

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS FOR NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION (NRF)-FIRST RAND EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION (FREF) BLACK ACADEMICS ADVANCEMENT PROGRAMME (BAAP) 2026**

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The National Research Foundation (NRF) and the FirstRand Empowerment Foundation (FREF) are pleased to announce the **provisional awards** for the NRF-FREF Black Academics Advancement Programme (BAAP) 2026. The awards have been made according to the strategic objectives of the programme, viz, to promote the development of Black South African academics, equity and transformation redress. The successful applications for the PhD and Post PhD Track for the 2026 academic year are listed in Tables 1 and 2 respectively.

**The NRF reserves the right to withdraw and cancel the grant should the applicant fail to meet all necessary conditions and/or requirements as stated in the BAAP research grant Call for 2026 Framework document and the Conditions of Grant.**

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

- If your name does not appear on Table 1 (PhD) and or Table 2 (Post PhD), you have not been awarded a BAAP research grant for 2026.
- **Successful candidates will be able to view and download their award letters in January 2026, via NRF Connect against their applications.**
- Read through the Conditions of Grant (CoG) letter and award letter documents carefully before accepting the award.
- **Access Guidelines on how to accept the award:** <https://www.nrf.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Acceptance-of-Award.pdf>
- All required documentation must be uploaded on the awardees' NRF Connect profile within two months of receipt of the award letter.
- Funds will only be released once the completed and required documentation have been received by the NRF.
- **The sooner the NRF obtains all the required documents, the sooner it will release the funds.**
- The NRF feedback on the review of applications will be forwarded to all unsuccessful applicants by February 2026.
- Please send all enquiries regarding the outcomes to the NRF via your Research Office.

**Table 1. Successful applicants for the 2026: Black Academics Advancement Programme (BAAP) - PhD Track**

#	Reference	First Name	Last Name	Track	Institution
1	NFSG250307301755	Nompumelelo	Nzama	PhD Track	Cape Peninsula University of Technology
2	NFSG250318304903	Nokwanda	Biyase	PhD Track	Durban University of Technology
3	NFSG250325306177	Mellisa	Jula	PhD Track	Durban University of Technology
4	NFSG250325306209	Stephanie Caroline	Samuel	PhD Track	Durban University of Technology
5	NFSG250331307546	Pretty	Maphosa	PhD Track	Mangosuthu University of Technology
6	NFSG250325306173	Pumeza	Cingo-Le Roux	PhD Track	Nelson Mandela University
7	NFSG250319305199	Ntembeko	Jafta	PhD Track	Nelson Mandela University
8	NFSG250324306052	Is-haaq	Lekganya	PhD Track	Nelson Mandela University
9	NFSG250326306494	Lindiwe Wezizwe	Mangisa	PhD Track	Nelson Mandela University
10	NFSG250329307322	Daphney Sibongile	Mnisi	PhD Track	Nelson Mandela University
11	NFSG250327306754	Zintle	Nelani	PhD Track	Nelson Mandela University
12	NFSG250314304315	Malibongwe	Twani	PhD Track	Nelson Mandela University
13	NFSG250329307316	Muziwandile	Luthuli	PhD Track	North-West University
14	NFSG250307301740	Tiisetso	Mofokeng	PhD Track	North-West University
15	NFSG250329307307	Moteng	Moseri	PhD Track	North-West University
16	NFSG250410310159	Mphiliseni	Nzuza	PhD Track	North-West University
17	NFSG250401308066	Fhatuwani Walter	Ramalivahana	PhD Track	North-West University
18	NFSG250306301509	Innocentia	Ramokgaba	PhD Track	North-West University
19	NFSG250406309108	Tammy	Booyesen	PhD Track	Rhodes University
20	NFSG250225300040	Nomonde	Kunene	PhD Track	Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University
21	NFSG250317304695	Refilwe	Mohotlhoane	PhD Track	Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University
22	NFSG250328307064	Mnoneleli	Nogwina	PhD Track	Sol Plaatje University
23	NFSG250407309310	Mlamuli	Tabhu	PhD Track	Sol Plaatje University



#	Reference	First Name	Last Name	Track	Institution
24	NFSG250329307290	Valencia	Wagner	PhD Track	Sol Plaatje University
25	NFSG250328307071	Josephine Lizelle	Apollis	PhD Track	Stellenbosch University
26	NFSG250328307159	Ethan James	Gantana	PhD Track	Stellenbosch University
27	NFSG250305301456	Lanche	Grootboom	PhD Track	Stellenbosch University
28	NFSG250313304085	Kajil	Kara-Bhana	PhD Track	Stellenbosch University
29	NFSG250407309172	Hazel Voyokazi	Mapipa	PhD Track	Stellenbosch University
30	NFSG250329307282	Tanduxolo	Nguza	PhD Track	Stellenbosch University
31	NFSG250307301880	Zinhle	Novazi	PhD Track	Stellenbosch University
32	NFSG250305301476	Kessendri	Reddy	PhD Track	Stellenbosch University
33	NFSG250319305325	Thabang Frans	Lebeya	PhD Track	Tshwane University of Technology
34	NFSG250311303416	Eveline Mamakhetha	Makhetha	PhD Track	Tshwane University of Technology
35	NFSG250325306365	Tshia	Malehase	PhD Track	Tshwane University of Technology
36	NFSG250328307101	Motshidisi Shawn	Manyeneng	PhD Track	Tshwane University of Technology
37	NFSG250311303490	Athenkosi	Ntanjana	PhD Track	Tshwane University of Technology
38	NFSG250403308589	Mashitisi Benson	Phurutsi	PhD Track	Tshwane University of Technology
39	NFSG250227300406	Cynthia Mbali	Valashiya	PhD Track	Tshwane University of Technology
40	NFSG250326306498	Heesoo	Diara	PhD Track	University of Cape Town
41	NFSG250224299778	Nqobile	Thango	PhD Track	University of Cape Town
42	NFSG250312303713	Nadine	Veldsman	PhD Track	University of Cape Town
43	NFSG250331307513	Ntokozo Happy	Msiza	PhD Track	University of Fort Hare
44	NFSG250325306441	Nicole	Badriparsad	PhD Track	University of Johannesburg
45	NFSG250331307478	Nomsa	Baloyi	PhD Track	University of Johannesburg
46	NFSG250409309807	Tintswalo	Mahlaola	PhD Track	University of Johannesburg
47	NFSG250224299758	Charity	Mkone	PhD Track	University of Johannesburg
48	NFSG250409309739	Asad	Jeewa	PhD Track	University of KwaZulu-Natal



#	Reference	First Name	Last Name	Track	Institution
49	NFSG250318304937	Yergenthren	Naicker	PhD Track	University of KwaZulu-Natal
50	NFSG250304301230	Gugulami	Butelezi	PhD Track	University of KwaZulu-Natal (Westville Campus)
51	NFSG250320305575	Meluleki Sanele	Thethwayo	PhD Track	University of KwaZulu-Natal (Westville Campus)
52	NFSG250407309338	Thendo	Mugwena	PhD Track	University of Limpopo
53	NFSG250325306260	Tariq	Toffah	PhD Track	University of Pretoria
54	NFSG250221299553	Itumeleng	Dube	PhD Track	University of South Africa
55	NFSG250312303949	Rirhandzu Phyllis	Hlungwane	PhD Track	University of South Africa
56	NFSG250402308209	Koketso Bernice	Manamela	PhD Track	University of South Africa
57	NFSG250311303567	Keamogetse	Mogamedi	PhD Track	University of South Africa
58	NFSG250314304397	Neo	Molefi-Kau	PhD Track	University of South Africa
59	NFSG250325306386	Unathi	Ngada	PhD Track	University of South Africa
60	NFSG250331307475	Zandisiwe	Radebe	PhD Track	University of South Africa
61	NFSG250407309399	Lebo	Saule	PhD Track	University of South Africa
62	NFSG250327306886	Haly	Holmes	PhD Track	University of the Western Cape
63	NFSG250326306492	Vuyolwethu	Madasa	PhD Track	University of the Western Cape
64	NFSG250401307906	LiTsoanelo	Zwane	PhD Track	University of the Western Cape
65	NFSG250328307125	Hulisani	Ndou	PhD Track	University of the Witwatersrand
66	NFSG250317304760	Itumeleng	Tsatsi-Mosala	PhD Track	University of the Witwatersrand
67	NFSG250331307570	Lerato	Thabane	PhD Track	Vaal University of Technology

**Table 2. Successful applicants for the 2026: Black Academics Advancement Programme (BAAP) - Post PhD Track**

#	Reference	First Name	Last Name	Track	Institution
1	NFSG250402308369	Nosipho	Makhakhe	Post PhD Track	Durban University of Technology
2	NFSG250325306284	Adivhaho	Khwathisi	Post PhD Track	Nelson Mandela University
3	NFSG250318304993	Siphumlile	Mangisa	Post PhD Track	Nelson Mandela University
4	NFSG250319305166	Aviwe	Ntsethe	Post PhD Track	Nelson Mandela University
5	NFSG250220299338	Selaelo	Mariri	Post PhD Track	North-West University
6	NFSG250219299142	Thendo	Mafame	Post PhD Track	Sol Plaatje University
7	NFSG250307301721	L A	Hendricks	Post PhD Track	Stellenbosch University
8	NFSG250219299235	Shane	Josias	Post PhD Track	Stellenbosch University
9	NFSG250220299364	Ziyanda	Majombozi	Post PhD Track	Stellenbosch University
10	NFSG250227300553	Keanu	Martin	Post PhD Track	Stellenbosch University
11	NFSG250303300993	Itumeleng	Moroenyane	Post PhD Track	Stellenbosch University
12	NFSG250226300193	Tshiwela Caroline	Ramashitja	Post PhD Track	Tshwane University of Technology
13	NFSG250320305430	Olerato Kau	Mogomotsi	Post PhD Track	University of Cape Town
14	NFSG250328307171	Mpho	Ndou	Post PhD Track	University of Johannesburg
15	NFSG250227300381	Lungelo	Mbatha	Post PhD Track	University of KwaZulu-Natal
16	NFSG250307301885	Luther	Monareng	Post PhD Track	University of KwaZulu-Natal
17	NFSG250404308855	Mpho	Bapela	Post PhD Track	University of Limpopo
18	NFSG250324306096	Moses Zakhele	Sithole	Post PhD Track	University of Mpumalanga
19	NFSG250326306670	Babalwa	Ceki	Post PhD Track	University of South Africa
20	NFSG250309302022	Sandiswa	Kobe	Post PhD Track	University of South Africa
21	NFSG250312303924	Zamandlovu Sizile	Makola	Post PhD Track	University of South Africa
22	NFSG250325306194	Makwaletse Johanna	Malatji	Post PhD Track	University of South Africa
23	NFSG250226300178	Athi	Mavukwana	Post PhD Track	University of South Africa
24	NFSG250410310139	Mpho-Entle	Modise	Post PhD Track	University of South Africa



25	NFSG250307301878	Vhuhwavho	Nekhavhambe	Post PhD Track	University of South Africa
26	NFSG250221299516	Makhosonke	Ngcobo	Post PhD Track	University of South Africa
27	NFSG250402308165	Nhlanhla	Sono	Post PhD Track	University of South Africa
28	NFSG250403308422	Mpho	Magwalivha	Post PhD Track	University of Venda
29	NFSG250226300125	Ntobeko	Shozi	Post PhD Track	University of Zululand

**We congratulate all the 2026 awardees**