Chairs may be approved at the Tier 1 or Tier 2 level. This will be determined by the candidate's past research, knowledge and innovation outputs, track record in supervising and mentoring postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows as well as national and international recognition for their research contributions. The criteria that must be met by nominated candidates for approval at the Tier 1 level is detailed in Table 2 below. An added advantage for a candidate to be nominated/recommended at a Tier 1 level, would be that the candidate must be typically an A- or B-rated researcher. Chairs who meet the Tier level criteria but are not rated at the time of application, must be rated within the first five (5) year funding cycle.

**Table 2: Criteria for SARChI Tier Levels**

Tier 1 Research Chairs	Tier 2 Research Chairs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should be appointable at the level of a full Professor benchmarked nationally;</li> <li>• Should be an outstanding and innovative researcher whose accomplishments have made a major impact in their field;</li> <li>• Should be recognised internationally as an undisputed leader in their field and/or have received substantial international recognition for their research contributions;</li> <li>• Should have a superior record in attracting and successfully supervising post-graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, taking into account the practices of the field; and</li> <li>• Should reside full-time in South Africa for the duration of the Research Chair award. Candidates from abroad, specifically African scholars and Black South Africans in the diaspora that are willing to spend at least 50% of their time within South Africa are eligible for consideration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should be appointable at the level of an Associate Professor or full Professor benchmarked nationally;</li> <li>• Should be an established researcher, with a strong research, innovation and human capital development output trajectory;</li> <li>• Should have the potential to achieve substantial international recognition for their research contributions in the next five to ten years;</li> <li>• Should have demonstrated the ability to attract and successfully supervise postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows; and</li> <li>• Should reside full-time in South Africa for the duration of the Research Chair award. Candidates from abroad, specifically African scholars and Black South Africans in the diaspora willing to reside full-time in South Africa for the duration of the Chair are eligible for consideration.</li> </ul>

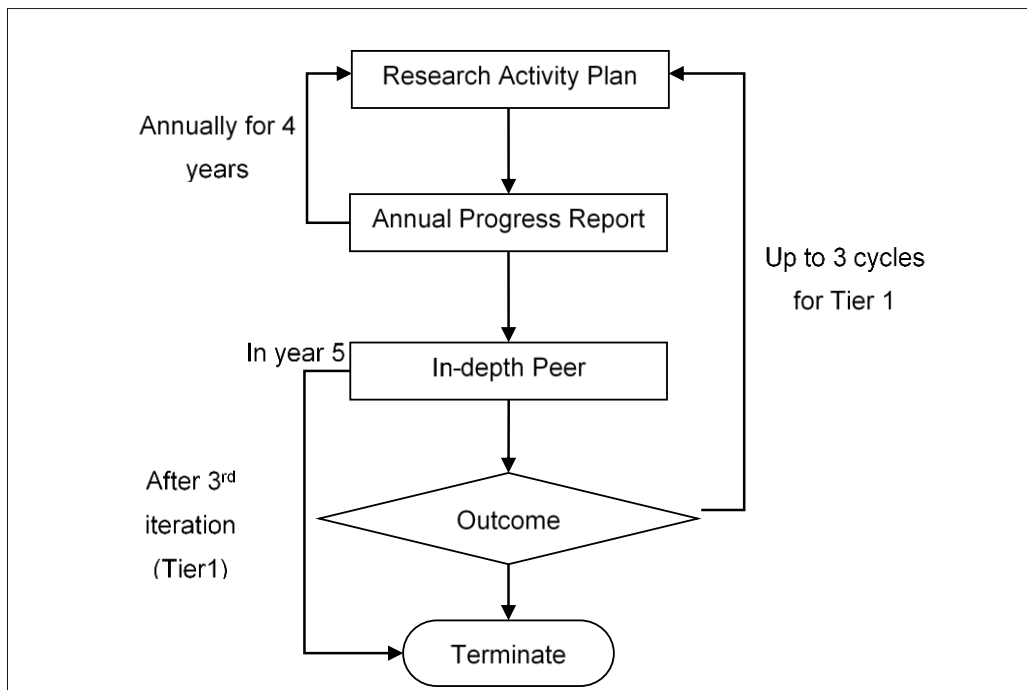
## 6. Management of the Research Chairs

This section of the Framework and Funding Guide for Applications describes the process after the Research Chair has been awarded to the institution.

The NRF will require the approved candidate for the Chair to enter into a five-year performance agreement in the form of ‘Conditions of Grant’ and will evaluate the performance of the Chair against the research plan, stated objectives and targets. The plan will be reviewed every five years. Subject to

satisfactory performance by the Research Chair following the 5-year in-depth review, the grant may be renewed for up to 2 more 5-year cycles for Tier 1 Chairs and one more 5-year cycle for Tier 2. At the end of each financial year the incumbent will be required to submit to the NRF a Progress Report (PR) addressing the milestones and expected outcomes as presented in the research activity plan of the application.

During year five of the five-year funding cycle, the Research Chair will be subjected to an in-depth evaluation undertaken by peers following the framework set out in the SARChI Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.



**Figure 1: Management of the Research Chair over the tenure of a Research Chair**

### 6.1. Duration of the Research Chair

After the Chair is awarded, Tier 1 Research Chairs will be tenable for five years, renewable for two further five-year cycles giving a total lifespan of 15 years, subject to satisfactory performance by the Chair following each five-year in-depth review. Tier 2 is tenable for two five-year cycles, giving it a total lifespan of 10 years. However, Tier 2 Research Chairs can apply for an upgrade to Tier one at the first or second five-year review. Eligibility for renewal will be entirely performance-linked.

### 6.2. Funding Levels

SARChI funding instrument provides initial awards of up to R2,180,000 for Tier 1 Chairs and R1,180,000 for Tier 2 Chairs. The award covers salaries<sup>8</sup>; postdoctoral fellowships; research operating costs; research equipment & infrastructure, and overheads for the host institution. The guidelines for apportioning of the grant across these categories and the values of fellowships and scholarships are shown in Table 3.

**Table 3: Guidelines for SARChI annual budget and breakdown for Research Chairs**

Budget category	Sub-item	Cost per annum (ZAR)	Minimum number of people	Maximum number of people
Salaries	Chair	550 000 (Tier 2) to 700 000 (Tier 1)	1	1
	Admin support	30 000	0	1
	Research Assistants (per person)	30 000	0	3
Fellowships	Postdoctoral Fellows	200 000	1	Variable

<sup>8</sup> Salaries of the incumbent and limited administrative support

	(per person awarded pro rata)			
Research equipment or infrastructure	Variable	≤400 000	Not applicable	Not applicable
Running	Variable	Up to 30% of total budget	Not applicable	Not applicable
University Overheads	Variable	Up to 10% of total budget	Not applicable	Not applicable

It is important to note that Table 3 provides a budget guide that states the minimum and maximum amounts per budget category and has the flexibility for the Chair to allocate the SARChI grant based on the research activity plan. The proposed budget will be approved at the commencement of each five-year funding cycle. The incumbent will be given an opportunity, at the end of each calendar year, to make budget adjustments for the subsequent year, in consultation with the Research Chairs and Centres of Excellence (RCCE) Directorate of the NRF.

Tier 1 Chairs will not be eligible for additional NRF parliamentary core grant funding. Incumbents must apply for grants for large equipment (above R400k) through the NRF Infrastructure Funding Instrument. However, Tier 2 Chairs may apply for NRF grants as outlined in the Multiple Grants Eligibility Overview. The Chairs are therefore strongly encouraged to attract additional funding for research and human capital development from other national and international funders and donors to supplement the SARChI grant.

## 7. Postgraduate Student Funding Policy

In 2021, the NRF implemented the *DSI-NRF Postgraduate Student Funding Policy* wherein postgraduate funding allocations are underpinned by the principles of equity of opportunity; representativity; prioritisation; and enhanced access, success and throughput. The *DSI-NRF Postgraduate Student 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 are 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 cover the full cost of study for students who meet the required criteria.

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

- **For first-time honours funding** - A minimum average of 65% for major subjects in the final undergraduate year of study;
- **For first-time master's funding** - A minimum average of 65% for all subjects at the honours level OR a minimum average of 65% for all subjects of a postgraduate diploma OR a minimum average of 65% for all final year subjects of a four-year degree; and
- **For first-time doctoral funding** - A minimum of 65% at the master's level.

South African citizens or permanent resident applicants who have **graduated from 2021 academic year with a classification of Pass will not be allowed to apply in the current call**, only applicants with a numerical pass mark may apply for NRF funding. However, the following individuals will be allowed to apply without a numerical mark:

- South African citizens or permanent residents who graduated prior to 2021 academic year with a 'Pass' and 'Pass with a distinction'. Applicants with a 'Pass' should enter the 'Pass' under the academic achievement section of the application form, and those with 'Pass with a distinction' should enter 75%;
- South African citizens or permanent residents with a 'Pass with distinction'. These applicants should enter 75% mark in the application

form; and

- International applicants applying for masters and doctoral scholarships.

These applicants should enter a 'Pass' in the application form.

The eligibility criteria for funding at Full Cost of Study (FCS) and Partial Cost of Study (PCS) listed in Table 4 apply to all first-time applicants for honours, master's, and doctoral funding.

**Table 4: Eligibility criteria for first time applicants for the DSI/NRF Student Funding for FCS and PCS**

Study level	Full Cost of Study		Partial Cost of Study
	Exceptional Achievers	Financially Needy and Applicants with a Disability	Other
<b>Honours</b>	Average of $\geq 75\%$ mark for major subjects in the final year of undergraduate study	Average of $\geq 65\%$ mark for major subjects in the final year of undergraduate study	Average of $\geq 65\%$ mark for major subjects in the final year of undergraduate study
	<b>Applicants for honours funding must be 28 years of age or younger in the year of application i.e. applicants must not be over 28 years by 31 December 2023. Only South African citizens and permanent residents are eligible for honours scholarships.</b>		
<b>Master's</b>	Minimum average of 75% for all subjects at the honours level;  OR Minimum average of 75% for all subjects for a Postgraduate diploma level;  OR Minimum average of 75% for final year subjects of a	Minimum average of 65% for all subjects at the honours level;  OR Minimum average of 65% for all subjects for a Postgraduate diploma;  OR	Minimum average of 65% for all subjects at the honours level;  OR Minimum average of 65% for all subjects for a Postgraduate diploma;  OR

	four-year degree	Minimum average of 65% for final year subjects of a four-year degree	Minimum average of 65% for final year subjects of a four-year degree
	<b>Applicants for master’s funding</b> must be <b>30</b> years of age or younger in the year of application i.e. applicants <b>must not be over 30 years</b> by 31 December 2023.		
<b>Doctoral</b>	Minimum average of 75% for Master’s degree	Minimum average of 65% for Master’s degree	Minimum average of 65% for Master’s degree
	<b>Applicants for doctoral funding</b> 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 2023.		

Only South African citizens and permanent residents who are either financially needy, living with a disability or exceptional academic achievers are eligible for FCS. Applicants that are eligible for FCS can be awarded at PCS due to budget constraints. The NRF reserves the right not to make an award or adjust a grant under any circumstances from PCS to FCS. The PCS funding will be awarded to South African citizens, permanent residents and 5% of international students.

The entry age requirement is 28, 30 and 32 years for honours, masters and doctoral studies respectively, in the year of application, regardless of first year of registration.

For more information on the DSI/NRF postgraduate student policy, please go onto the NRF online (<https://www.nrf.ac.za/nrf-for-post-graduate-students/bursaries-scholarships/>).

## 8. Evaluation and Impact of Research Chairs

A baseline study of Research Chairs, their institutional and intellectual environments will be conducted with each round of new awards. These studies, together with the universities’ Strategic Research Plans and the Research Chair’s activity plan, will serve as the baseline to evaluate impact on the discipline and at the institutional level.

## **9. Ethical Clearance**

It is the responsibility of the grant holder, in conjunction with the institution, to ensure that all research activities carried out in or outside South Africa comply with the laws and regulations of South Africa and/or the foreign country in which the research activities are conducted. These include all human and animal subjects, copyright and intellectual property protection, and other regulations or laws, as appropriate. A research ethics committee must review and approve the ethical and academic rigor of all research in accordance with institutional ethical policies and procedures. The ethical clearance approval should be held by the institution and the grant holder and accessible on request, if necessary.

Please also refer to the “Statement on Ethical Research and Scholarly Publishing Practices” on the NRF website at <https://www.nrf.ac.za/statement-on-ethical-research-and-scholarly-publishing-practices/>.

## 10. NRF Contact Persons

- Dr Makobetsa Khati, Executive Director: Research Chairs and Centres of Excellence (phone: 012 481 4022; e-mail: [MA.Khati@risa.nrf.ac.za](mailto:MA.Khati@risa.nrf.ac.za)).
- Dr Nana Boaduo, Director: Research Chairs (phone: 012 481 4326; e-mail: [NKK.Boaduo@risa.nrf.ac.za](mailto:NKK.Boaduo@risa.nrf.ac.za)).
- Ms Andisiwe Jukuda, Professional Officer: South African Research Chairs Initiative (phone: 012 481 4113; email: [AH.Jukuda@risa.nrf.ac.za](mailto:AH.Jukuda@risa.nrf.ac.za)).
- Dr Rocky Skeef, Executive Director: Reviews and Evaluation (phone: 012 481 4129); e-mail: [NSR.Skeef@risa.nrf.ac.za](mailto:NSR.Skeef@risa.nrf.ac.za)).
- Dr Patrick Nonjola, Director: Reviews and Evaluation (phone: 012 481 4384; e-mail: [ptn.nonjola@risa.nrf.ac.za](mailto:ptn.nonjola@risa.nrf.ac.za)).
- Dr Gugu Moche, Executive Director: Grants Management and Systems Administration (phone: 012-481 4276; email: [IO.Moche@risa.nrf.ac.za](mailto:IO.Moche@risa.nrf.ac.za)).
- Mr Simon Lotz, Director: Grants Management and Systems Administration (phone: 012 481 4125; e-mail: [SM.Lotz@risa.nrf.ac.za](mailto:SM.Lotz@risa.nrf.ac.za)).
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