



## **NRF Freestanding Postdoctoral Fellowships Call for 2015**

### **1. Background**

The National Research Foundation (NRF) is an agency mandated by an act of Parliament (Act no 23 of 1998), for the implementation of human capital development programmes, knowledge production and the provisioning of research infrastructure. Through the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the NRF receives funding in order to fulfil its mandate and vision. Funding for the NRF's Freestanding Postdoctoral Research Fellowships Programme has been made available in order to promote research and research capacity development in all fields of knowledge and technology.

### **2. Objectives**

The Programme supports appropriately qualified postdoctoral research fellows who wish to pursue research at publicly funded South African Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), Science Councils and National Research Facilities. A small number of fellowships are also made available to South African citizens who wish to undertake postdoctoral research on a full-time basis at recognized institutions abroad.

The objectives of the NRF Freestanding Postdoctoral Fellowships Programme are to:

- Increase the number and quality of postdoctoral research fellows in South Africa;
- Enable South African postdoctoral fellows to obtain international research exposure; and
- Encourage outstanding international postdoctoral research fellows to undertake research in South Africa.

### 3. Areas of Support

The Programme supports postdoctoral fellows who would like to undertake research in all areas of Science, Engineering and Technology (SET); Social Sciences and Humanities, in South Africa and abroad.

### 4. Value of the scholarship

For the 2015 academic year, the value of fellowship will be as follows:

	Amount	Duration
Stipend	R150 000	Per annum
International travel grant	R45 000	Maximum allowed during the funding period based on need
Local travel grant	R15 000	Maximum allowed during the funding period based on need
Institutional contribution	R15 000	Per annum

### 5. Criteria for Selection

#### 5.1. Eligibility

The following eligibility criteria apply:

- Applicants must have completed the doctoral degrees within the last five years;
- Fellowships are open to South African citizens and permanent residents who would like to undertake research at public research institutions in South Africa and at institutions abroad;
- Outstanding international candidates from outside South Africa, who wish to undertake postdoctoral research in South Africa are eligible for support;
- Fellowships are awarded on a competitive basis, taking into account the applicants' academic achievements, outputs and research potential.

- Fellowship will preferably not be granted to an individual in the same university department immediately after completion of a doctoral degree at that institution. Special consideration will be given to applicants where the individual's research training and outputs may be enhanced by continuing with postdoctoral research at the same institution or under the same mentor. In such instances the applicant must provide a strong motivation describing the benefits to the applicant and for advancing innovation.
- Applicants who are applying for a third cycle of postdoctoral research support are not eligible.
- Full-time employees of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are not eligible to apply.
- All NRF fellowship 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.
- Beneficiaries are allowed to hold non-binding supplementary grants or emoluments to the institutional capped value.
- Beneficiaries must not hold full-time salaried employment during the tenure of the fellowship.
- All beneficiaries will be allowed to undertake a maximum of 12 hours of teaching, tutorials, assistance or demonstration duties per week on average, and may be remunerated for these duties, provided that they are reimbursed at a rate not exceeding the normal institutional tariff for services rendered.

## 5.2. Equity

In allocating fellowship funds, priority will be given to Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) disciplines. The percentage of fellowships towards the SET domain will be between 70 – 80%; and 20 – 30% for Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH). On aggregate, the distribution of fellowships will be as follows:

### Target

South African Citizens including permanent residents	SADC	Africa	Non-African
87%	5%	4%	4%

### 5.3 Conditions of Award

- The award of a scholarship to a fellow will be based on past, current and potential academic performance. Selection criteria will include academic merit, promise of research ability, leadership qualities and previous awards, various prizes and honours.
- In addition to the above criteria, the award of the scholarship will be based on the feasibility and merit of the applicant's research project proposal.
- Successful fellows who are offered the scholarship by the NRF are required to complete and sign the scholarship agreement which will be communicated at the time of the award.
- 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 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 Postdoctoral Fellowship Call for 2015**
- Please attach the necessary documents in **one PDF file in the following order: ID document, certified academic transcripts and copy of doctoral degree certificate (if available).**
- Should you not follow the guidelines for attaching the necessary documents, your application will not be considered.
- **Submit** your application upon 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 contact the university postgraduate office or research office if you have any queries.
- 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:**

For funding instrument related enquiries, please contact:

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