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## Innovation Postdoctoral Fellowship Call for 2015

### 1. Background

The Innovation Postdoctoral Fellowship funding instrument is part of the Innovation Bursary Scheme (IBS) funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The scheme is managed by the National Research Foundation (NRF) through a contractual agreement with the DST. The National Research and Development Strategy of 2002 identified the need for a new generation of scientists to underpin the central thrust of innovation. In response, the DST commits an annual investment towards the development of postdoctoral fellows under the programme called the Innovation Postdoctoral Fellowship.

### 2. Objectives

The objectives of the DST Innovation Postdoctoral Fellowship are:

- To leverage innovation in universities and the implementation of science and related skills development
- To expand transformation initiatives through equity and career growth opportunities for designated groups
- To enable young scientists and professionals to access world class strategic and applied research opportunities in a university environment and thereby strengthen their research profiles and consequently improve their prospects of permanent employment in the national system of innovation
- To attract young scientists and professionals of the highest calibre, in order to complement senior researchers' influence on innovation through research, and
- To support young scientists and professionals in strategic, basic and applied research with the intention to promote innovation.

### 3. Areas of Support

The Innovation programme supports fellows that wish to pursue their research in the fields listed below:

- Biotechnology,
- Cellular and Molecular Biology,
- Engineering,
- Computer science,
- Physics,
- Astronomy,
- Mathematical Sciences,
- Nanotechnology,
- Chemistry,
- Earth Science,
- Ecology and
- Medical sciences.

Fellows pursuing research in Social Sciences and Humanities are also supported.

### 4. Value of the Scholarships

The value of the award is R305 000 which includes R255 000 stipend for living expenses, R50 000 contribution towards research costs

In addition fellows may apply for a travel grant and the values are: R25 000 for local travel allowance, and up to R50 000 allowance for international travel.

Fellowship-holders who wish to access the travel grant must complete a travel grant application form provided by their university postgraduate office/research office for consideration by the NRF.

### 4. Criteria for Selection

#### 5.1. Eligibility

In selecting applicants for consideration for funding, the following criteria will apply:



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- Fellowships are open to **only *bonafide* South African citizens or permanent residents**
- 30% of recipients may be foreign citizens including applicants from the SADC region
- Applicants should have obtained their PhD within the last 5 years.
- Full time employees of Higher Education Institutions are not eligible to apply.
- All NRF scholarships awards should be held as primary funding towards the research study.
- Fellowships must not be held simultaneously with a fellowship from any other government or NRF administered source.
- Fellowship-holders are allowed to hold non-binding supplementary grants or emoluments to half the value of the NRF award or should the host university have an institutional capped value, the award can be supplemented to the university capped value for the level of study.
- Fellowship-holders must not hold full-time salaried employment during the tenure of the award.
- Fellowship-holders will be allowed to undertake a maximum of 12 hours of teaching, tutorials, assistance or demonstration duties per week on average during the year of study and may be remunerated for these duties, provided that they are reimbursed at a rate not exceeding the standard institution's tariff for services rendered.

## 5.2. Equity

In line with the national imperative of equity and redress, the programme prioritises support for appropriately qualified blacks, women and students with disabilities without sacrificing quality. The programme will strive to meet the set equity targets of 80% blacks, 60% women and 4% people with disabilities.

## 5.3 Conditions of award for the Innovation Postdoctoral Fellowship

- The award of an Innovation Postdoctoral Fellowship will be based on past, current and potential academic performance. Selection criteria will include academic merit, research potential, leadership qualities and previous awards, various prizes and honours.
- In addition to the above criteria, the award will be based on the feasibility and merit of the applicant's research project proposal.



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- A list of successful candidates will be published on the NRF website as soon as the internal NRF approval processes for the award are finalised.

## 6. How to apply for funding

Applicants can apply by following the steps below:

- Applications must be submitted through an online application process to the National Research Foundation
- **Applicants can apply for the NRF- Innovation Postdoctoral Fellowship Call for 2015 by accessing the link: <https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/>**
- **Register/ Login using your ID number and password.**
- Select create new application from the list of existing calls.
- Select the call for which you are applying: **NRF- Innovation Postdoctoral Fellowship Call for 2015.**
- Remember to complete all sections of the application.
- Please attach the necessary documents in **one PDF file in the following order: ID document, proof of permanent residence (if applicable) and certified academic transcripts.**
- Should you not follow the guidelines for attaching the necessary documents your application will not be considered.
- Remember to **submit** your application on completion.
- Complete applications will go to the host University for verification before being forwarded to the NRF for further processing.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.  
Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered (please refer to section 5.1 for details on eligibility for the NRF- Innovation Postdoctoral Fellowship Call).
- Please contact the university postgraduate office or research office if you have any queries.



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- The closing date for submitting applications is **08 August 2014**.
- **Please take note of your institutions internal closing dates as these may be set before the actual NRF call closing date.**

### Contact persons:

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