



Directorate:

Research Chairs & Centres of Excellence (RCCE)

Funding Instrument:

South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI)

Document:

Framework & Funding Guide for the SA-UK Bilateral Research Chair in Digital Humanities

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Strategic Background	3
1.1. Context	3
1.2. The Scope of the SA-UK Bilateral Research Chair in Digital Humanities.....	5
1.3. Aims and Objectives of Bilateral Chairs.....	5
2. Guiding Principles	7
3. Accountability for Chairs	9
4. Profile and Minimum Requirements of Candidates	9
4.1. Minimum requirements of the SARChI candidate.....	9
5. Application, Review and Selection Process	10
5.1. Review and Selection process.....	12
5.2. Award levels.....	13
6. Management of the Research Chairs	14
6.1. Duration of the Research Chair.....	15
6.2. Funding Levels.....	16
7. Postgraduate Student Funding Policy	17
8. Evaluation and Impact of Research Chairs	20
9. Ethical Clearance	20
10. NRF Contact Persons	22

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, 273 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 31 March 2023. Of the awarded, 197 are operational and 75 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, demonstrating that the SARChI has been successful in retaining leading South African researchers and attracting leading foreign researchers and expatriate researchers to South Africa. However, SARChI has not been as successful in ensuring racial equity. For instance, blacks, in particular Africans and Coloureds are grossly underrepresented, collectively accounting for only 31% of all Chair-holders. It is however worth noting that since the inception of SARChI, in 2022 the female Chair holders exceeded the number of male Chair holders and currently the proportion of female Chair holders is 57%, while the proportion of male chair holders is now 43%, as at 31 March 2023.

It is in this context that the NRF has to 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 countries, including 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. 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 will explore the establishment of chairs with respective universities **to assist in accelerating transformation** at like-minded universities and within the National System of Innovation (NSI) through the SARChI Funding Instrument.

1.2. The Scope of the SA-UK Bilateral Research Chair in Digital Humanities

The Chair in Digital Humanities will be expected to develop strategies to achieve its objectives around:

1. How the humanities are necessary to the digital, including political and intellectual analysis of the role of the digital in modern society, and the relation between the visual and digital technologies.
2. The development of digital tools and repositories to facilitate the collection, analysis and dissemination of humanities data.
3. Chart and analyse textual data using software like topic modelling, natural language processing and data mining techniques to uncover patterns and discourses.
4. The facilitation of collaborative cross-disciplinary research with scholars in other fields like computer science, informatics and engineering.
5. Train researchers and students in digital tools and techniques all the while encouraging interdisciplinary research through workshops and seminars.
6. Form partnerships with libraries and make available valuable digital collections.

1.3. Aims and Objectives of Bilateral Chairs

The main goal of the SARChI funding instrument is to strengthen and improve research and innovation capacity of public universities, research councils and national research facilities in order to produce high-quality postgraduate students and research outputs. The SARChI objectives are:

- 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 Outcomes	Priority	DSI's Challenges	Grand	Decadal Plan Areas (STI domains + thrusts)	Priority	NRF Agenda	Research
Goal 1: No Poverty	none		none		Future of Society (FS1-2)			
Goal 2: Zero Hunger	Consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services (P3)		Bio-economy: Agriculture		Nutrition (NU1-4) and Water (WA1-3)		Health and Wellbeing	
Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being	Education, skills and health (P2)		Bio-economy: Health Innovation		Health Innovation (HE1-3)			
Goal 4: Quality Education	Education, skills and health (P2)		none		Education (ED1-3)		Smart Connected Economy and Society	
Goal 5: Gender Equality	Social cohesion and safe communities (P5)		none		none		The Environment and Us	
Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	none		none		Water (WA1-3)		Resource Security (Resilience and Sustainability)	
Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	none		Energy Security		Energy (EN1-4)		Particles and Forces: minute to massive	
Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	Economic transformation and job creation (P1)		none		Future of Society (FS1-2)		The World of Work (WoW)	
Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	none		Bio-economy: Industry and Environment		High-tech industry (HT1-3)		Smart Connected Economy and Society	
Goal 10: Reduced Inequality	Social cohesion and safe communities (P5)		none		Future of Society (FS1-2)		People, Places and Settlements	
Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	Spatial integration, human settlements and local Government (P4)		none		Circular Economy (CE1-4)			

Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	Consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services (P3)	none	Circular Economy (CE1-4) Nutrition (NU1-4)	The Environment and Us
Goal 13: Climate Action	none	Global Climate Change	Circular Economy (CE2-3)	
Goal 14: Life Below Water	none	none	none	Origins and Futures
Goal 15: Life on Land	none	none	none	
Goal 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions	A capable, ethical and developmental state (P6)	Human and Social Dynamics	Future of Society (FS1-2)	Nation Building
Goal 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal	A better Africa and world (P7)	none	none	none

2. Guiding Principles

The following principles will inform the awarding of a SARChI Research Chair:

- a) Application for the Research Chair is administered through an open call only accessible to a South African public university/institution. Each institution may nominate up to three (3) candidates, unless stated otherwise, for the SARChI call who must submit separate applications. While all demographic groups may apply, preference will be given to females and Blacks; in particular African South Africans and Coloured candidates because they are grossly underrepresented in the SARChI Funding Instrument.
- b) To ensure equitable distribution of Chairs, while all South African public universities are encouraged to apply, preference will also be given to historically disadvantaged universities and those universities that currently host less than 15 Chairs; provided they meet the minimum requirements for this call.
- c) The university/institution may also nominate and submit applications from eligible candidates from abroad, specifically females of any race or

Africans and Black South Africans of any gender in the diaspora. Applicants from abroad will only be considered for Tier 1 Research Chairs and must be willing to spend 50% of their time at the South African university.

- d) Each application for the Research Chair must be in alignment with the university's Programme and Qualification Mix (PQM) approved by the Department of Higher Education and Training;
- e) The Chair-holder will be expected to dedicate at least 80% of their time conducting research and in the process 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. Thus, at least 80% of each level of students supervised by the Chair should be Black (including African, Coloured and Indian/Asian South Africans), 55% women and 4% people with disabilities. In terms of nationality, at least 87% of students across all bursaries and scholarships provided by the NRF to the Chair must be South Africans (including permanent residents), 5% should be students from Southern Africa Developmental Community (SADC), 4% should be students from the rest of Africa and 4% should be students from non-African countries.
- f) Research Chairs are tenable at two Tiers. 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 who are established researchers, with a strong research, innovation and human capital development output trajectory, and have the potential to achieve substantial international recognition for their research contributions in the next five to ten years.

- g) Candidates appointed without an NRF rating are encouraged and required to get rated within the first funding cycle.
- h) If the Research 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 the South African host university will be directly accountable for the Research Chair. The chair will fit into the normal management structures of the host institution and will report in consultation with the Dean(s) and Head of Department, directly to the DVC of Research.

4. Profile and Minimum Requirements of Candidates

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

4.1. Minimum requirements of the SARChI candidate

1. The candidate must have a doctoral qualification in the relevant field
2. The candidate must be an Associate or a full Professor¹ 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

¹ Candidates that are still applying for professorship at their respective institutions should not apply until these have been approved.

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 SA-UK Bilateral Research Chair in Digital Humanities will be an open call to Universities. Applicants will be awarded in an open and competitive process. Each university is eligible to nominate one (1) candidates for a Call, unless otherwise stated. Each candidate must submit a separate full proposal. The application(s) must be authored by the candidate(s) in consultation with the university's Deputy Vice-Chancellor responsible for research. Each application should give details on:

- I. The readiness and commitment of the university to provide an enabling environment² to ensure the success of the Research Chair;
- II. Strengths, capabilities, strategic environment and competencies of the university;
- III. The alignment of the proposed Research Chair with the required scope, as well as the university research strategy;
- 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 the social and/or economic development of the country;
- VI. The potential of the research to inform national policy and strategy in the selected discipline.
- VII. The research focus of the Research Chair;
- VIII. A proposed plan on how the Research Chair will fulfil SARChI objectives, including the strategic considerations mentioned in the university proposal; and how it will deliver on the university research strategy;

² By providing office /laboratory space, infrastructure and academic support. The institution must also provide leadership indicating the reporting lines and commit to providing financial (directly or indirectly) support.

- IX. Specific objectives, outputs and outcomes for the five-year period;
- X. Measures that will be put in place to ensure equal and meaningful opportunities for people of different genders to be involved throughout the project? This includes the development of the project, the participants of the research, and the beneficiaries of the research.
- XI. The expected impacts of the project (benefits and losses) on people of different genders, both throughout the project, and beyond?
- XII. The expected impacts on the relations between people of different genders and people of the same gender? For example, changing roles and responsibilities in households, society, economy, politics, power, etc.
- XIII. Any risks and/or unintended negative consequences on gender equality that need to be avoided, mitigated against, and monitored? And how this will be achieved.
- XIV. Any relevant outcomes and outputs being measured, with data disaggregated by age and gender (where disclosed)?
- XV. Other structural inequalities (including, but not limited to: age, disability, ethnicity) that have been identified in relation to project development, project participants and intended beneficiaries? What measures will be put in place to consider and mitigate against other structural inequalities in the course of the research? Also give details on what the measures are, and how these measures will be monitored and implemented to ensure mutual benefit? How will project participants and leaders ensure that the research will continue to address structural inequalities, including gender, beyond the lifetime of the project, across the outcomes and impacts expected?

The latter 6 points above will be taken together to constitute a Gender Equality Statement as set out on page 37 of the *Gender Equality in Research and Innovation Official Development Assistance (ODA)* document (additional criteria to

consider in your statement can be found on page 38 - <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/60af82b2e90e071b589e9cdf/research-innovation-oda-gender-equality.pdf>).

The nominated candidate(s)³ must use the NRF Connect System (<https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za/>) to register and/or update his/her *curriculum vitae* and complete the application.

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 teaching⁴ to research time ratio;
- Research objectives for the first five year period;
- Expected knowledge⁵ outputs in the first five year period;
- Expected human capital⁶ 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 one stage/phase process, a panel review comprising of individuals from broad disciplines covering

³ 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 an award letter.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Peer-reviewed journal articles, peer-reviewed conference proceedings, scholarly books and book chapters, patents, invited keynote presentations, conference presentations etc.

⁶ Numbers of Masters and Doctoral graduates and completed postdoctoral fellowships.

the directed and thematic area identified for this call for the applications will review the application 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 be comprised of respected individuals with knowledge and insights of the Higher Education System within South Africa and the NSI and will consider the recommendations of the review panel and select the Research Chair(s) to be awarded taking into account the strategic objectives of SARChI and the transformation needs of the sector.

5.2. Award levels

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"> • Should be appointable at the level of a full Professor benchmarked nationally; • Should be an outstanding and innovative researcher whose accomplishments have made a major impact in their field; • Should be recognised internationally as an undisputed leader in their field and/or have 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should be appointable at the level of an Associate Professor or full Professor benchmarked nationally; • Should be an established researcher, with a strong research, innovation and human capital development output trajectory;

<p>received substantial international recognition for their research contributions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should have the potential to achieve substantial international recognition for their research contributions in the next five to ten years; • Should have demonstrated the ability to attract and successfully supervise postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows; and • 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.
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6. Management of the Research Chairs

This section of the Framework and Funding Guide for Applications describes what follows 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.

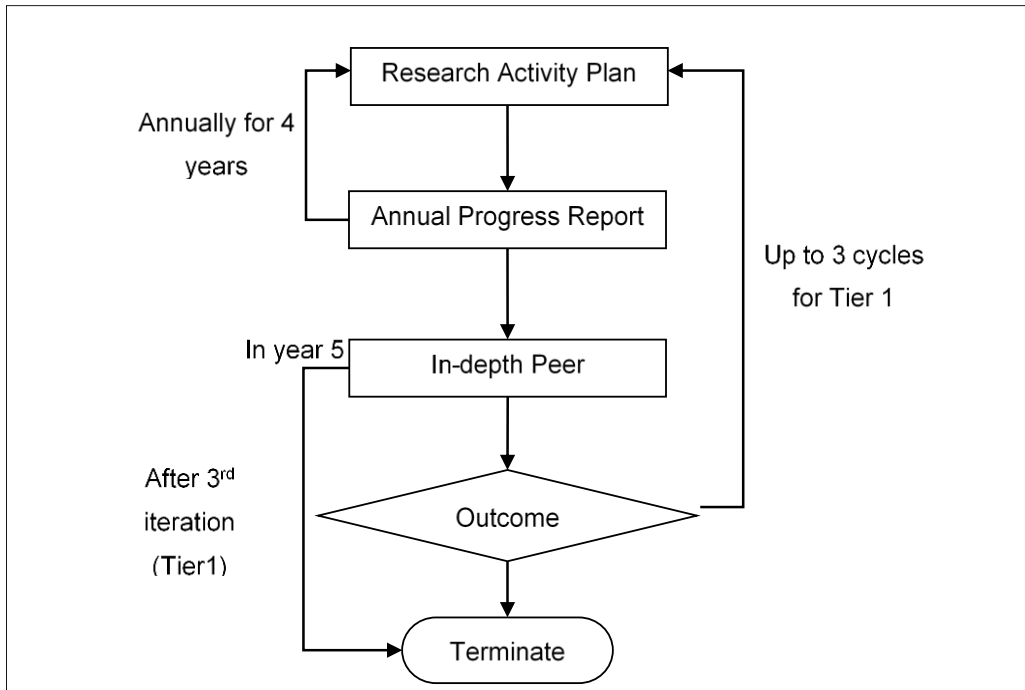


Figure 1: Management of the Research Chair over the tenure of a Research Chair

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 R3, 000,000 for Tier 1 Chairs and R2, 850,000 for Tier 2 Chairs. The award covers salaries⁷; postdoctoral fellowships; research operating costs; research equipment & infrastructure, and overheads for 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	100 000	0	1
	Research Assistants (per person)	100 000	0	3
Fellowships	Postdoctoral Fellows (per person awarded pro rata)	370 000	1	Variable
*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

*Equipment funds for the chair will be fully provided by the NRF and will not form part of the grant amount received from the BA.

⁷ Salaries of the incumbent and limited administrative support

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.

The awarded institution together with the NRF shall ensure that the chair holder have full regard to the UK national security considerations set out in the Budget Allocations Functional Guidelines published by the Cabinet Office (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/896343/Budget_Allocations-Standard-SEVEN-Due-Diligence-and-Fraud-Risk.pdf [SEVEN-Due-Diligence-and-Fraud-Risk.pdf](#)) as may be amended from time to time. The NRF acknowledges that the British Academy is required to adhere to the UK national security considerations set out in the Budget Allocations Function Guidelines

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; representivity; 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
Honours	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
	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.		
Master's	Minimum average of 75% for all subjects at the honours level;	Minimum average of 65% for all subjects at the honours level;	Minimum average of 65% for all subjects at the honours level;
	OR Minimum average of 75% for all subjects for a Postgraduate diploma level;	OR Minimum average of 65% for all subjects for a Postgraduate diploma;	OR Minimum average of 65% for all subjects for a Postgraduate diploma;
	OR Minimum average of 75% for final year subjects of a four-year degree	OR Minimum average of 65% for final year subjects of a four-year degree	OR Minimum average of 65% for final year subjects of a four-year degree
Applicants for master's funding must be 30 years of age or younger in the year of application i.e. applicants must not be over 30 years by 31 December 2023.			
Doctoral	Minimum average of	Minimum average of	Minimum average of

	75% for Master's degree	65% for Master's degree	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 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, master's and doctoral studies respectively, in the year of application, regardless of first year of registration.

For more information on the 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 and Acting Executive Director: Reviews and Evaluation (phone: 012 481 4022; e-mail: MA.Khati@risa.nrf.ac.za).
- Ms Thashni Pillay, Acting Executive Director: Grants Management and Systems Administration (phone: 012-481 4276; email: t.pillay@risa.nrf.ac.za).
- Dr Nana Boaduo, Director: Research Chairs and Centres of Excellence (phone: 012 481 4326; e-mail: NKK.Boaduo@risa.nrf.ac.za).
- Dr Patrick Nonjola, Director: Reviews and Evaluation (phone: 012 481 4384; e-mail: ptn.nonjola@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).
- Ms Andisiwe Jukuda, Professional Officer: South African Research Chairs Initiative (phone: 012 481 4113; email: AH.Jukuda@risa.nrf.ac.za).
- Mrs. Judith Mahlanya, Professional Officer: Grants Management and Systems Administration (phone: 012 481 4063; E-mail: JK.Mahlanya@risa.nrf.ac.za).