DSI-NRF Postgraduate Student Funding for the 2024 Academic Year

Supervision for South African students within the fields of poverty, inequality, and labour markets

The DSI and NRF are pleased to announce a call for new applications for DSI-NRF Postgraduate Student Funding for the academic year 2024. The scholarships are intended to support honours, master's and doctoral candidates to pursue studies in all areas of Science, Engineering, Technology, Social Sciences, and Humanities. Please note the following:

- The NRF minimum academic requirement for postgraduate funding is 65%.
- The entry age requirement is 28, 30 and 32 years or younger for honours, master's and doctoral studies respectively, in the year of application, regardless of first year of registration.
- Successful applicants will be funded either at Full Cost of Study (FCS) or Partial Cost of Study (PCS).
- The FCS funding will be awarded to South African citizens and Permanent Residents only, who are either financially needy (i.e., those whose combined household family income is less than or equals to R350 000 per annum), living with a disability or exceptional academic achievers.
- However, the PCS funding will be awarded to 5% of international students including South African citizens and Permanent Residents who could not be funded under FCS but meet other minimum requirements for the NRF scholarship funding criteria.
- All continuing students who are eligible for a second or third year of funding must submit a Progress Report and not a new application.

Applications are hereby invited from postgraduate students wishing to apply for DSI-NRF funding, and intending to study within the fields of poverty, inequality, and labour markets.

Haroon Bhorat is a Professor in the School of Economics, the Director of the Development Policy Research Unit (DPRU) and holds a Tier I SARChI[1] Research Chair within the theme of *Economic Growth*. The DPRU is located in the School of Economics at the University of Cape Town and specialises in socio-economic research into new analytical frontiers in economics; socio-economic determinants of growth; skills, tasks and the implications for the labour market; minimum wage analysis; and the application of economic complexity.

In general, students wishing to undertake their thesis or long paper broadly within an applied economics area are encouraged to apply. Examples of the themes that would be of interest include:

- Poverty, inequality and Inclusive Economic Growth;
- The impact of social grants on economic growth, poverty and inequality in South Africa;
- The role of the informal economy in engendering a more equitable growth path for South Africa;
- The relationship between schooling inputs and measured outcomes within South Africa;
- Economic Complexity, structural transformation, and employment creation;

[1] National Research Foundation (NRF): South African Research Chairs Initiative

- The impact of technology and the fourth industrial revolution on the South African labour market;
- Wage polarisation and/or job polarisation and wage inequality;
- The impact of the national minimum wage in South Africa, and more generally the impact of minimum wages in a developing country context;
- Matching youth to jobs in urban South Africa;
- Identification of skills gaps in the labour market;
- Analysis of skills and occupation in the South African informal sector;
- Analysis of South African wage trends;
- Africa's jobs challenge and youth unemployment.

How to Apply:

All the postgraduate students will be expected to apply on the NRF Connect System by accessing the link: https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za/.

When applying, please use Prof Haroon Bhorat's Social Science Chair in Economic Sciences **UID number**: **71186**.

Please note that:

- No manual applications will be accepted.
- It is critical that students include the supervisor's NRF grant UID reference number so that their applications are referred to the relevant funding programme.
- To view the official call for applications, please visit: https://uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/media/documents/uct_ac_za/49/2024_NRF_Call_Open.pdf

Deadlines:

UCT Internal Application Closing Dates:

Level of study	Internal Closing Dates
Honours	10 November 2023
First-time Master's	30 June 2023
First-time Doctoral	30 June 2023
Master's and Doctoral Extension Support	04 August 2023

Additional information:

For any specific queries, kindly contact the UCT PGO office (please do not contact the NRF directly):

Humanities and Commerce	nrfsupport2@uct.ac.za
Bekezela Zulu	Tel: 021 650 1754
Abby Van Der Westhuizen	Tel: 021 650 1761

To learn more about the DPRU, please visit: www.dpru.uct.ac.za or contact Ms Wadia Naidoo via email: wadia.naidoo@uct.ac.za and Tel: 021 650 5022.

For Prof. Bhorat's full profile, please go to: https://commerce.uct.ac.za/dpru/contacts/haroon-bhorat

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