







Postgraduate Scholarship Programme 2026

Opening Date: 01 September 2025

Closing Date: 31 October 2025

Call for applications

The Stellenbosch University **Postgraduate Scholarship Programme** (PSP) is one of our flagship scholarship programmes. It aims to support our vision of becoming a leading research-intensive University by supporting a pool of emerging research talent amongst our postgraduate students.

Please note that there are **two separate application processes** – your application for admission to postgraduate studies and your application for this scholarship programme.

- **Step 1:** Visit our Prospective Postgraduate Student website (www.sun.ac.za/pgstudies) and familiarise yourself with the available postgraduate programme options and the minimum entry requirements for each.
- **Step 2**: Apply for the relevant postgraduate programme and note under which Faculty it falls.
- **Step 3**: Locate the scholarship faculty criteria of the relevant Faculty (in this call document). Each faculty has unique qualifying criteria.
- **Step 4**: Apply for the PSP via the correct application link for the Faculty. Application links can be found on page 3 of this document.

NOTE: If you were previously NSFAS or ISFAP funded during your undergraduate degree, please attach proof with your application documents.

Good luck with your scholarship application! Remember to start early and complete the application thoroughly.

Nugent Lewis

Director: Emerging Scholar Funding and Support Division for Research Development (DRD)

Closing date 31 October 2025

Contact persons: Ms Micah Dyeres

Coordinator: Institutional Scholarships micah@sun.ac.za

General enquiries:
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postgradfunding@sun.ac.za

Useful links: Stellenbosch University www.sun.ac.za

Postgraduate Office www.sun.ac.za/pgo

Postgraduate Funding www.sun.ac.za/pgo/funding

Centre for Undergraduate Bursaries https://finaid.sun.ac.za

SU Client Contact Centre 021 808 9111 info@sun.ac.za

How to apply

All scholarship awards will be made on condition that the applicant meet all of the requirements of the scholarship as well as the admission requirements of the relevant degree programme. Applicants are also advised that the University may require additional information, over and above the information supplied in the application, in order to reach a final decision. The University also retains the right to award, or not to award scholarships to any persons who may or may not meet the eligibility, award, and/or preference criteria. Students who receive the maximum (full) scholarship value are not allowed to receive additional/supplemental funding. No late, incomplete or inaccurate applications will be considered.

You can find further information on the scholarship terms and conditions here.

<u>Please consider your application as unsuccessful should you not receive feedback within three (3) months after the closing date.</u>

Click on the link to your faculty below to access the application form.

Read the call criteria and requirements for each faculty <u>before</u> completing the online application form. Click on the <u>relevant</u> link below.

- AgriScience

 Arts & Social Science

 Economic & Management Science

 Education

 Engineering

 Law

 Medicine & Health Sciences

 Military Science
- <u>Theology</u>

Science

Agrisciences

The Faculty of AgriSciences at Stellenbosch University is rated as the best faculty for agricultural studies on the African continent and in the top 50 internationally (QS rankings report 2020).

https://agric.sun.ac.za/

Criteria

- Current and prospective Honours, Master's and Doctoral students are invited to apply.
- Successful candidates may not hold another full scholarship in conjunction with this scholarship.
- Continuation of funding will be subject to satisfactory progress reporting.
- Applicants may not hold a qualification on the same degree level or higher.
- Masters awardees will be expected to prepare at least one submission-ready article for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
- Doctoral awardees will be expected to prepare at least two submission-ready articles for publication in peer-reviewed journals.
- Students who work full-time or work more than 20 hours per week are not eligible for this scholarship programme.

Eligibility

- Applicants should adhere to and meet the minimum admission requirements for the degree programme(s).
- Applicants for PG Diplomas, or candidates planning on pursuing their studies on a part-time basis and students pursuing 4th-year undergraduate studies are not eligible for this scholarship programme.

Application documents

The following documents are required (please combine all documents and upload them as a single PDF):

- Copy of ID document / Passport for international students.
- Master's and Doctoral scholarship applicants should also attach a pre-proposal in the form of a concept note (1 page).
- An official copy of your previous thesis, mini-thesis (research essay), or another academic writing sample.
- Letter of support from a prospective supervisor.
- Certified copies of your complete academic record and degree certificates (certified copies if completed at a university other than SU).
- Concise academic CV highlighting, inter alia, the following aspects:
 - Research publications (if applicable),
 - Awards or grants received,
 - Professional / Work experience.

Scholarships offered

The PSP Scholarship amounts are as follows:

Honours: R70 000 - R140 000 for one (1) registered year.

Master's: R75 000 - R150 000 p.a. for up to two (2) registered years. Doctoral: R80 000 - R170 000 p.a. for up to three (3) registered years.

Arts & Social Sciences

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences provides a dynamic and interactive learning environment to its students focusing in particular on preparing our graduates for an ever-growing knowledge-based society and economy. https://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/arts

Criteria

- Prospective Honours, Master's and Doctoral students are invited to apply for this scholarship programme.
- Applicants for PG Diplomas, or candidates planning on pursuing their studies on a part-time basis are not eligible for this scholarship programme.
- Students who work full-time or work more than 20 hours per week are not eligible for this scholarship programme.
- Masters awardees will be expected to prepare at least one submission-ready article for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
- Doctoral awardees will be expected to prepare at least two submission-ready articles for publication in peer-reviewed journals.

Eligibility

- Applicants should intend to register as full-time students.
- Master's and Doctoral applicants must have received 70% in their previous degree, or 70% if the current progress mark is available.
- Applicants for Honours scholarships should have received at least 70% for the subject (or closest related subject) they intend to specialise in.
- Applicants may not hold a qualification on the same degree level or higher.
- Successful candidates may not hold another full scholarship in conjunction with this scholarship.
- Continuation of funding will be subject to satisfactory progress reports.

Application documents

The following documents are required (please combine all documents and upload as a single PDF):

- Copy of ID document / Passport for international students.
- · An official copy of your previous thesis, mini-thesis (research essay), or another academic writing sample.
- For Master's and Doctoral applicants, an original preliminary research idea, no longer than 500 words, underlining the unique contribution your research will make to the existing body of knowledge in the particular field of study.
- Certified copies of your complete academic record and degree certificates (certified copies if completed at a university other than SU).
- A recommendation letter from a possible prospective supervisor.
- Concise academic CV outlining:
 - Research publications (if applicable),
 - Awards or grants received,
 - Professional / work experience,
 - Languages spoken and computer and/or other relevant skills.

Scholarships offered

The PSP Scholarship amounts are as follows:

- Honours: R110 000 for one (1) registered year.
- Master's: R140 000 p.a. for up to two (2) registered years.
- Doctoral: R160 000 p.a. for up to three (3) registered years.

Economic & Management Sciences

The Faculty wishes to be regarded as the leading Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences in South Africa; committed to the development of the rich human potential, respected as a role-player at the international level, and acknowledged as a centre of excellence within the University.

https://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/economy

Criteria

- Current and prospective postgraduate students intending to register for Honours, Master's or Doctoral degree programmes at Stellenbosch University are invited to apply.
- Applicants for PG Diplomas or candidates planning on pursuing their studies on a part-time basis are not eligible for this scholarship programme.
- Successful candidates may not hold another full scholarship in conjunction with this scholarship.
- Continuation of funding will be subject to satisfactory progress reports.
- Applicants may not hold a qualification on the same degree level or higher.
- Masters awardees will be expected to prepare at least one submission-ready article for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
- Doctoral awardees will be expected to prepare at least two submission-ready articles for publication in peer-reviewed journals.
- Students who are full-time employed or work more than 20 hours per week are not eligible for this scholarship programme.

Eligibility

- Honours: Applicants must have achieved an average mark of at least 60% in their final year of their undergraduate degree. South African applicants must have applied for funding to the National Research Foundation (NRF). The PSP awards will be made subsequent to the outcome of the NRF applications; only unsuccessful NRF applicants will be considered.
- Masters: Reserved for master's programmes with a research assignment/thesis of at least 60 credits. Applicants must have achieved a mark of at least 65% for their Honours degree. [Applicants should use their progress mark to apply but should note that the final mark will determine your eligibility to accept the scholarship].
- **Doctoral:** Applicants must have achieved a mark of at least 65% for their Master's degree or 65% for the research component in the case of coursework-Master's programmes.

Application documents

The following documents are required (please combine all documents and upload as a single PDF):

- Copy of ID document / Passport for international students.
- Doctoral scholarship applicants should also attach an approved proposal or at least a pre-proposal in the form of a concept note.
- Letter of support from a prospective supervisor for Master's and doctoral scholarship applicants.
- Certified copies of your complete academic record and degree certificates (certified copies if completed at a university other than SU).
- Concise academic CV.

Scholarships offered

The PSP Scholarship amounts are as follows:

- Honours: R70 000 for one (1) registered year.
- Masters: R75 000 R150 000 p.a. for up to two (2) registered years.
- Doctoral: R80 000 R170 000 p.a. for up to three (3) registered years.

Education

The Faculty strives to play a leading role in education, both locally and globally, and to engage with educational challenges, particularly in the South African context.

https://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/education

Criteria

- Current and prospective postgraduate students who intend to enrol for an Honours, Master's and/or Doctoral degree on a full-time basis are invited to apply for this scholarship. Only full research Master's students will be supported.
- Successful candidates may not hold another full scholarship in conjunction with this scholarship.
- Continuation of funding will be subject to satisfactory progress reports.
- Applicants may not hold a qualification on the same degree level or higher.
- Masters awardees will be expected to prepare at least one submission-ready article for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
- Doctoral awardees will be expected to prepare at least two submission-ready articles for publication in peer-reviewed journals.
- Students who are full-time employed or work more than 20 hours per week are not eligible for this scholarship programme.

Eligibility

- Honours scholarships: Students must have been accepted into one of the BEd Hons programmes from a BEd degree, should have maintained an average of 70% in the course of their undergraduate studies. Students accessing BEd Hons programmes via a PGCE, should have received at least 70% in their final undergraduate year for the subjects (or closest related subjects) in which they intend to specialise OR 70% average in related subjects in the PGCE programme.
- Master's and doctoral applicants should have achieved at least 65% in their previous degree programme. A supervisor / promotor must have been allocated to the applicant.
- The scholarship will be awarded conditionally based on the outcome of the final mark, as required above.
- Applicants for PG Diplomas or candidates planning on pursuing their studies on a part-time basis are not eligible for this scholarship programme.

Application documents

The following documents are required (please combine all documents and upload as a single PDF):

- Copy of ID document / Passport for international students.
- Certified copies of your complete academic record and degree certificates (certified copies if completed at a university other than SU).
- · Letter of motivation by the applicant.
- Doctoral scholarship applicants should attach an academic CV.
- Master's and Doctoral applicants should also attach a letter of support from a prospective supervisor which clearly indicates confirmation of co-funding support (if applicable).

Scholarships offered

The PSP Scholarship amounts are as follows:

- **BEd Honours**: R90 000 R140 000 (for 1 registered year).
- Master's: R50 000 R150 000 (p.a. for up to 2 registered years).
- **Doctoral:** R50 000 R170 000 (p.a. for up to 3 registered years).

Engineering

The Faculty of Engineering is one of Stellenbosch University's flagship faculties and is one of South Africa's major producers of top quality engineers. The world-class engineers we produce contribute to the economic development of the country and improves citizens' quality of life.

https://www.eng.sun.ac.za/

Criteria

- Applicants are invited to apply for scholarships to enrol for MEng (Research), MEngSc (Research), and/or PhD programmes at Stellenbosch University.
- Preference will be given to South African citizens.
- Current Master's and PhD students may apply subject to the requirements above.
- Applicants must have been accepted by a supervisor.
- Applicants must have completed their previous programme within the prescribed timeframe, four or
 five years in the case of the BEng (subject to the BEng option followed), and two years in the case of
 the MEng/MEngSc degrees or be in a position to do so at the end of the year.
- Applicants for PG Diplomas or candidates planning on pursuing their studies on a part-time basis are not eligible for this scholarship programme.
- Successful candidates may not hold another full-scholarship in conjunction with this scholarship.
- Continuation of funding will be subject to satisfactory progress reports.
- Applicants may not hold a qualification on the same degree level or higher.
- Masters awardees will be expected to prepare at least one submission-ready article for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. This is also a requirement for graduation.
- Doctoral awardees will be expected to prepare at least two submission-ready articles for publication in peer-reviewed journals.
- Students who are full-time employed or work more than 20 hours per week are not eligible for this scholarship programme.

Eligibility

- Applicants must have completed their previous programme within four years in the case of the BEng or five years in the case of BEng(EDP), and two years in the case of the MEng/MEngSc degrees or be in a position to do so at the end of the year.
- For a Master's scholarship, applicants must have a weighted average academic mark of at least 65% for their BEng degree and 65% in the final year of their BEng degree, excluding the marks of failed modules.
- The scholarship will be awarded conditionally based on the outcome of the final mark, as required above.
- In addition, for PhD bursary applicants, the applicant must have achieved at least 65% for their Master's degree.

Application documents

The following documents are required (please combine all documents and upload as a single PDF):

- Copy of ID document / Passport for international students.
- Certified copies of your complete academic record and degree certificates (certified copies if completed at a university other than SU).
- Doctoral scholarship applicants should attach an academic CV.
- Master's and doctoral scholarship applicants should also attach a letter of support from a prospective supervisor which clearly indicates confirmation of co-funding.

Scholarships offered

The PSP Scholarship amounts are as follows:

- Masters: A maximum of R100 000 from the PSP fund plus a minimum co-funding of 50% of the PSP amount from the host academic department p.a. for up to two (2) registered years.
- Doctoral: A maximum of R115 000 from the PSP fund plus a minimum co-funding of 50% of the PSP amount from the host academic department p.a. for up to three (3) years.



The Faculty of Law celebrates Stellenbosch University's commitment, rooted in Africa, and its global reach. We are a 21st-century institution that prides itself on a legacy of academic excellence and a vision of developing the next generation of South African leaders who are at the forefront of societal advancement in service of humanity https://blogs.sun.ac.za/law/

Criteria

- Current and prospective postgraduate students who intend to register for the LLD and/or LLM by research degree programmes are eligible to apply.
- An applicant must have an approved research proposal, or the bursary may be awarded conditionally on the approval of a research proposal by the Faculty Board at its first meeting of the proposed year of study.
- In determining whether a bursary is awarded conditionally, it will be of particular significance what progress an applicant has made with drafting such a proposal and whether an appropriate supervisor has been identified.
- Successful candidates may not hold another full-scholarship in conjunction with this scholarship.
- Continuation of funding will be subject to satisfactory progress reports.
- Students who are full-time employed or work more than 20 hours per week are not eligible for this scholarship programme.

Eligibility

- Applicants for doctoral studies must have passed the final year of the degree courses prescribed in the Calendar with an average of at least 65% (or its international equivalent).
- Applicants for Master's studies must have an LLB degree or any other bachelor's degree in Law (excluding the Bluris degree) and have attained an average of 60% in the final year of the degree.
- Applicants may not hold a qualification on the same degree level or higher.
- Masters awardees will be expected to prepare at least one submission-ready article for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
- Doctoral awardees will be expected to prepare at least two submission-ready articles for publication in peer-reviewed journals.

Application documents

The following documents are required (please combine all documents and upload as a single PDF):

- Copy of ID document / Passport for international students.
- Certified copies of your complete academic record and degree certificates (certified copies if completed at a university other than SU).
- Letter of motivation by the applicant.
- Concise academic CV which inter alia outlines:
 - Research publications (if applicable),
 - Awards or grants received,
 - o Professional / work experience.

Scholarships offered

The PSP Scholarship amounts are as follows:

- **LLM:** R75 000 R150 000 p.a. for up to two (2) registered years only.
- LLD: R80 000 R170 000 p.a. for up to three (3) registered years only.

Medicine & Health Sciences

The FMHS is one of 10 faculties at Stellenbosch University and home to 15 academic departments, which in turn hosts 18 centres, bureaus and institutes. We offer a variety of Honours degrees and more than 90 Masters and Doctoral programmes in a variety of disciplines, including Sport Science.

https://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/healthsciences/

Criteria

- Current and prospective postgraduate students who intend to enrol for a Honours, Masters and/or Doctoral degree on a full-time basis are invited to apply for this scholarship.
- Successful candidates may not hold another full scholarship in conjunction with this scholarship.
- Successful candidates who receive a partial PSP scholarship may be topped up with funding from other sources.
- Continuation of funding will be subject to satisfactory progress reports.
- Applicants may not hold a qualification on the same degree level or higher.
- Masters awardees will be expected to prepare at least one submission-ready article for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, arising from their studies.
- Doctoral awardees will be expected to prepare at least two submission-ready articles for publication in peer-reviewed journals, arising from their studies.
- Students who are full-time employed or work more than 20 hours per week are not eligible for this scholarship programme.

Eligibility

- **Honours scholarships**: Applicants must receive at least 65% in the final year of their undergraduate degree.
- Master's and doctoral applicants should achieve at least 65% in their previous degree programme.
- The scholarship will be awarded conditionally based on the outcome of the final mark, as required
 above.
- Applicants for PG Diplomas, MMed and MPhil (subspecialist) degrees (registrars and senior registrars) or candidates planning on pursuing their studies on a part-time basis are not eligible for this scholarship programme.

Application documents

The following documents are required (please combine all documents and upload as a single PDF):

- Copy of ID document / Passport for international students.
- Certified copies of your complete academic record and degree certificates (certified copies if completed at a university other than SU).
- · Letter of motivation by the applicant.
- · Concise academic CV outlining:
 - Research publications (if applicable),
 - Awards or grants received,
 - Professional/work experience.

Scholarships offered

The PSP Scholarship amounts are as follows:

- Honours: Between R70 000 R140 000 (for 1 registered year).
- Master's: Between R75 000 R150 000 (per annum for 2 registered years).
- Doctoral: Between R80 000 R170 000 (per annum for 3 registered years).

Military Science

A leader in military-contextualised higher education and professional military development. An academy offering world-class military higher education, innovative research, and professional military development. https://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/milscience/

Criteria

- Bursaries are available for students enrolled or planning to enroll for MMil and PhD (Military Science) programmes at Stellenbosch University.
- Preference will be given to South African citizens.
- Members of the Department of Defence are encouraged to apply on the condition that an application for study at state expense was submitted, but not approved. Written confirmation of denial/rejection must be submitted with the application.
- Bursaries will be funded for the first two years for Master's and the first three years for PhD programmes.
- For continuation of funding to the following year, a progress report needs to be submitted.
- Successful candidates may not hold another full scholarship in conjunction with this scholarship.
- Continuation of funding will be subject to satisfactory progress reports.
- Applicants may not hold a qualification on the same degree level or higher.
- Students who are full-time employed or work more than 20 hours per week are not eligible for this scholarship programme.
- Masters awardees will be expected to prepare at least one submission-ready article for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
- Doctoral awardees will be expected to prepare at least two submission-ready articles for publication in peer-reviewed journals.

Eligibility

- For a Master's bursary, applicants must have an average academic mark of at least 65% for their postgraduate qualification that adheres to the entry requirements for MMil programme applied for as specified in the Part 13 Yearbook for Military Science programmes. The bursary will be awarded conditionally based on the outcome of the final mark, as required above.
- For PhD bursary applicants, the applicant must have achieved at least an average of 65% of their Master's degree.

Application documents

The following documents are required (please combine all documents and upload as a single PDF):

- Copy of ID document / Passport.
- Certified copies of your complete academic record and degree certificates (certified copies if completed at a university other than SU).
- Confirmation that study at state expense application was denied.
- Support letter from the supervisor.
- Completed and signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between student and supervisor.
- CV for Doctoral students.

Scholarships offered

The PSP Scholarship amounts are as follows:

- Master's: R75 000 R150 000 p.a. for up to two (2) registered years only.
- Doctoral: R80 000 R170 000 p.a. for up to three (3) registered years only.

Science

The Faculty of Science has eight departments, as well as several world-renowned centres with excellent facilities and established research groups. We offer training in the fundamental sciences: degree programmes in the physical, biological and mathematical sciences.

https://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/science/

Criteria

- · Current and prospective Honours, Master's and Doctoral students are invited to apply.
- Applicants for PG Diplomas or candidates planning on pursuing their studies on a part-time basis are not eligible for this scholarship programme.
- Applicants may not hold a qualification on the same degree level or higher.
- Master's awardees will be expected to prepare at least one submission-ready article for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
- Doctoral awardees will be expected to prepare at least two submission-ready articles for publication in peer-reviewed journals.
- Successful candidates may not hold another full scholarship in conjunction with this scholarship.
- Continuation of funding will be subject to satisfactory progress reports.
- Students who are full-time employed or work more than 20 hours per week are not eligible for this scholarship programme.

Eligibility

- Honours scholarship applicants should have achieved a minimum average of 65% in their undergraduate degree for the major subject (or closest related subject) they intend to specialise in.
- Applicants for MSc and PhD scholarships should have achieved a minimum of 60% in their previous degree to qualify for this scholarship.
- The scholarship will be awarded conditionally based on the outcome of the final mark, as required above.

Application documents

The following documents are required (please combine all documents and upload as a single PDF):

- Copy of ID document / Passport for international students.
- Certified copies of your complete academic record and degree certificates (certified copies if completed at a university other than SU).
- Proof of application at Stellenbosch University for the degree for which the current application is being made.
- MSc and PhD applicants must submit an endorsement from a prospective supervisor at the Faculty of Science, Stellenbosch University.
- A full research proposal will favour applicants for MSc and PhD scholarships.

Scholarships offered

The PSP Scholarship amounts are as follows:

- Honours: R70 000 R140 000 for one (1) registered year.
- Master's: R75 000 R150 000 p.a. for up to two (2) registered years.
- Doctoral: R80 000 R170 000 p.a. for up to three (3) registered years.

Theology

We are a faculty for theology, and through research, teaching and learning and community action we are a knowledge partner for other academic communities, various church denominations and institutions of broader society. We fulfil our vocation as academic institution in local, wider Africa, and global contexts. https://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/theology

Criteria

- Current and prospective MTh and Doctoral students by research programme are invited to apply for this scholarship.
- Applicants for PG Diplomas or candidates planning on pursuing their studies on a part-time basis are not eligible for this scholarship programme.
- Preference will be given to applications that are aligned to the faculties strategic and transformation priorities.
- Successful candidates may not hold another full scholarship in conjunction with this scholarship.
- Continuation of funding will be subject to satisfactory progress reports.
- Applicants may not hold a qualification on the same degree level or higher.
- Students who are full-time employed or work more than 20 hours per week are not eligible for this scholarship programme.
- Master's awardees will be expected to prepare at least one submission-ready article for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
- Doctoral awardees will be expected to prepare at least two submission-ready articles for publication in peer-reviewed journals.

Eligibility

- Master's and Doctoral students must have achieved 65% in the previous degree (or the progress mark should be 65%).
- Students must ensure that they consult the entry requirements for the relevant degree programme.
- Students who intend to register as a special student in 2026 (preparation for PhD) are eligible for this scholarship programme.

Application documents

The following documents are required (please combine all documents and upload as a single PDF):

- Copy of ID document / Passport for international students.
- Master's and Doctoral scholarship applicants must apply to Stellenbosch University for admission to the relevant degree programme and attach proof of application.
- Certified copies of your complete academic record and degree certificates (certified copies if completed at a university other than SU).
- Concise academic CV outlining:
 - Research publications (if applicable).
 - Awards or grants received (if applicable).
 - Professional /work experience (if applicable).

Scholarships offered

The PSP Scholarship amounts are as follows:

- MTh: R50 000 R150 000 p.a. for up to two (2) registered years only.
- Doctoral: R50 000 R170 000 p.a. for up to three (3) registered years only.



The Postgraduate Funding Office www.sun.ac.za/pgo/funding

General Enquiries postgradfunding@sun.ac.za

Coordinator - Ms Micah Dyeres micah@sun.ac.za

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