



## ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS FOR THE-NRF FIRST-TIME SASAC DOCTORAL AND MASTERS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FUNDING IN 2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

The Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI), National Research Foundation (NRF) and Sub-Saharan African Systems Analysis Centre (SASAC) are pleased to announce the **provisional awards** for the NRF-SASAC Masters and Doctoral Scholarships in 2026. The awards have been made according to the strategic objectives of the doctoral and masters funding instruments, the DSTI-NRF Postgraduate Funding Policy and the available budget. Successful applications for NRF-SASAC Masters and Doctoral Scholarships are listed in the Table 1 (Masters) and Table 2 (Doctoral). Candidates are either awarded at Full Cost of Study (FCS) or Partial Cost of Study (PCS).

### PLEASE NOTE:

- If your name appears in the tables below, you have been **provisionally successful** in receiving an award for 2026, provided that you meet the minimum requirements according to the DSTI-NRF Postgraduate Scholarship Framework for 2026, DSTI-NRF Masters and Doctoral Application and Funding Guide, and the Conditions of Grant.
- Successful candidates will receive notifications to view and download their scholarship award letters and conditions of grant, as well as accept the award via the NRF Connect system.
- The awarded candidates must carefully read the Award Letter, Conditions of Grant and the Additional Conditions of Grant documents before accepting the award.
- **Guidelines on how to accept the award on the NRF Connect System:** <https://www.nrf.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Acceptance-of-Award.pdf>
- Once the successful candidate has accepted the award on the NRF Connect System. The Designated Authority from the university postgraduate/research office must validate and accept the award on behalf of the institution before it can be created as a grant on the Connect system.



- The NRF has made all attempts to support Financial Needy applicants at FCS however not all Financial Needy candidates could be supported at FCS due to budget constraints. The NRF will not consider requests from students for category changes from PCS to FCS based on financial need.
- Should it later be discovered that the candidate does not meet the relevant requirements for FCS or PCS funding, the NRF reserves the right to retract the awarded scholarship.
- Should the candidate not meet the relevant requirements for FCS funding, the NRF reserves the right to change the scholarship to PCS funding.
- Funds will only be released once the award has been accepted on NRF Connect and all required documentation uploaded to the grant on the NRF Connect System.
- The scholarship award must be taken up within Two (2) months from the date of issue of the letter of award, unless otherwise approved by the NRF. Awards not taken up within Two (2) months from the date of issue of the award letter, will be automatically cancelled. Candidates that will be taking up funding in the second semester should notify the NRF in writing via the Designated Authority at the institution's postgraduate/research office and obtain the necessary approvals.
- If your name does not appear in the Table below or any other published list of successful applicants, it means you have not been awarded a scholarship for 2026.
- Feedback letters to unsuccessful candidates will be provided between January and March 2026.
- All programme eligibility requirements will be confirmed by the institutional office and the NRF on acceptance of award. **The NRF reserves the right to withdraw and cancel the scholarship should the applicant fail to meet all necessary conditions and/or requirements as stated in the DSTI-NRF Postgraduate Scholarship Framework for 2026, DSTI-NRF Masters and Doctoral Application and Funding Guide, and the Conditions of Grant.**



**Table 1: List of Successful Applicants for NRF-SASAC Masters Scholarships for Funding in 2026 Academic Year**

Reference	Title	First Name	Last Name	Institution Name	FCS/ PCS
PMDS250629330882	Mr	Mzwandile	Mabuya	North-West University	FCS
PMDS250628330462	Miss	Nyashadzashe	Tsikai	University of Fort Hare	PCS
PMDS250705336295	Mr	CWENGA	NOROITA	University of Fort Hare	PCS
PMDS250709338857	Miss	Mckayla	Tobias	University of Pretoria	PCS
PMDS250630331739	Ms	Mmabatho	Sekole	University of South Africa	FCS
PMDS250521314876	Mr	Jeremia	Mika	University of the Free State	PCS
PMDS250619324793	Mr	Simphiwe	Msiza	University of the Free State	PCS
PMDS250621325561	Miss	Lwandile	Mhlaba	University of the Western Cape	FCS
PMDS250628330366	Mr	Douglas	Manchidi	University of the Western Cape	PCS
PMDS250622325815	Mr	Theophilus	Ndlovu	University of the Witwatersrand	FCS



**Table 2: List of Successful Applicants for NRF-SASAC Doctoral Scholarships for funding in 2026 Academic Year.**

Reference	Title	First Name	Last Name	Institution Name	FCS/ PCS
PMDS250608320416	Mr	Julius Caesar	Kwio-Tamale	Durban University of Technology	PCS
PMDS250623326646	Mr	Denzel Christopher	Makepa	Stellenbosch University	PCS
PMDS250702334096	Mr	Olasunkanmi Oluwakayode	Adebayo	University of Fort Hare	PCS
PMDS250704335412	Mr	Mbongeni	Nhliziyo	University of Fort Hare	PCS
PMDS250625327909	Mr	Asande	Ngidi	University of KwaZulu-Natal	FCS
PMDS250521314897	Mr	Getnet	Ayewew	University of South Africa	PCS
PMDS250624326908	Ms	Fortunate	Kayira	University of South Africa	PCS
PMDS250524316006	Mr	George Malembo	M'manga	University of the Western Cape	PCS
PMDS250607320258	Ms	Nonkululeko	Kumalo	University of the Witwatersrand	PCS
PMDS250701332319	Mr	Akhona	Chonco	University of the Witwatersrand	FCS

**We congratulate all new 2026 awardees.**