

**Call for Masters Scholarship Applications for 2026 intake at
Stellenbosch University**

**MSc in Bioinformatics of Infectious Diseases and Pathogen
Genomics**

Supported by the

**NIH: D43 African Tuberculosis Bioinformatics Training Program
EDCTP: Genomic surveillance to control pathogen infections in Africa
(GenPath)**

**Application Closing
Date in the Google form
Portal
(for all candidates)**

June 30th, 2025

The award of scholarships is subject to the availability of funding

To complete your application successfully, it is essential that you carefully read and follow ALL of the following sections.

Programme Objectives

The **overall goal** of the program is to strengthen bioinformatics training and capacity in Africa for infectious diseases, to strengthen bioinformatics training and capacity in Africa.

Current MSc-level degrees in Bioinformatics often require components taught at lower degrees, such as BSc Hons degrees, that are typically based on topics that are general and broad. Although such training is excellent preparation for a general bioinformatics approach in Biology, it lacks the focus and depth required for the Bioinformatics associated with specialized areas in the Health Sciences such as in Infectious Diseases and Pathogen Genomics. It is thus imperative that we develop training programs that supply graduates with crucial skills in Informatics that match the demands of innovative research in these fields.

Offers scholarships for Masters studies at Stellenbosch University for the intake 2026 **ONLY** for the degree program MSc in Bioinformatics of Infectious Diseases and Pathogen Genomics.

The following eligibility requirements apply to applicants for the scholarships for the structured MSc in Bioinformatics of Infectious Diseases and Pathogen Genomics scholarship:

- Nationals/permanent residents from African countries
- BScHons degree or 4-year equivalent degree with >65%. Candidates who cannot provide a 65% or higher result are not eligible.
- A Bachelor of Science Honours degree (NQF level 8) OR a professional 480-credit bachelor's degree (NFQ level 8) in:
 - Bioinformatics, Data Science, Statistics, Mathematics, Computer Science, Biochemistry, Genetics, Molecular Biology, or a related field
- Another academic degree qualification and appropriate experience (assessed using the regular Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) procedures) approved by the Faculty Board of the AgriSciences, Medicine and Health Sciences, or Science Faculty
- Thorough knowledge of English
- Show motivation and strong commitment for career in bioinformatics

Place of tenure for the Masters degree

Stellenbosch University, Cape Town, South Africa

Duration and commencement of Masters degree

Scholarships are awarded for the duration of the standard period of study for the chosen programme (up to a maximum of 24 months), contingent on satisfactory performance. The scholarship usually begins on 1st of February of the following year.

Scholarship Benefits

The scholarships cover the following:

Benefits	Payments Schedule	Approximate Amount
Registration and Tuition fees	Annually	Paid directly to the university
Monthly stipend (Accommodation, food, etc)	Monthly	R12 000
Travel allowance	At beginning and end of studies	
Health insurance	Further information regarding the health insurance will be specified in the agreement.	

Payment of scholarship funds

The fund administrators endeavour to transfer/pay out the first monthly payment as quickly as possible after your arrival/ after the beginning of your scholarship. Processing the first transfer of funds may take some time, especially if you are only able to set up your bank account after your arrival in your destination country.

Payments cannot be made in advance/prior of the scholarship start date and the commencement of studies at the host institution.

Furthermore, no additional benefits other than those listed in this call for applications, such as benefits for family members, can be made.

The scholarship funds will be paid directly to the scholarship holder's bank account. Further details will be communicated after admission to the scholarship programme in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The fund administrators reserve the right to terminate the scholarship, if good cause is found, by cancelling the scholarship agreement. In this case, the scholarship payments shall be discontinued immediately. Good cause exists, in particular, if you have violated the rules of good scientific practice.

Application and selection procedure for the scholarship

The first step for all applicants to submit a complete application for the scholarship via the Google form. This is the only application portal for the scholarship.

The application process for scholarships contains the following steps

1. Use link to access form: <https://forms.gle/DGBBubfYrAvlj24o8>
2. Carefully read through form and all information needed
3. Ensure all documents are uploaded in the required format with required details
4. Submit your application by the deadline **30 June 2025. No late applications will be accepted for any reason.**

Remember to check that your application is complete and that it meets the requirements before submitting! Incomplete applications will NOT be considered.

Overview of Selection Process

- Stellenbosch University staff will review applications for completeness and eligibility. Early July 2025
- Completed eligible applications are reviewed by Stellenbosch University staff and top candidates are short listed. Late July 2025
- Short listed students will be invited for an interview by a panel of Supervisors at Stellenbosch University. August 2025
- Simultaneously short-listed students are invited to apply to Stellenbosch for admission to the program and linked with possible supervisors. August 2025.
- Selection takes place in September 2025.
- The final outcome of scholarship is made available in October 2025 to allow students to sign their MOU; needs an admission letter to sign agreement.

Documents for the scholarship application to be submitted via upload to the google application form:

Name of document	Requirement
Curriculum Vitae	Academic-Europassformat https://europa.eu/europass/eportfolio/screen/cv-editor?lang=en
Degree	Certified copy, include transcripts Document explaining the grading scale for the final university grade
Motivational letter	Max 2 pages, Font: Arial (Body), Times New Roman, Calibri (Body) size 12; Guideline questions on application form
Reference letter	Max 2 pages; Font: Arial (Body), Times New Roman, Calibri (Body) size 12; Guideline questions on application form
Article summary	Max 500 words, Link to articles and guideline questions on application form

Your application is only valid if you submit **ALL** the mandatory documents in the required format and adhere to the requirements on the application form, which must be submitted by the deadline.

Incomplete and/or late applications will not be considered. You are responsible for ensuring that your application is complete and on time.

Applications must be submitted via the application form on Google

<https://forms.gle/DGBBubfYrAv1j24o8>

DEADLINE: 30 June 2025

Applications submitted through other channels or to other authorities will not be considered.

For more on the MSc program please consult page 136 of the Faculty of Medicine and Human Science's 2025 yearbook [2025-FMHS.pdf](https://www.sun.ac.za/sites/default/files/2025-FMHS.pdf)

Enquiries related to the scholarship contact: **Ms Suné Dyers** (sdyers@sun.ac.za)

PLEASE NOTE

Due to a high volume of queries, please allow up to 2 working days for a response. We appreciate your patience and understanding.