

## DAAD-NRF IN-COUNTRY MASTERS AND DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR 2014

#### 1. Objective

As part of the “**In-Country Scholarship Programme**”, in which more than two dozen African universities and university networks participate and which annually supports some 800 African postgraduates, **DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) in partnership with the National Research Foundation (NRF) is able to offer scholarships for postgraduate studies at South African universities.** The programme is co-funded by the **German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)** and the **National Research Foundation (NRF)**. The scholarship is aimed at future academic staff development without neglecting other sector demands for academically trained personnel.

The NRF lauds this contribution of the German government as being of invaluable support to its own efforts of significantly increasing the number of postgraduate candidates receiving quality education and training; of contributing significantly to the national efforts of human capital development, especially at higher education institutions but also for the public and private sectors; of tangibly engaging in the South African PhD Project and, thereby, fulfilling one of the key strategic objectives of the NRF VISION 2015.

#### 2. Target Group

The programme targets candidates who are working towards a master's or doctoral degree. Preference will be given to full-time registered young South Africans or permanent resident university staff members considered for teaching / research staff recruitment either for their own university or any other institution of higher education in South Africa.

Staff members should be enrolled for full-time studies and be exempted from teaching. In exceptional cases, a limited extent of teaching obligations may be accepted but has to be motivated in writing. The host institution has to document precisely and convincingly the quantity and content of the lecturing duties and their compliance with the prevailing goal of the academic qualification of the candidate. An intrinsic link between the teaching obligations and the content of the degree programme is indispensable.

**DAAD and NRF offer up to 100 scholarships (new awards) for Master's and Doctoral studies in 2014.**

### 3. Scholarship Details

The scholarships are designed for full-time two-year Master's courses or three-year doctoral degree studies. **Please Note: The initial award is for one year only. For extensions of the award an annual progress report will have to be completed by the applicant with input from the supervisor of the proposed research and submitted to the NRF** via the university financial aid/ postgraduate/ research office.

Scholarship values are as follows:

**Master's degree : ZAR 60,000.00 p.a.**

**PhD degree : ZAR 90,000.00 p.a.**

Students upgrading from a Master's degree to a PhD are expected to complete an annual progress report, stating clearly that they have upgraded their studies. Upgrades will be included in the DAAD/NRF Joint In-Country Scholarship Programme.

Scholarship holders are not allowed to change to any other DAAD or NRF funding streams during the tenure of the award. However scholarship holders are encouraged to apply to other funding streams/ programmes on completion of their funding (e.g. completion of Master's degree and wanting to apply for doctoral funding).

Additional research funds and travel grants to conferences are not awarded to awardees on this scholarship: the exception will be for short-term (2-6 months) research visits to Germany mentioned below.

#### 4. Short-term research scholarships (2 - 6 months) tenable at a German university

The scholarship-holder may apply for a short-term research fellowship (duration 2-6 months) in Germany where parts of the thesis-related research would significantly gain from this research visit because of required equipment, co-supervision or similar reasons. The applicant will have to present a current invitation by a German professor who is willing to supervise the research during the envisaged stay in Germany. A convincing letter of motivation and a clearly defined time schedule for the research stay must be attached.

Application forms for these short-term research fellowships and further information can be obtained from:

<http://ic.daad.de/johannesburg/scholarships.htm>

#### 5. Eligibility Criteria

Please carefully read through the eligibility criteria before applying.

- Applicants must be South African citizens or hold permanent residence status in South Africa (in the latter case, both certified proof of university employment and residency must be provided).
- Applicants must have obtained an accumulative grade average of 65% and above to be considered.
- Female candidates and those belonging to historically disadvantaged groups are particularly encouraged to apply.
- An age limit of 36 years at the time of application applies.
- Applicants may come from all fields of study that have a strong relevance to the national development of the country. Fields include: the natural sciences, mathematics, ICT, engineering, agricultural sciences, and applied social sciences. Humanities and fine arts are excluded from this programme. However, Humanities applications may be considered if the research has a social focus.
- Applicants who already hold a qualification for the level of funding they are applying for are not eligible.

- Scholarships-holders are allowed to hold supplementary bursaries, grants or emoluments which may be capped in line with NRF and university policies.
- The scholarship must **not** be held simultaneously with a bursary/scholarship from any other NRF source, NRF administered source or other government sources without prior NRF/ DAAD permission.
- If the applicant does receive supplementary funding during the duration of the scholarship, this has to be declared to the NRF/ DAAD.
- Scholarship-holders must not hold full-time salaried employment during the duration of the scholarship. They will be allowed to undertake a maximum of 12 hours of employment which includes teaching, tutorials, and assistance or demonstration duties per week on average.
- University staff members applying to the programme will have to provide a supporting letter from their human resource department clearly indicating their working hours and status of employment during the tenure of the award.

It is the responsibility of the student to find a suitable supervisor and ensure that the supervisor sends a referee report to the NRF as part of the application.

## 6. Application Documents

The following documents are required in the application attachment section.

- Proof of South African Identity Document (ID) or proof of Permanent Residency together with letter indicating university employment (if applicable, only at PhD levels).
- Official and certified university degree certificates and transcripts indicating a minimum accumulative academic requirement of 65% in previous degree.
- Recommendation by Supervisor (compulsory for doctoral applicants).
- Admission letter indicating full-time registration (if available). This will be required if successful.
- Reference Letters (if available).

**Please note the following:** That all required documents must be attached as one PDF file in the following order: Identity document, proof of permanent residence and university employment letter (if applicable), certified university degree certificates and transcripts, recommendation by supervisor

(compulsory for doctoral applicants) letter of admission (if available) and any reference letters (if available).

## 7. Application Procedure

### **Applications must be submitted through an online application process of the NRF:**

Applicants can apply for the DAAD/NRF Joint In-Country Scholarship Programme by accessing the link: <https://nrfs submission.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 to: **DAAD-NRF In-Country Scholarships Programme 2014.**
- 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 and university employment letter (if applicable), certified university degree certificates and transcripts, recommendation by supervisor( compulsory for doctoral applicants) letter of admission (if available) and any reference letters (if available).**
- Should you not follow the guidelines for attaching the necessary documents your application will not be considered.
- Remember to **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.

- No late submissions of applications will be considered.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered (please refer to funding manual and call document for details on eligibility of the DAAD-NRF In-Country Scholarship programmes).
- Please contact the university postgraduate office or research office if you have any queries.
- The closing date for submitting applications is **21 August 2013**.
- Your application will be directed to the NRF for further assessment and selection through a DAAD-NRF selection panel.
- A list of successful applicants that will be funded for 2014 will be found on the NRF website under the student link towards the end of December 2013.

## 8. Selection Panel

Applications will be adjudicated by an independent selection panel consisting of South African and German experts, which may include representatives of the DAAD and the NRF, as well as South African and German academics and a representative of the German Embassy – Cultural or Research Division.

## 9. Selection Criteria

Applications are assessed based on potential and academic performance.

The following **selection criteria** are taken into consideration:

- academic merit,
- promise of research ability and potential for academic staff development indicated in recommendation letters and research outputs (especially for PhD applicants),
- significance and relevance of proposed research in particular to the South African context, alternatively convincing research of a national or transnational focus,

- for Masters by course work: convincing motivation indicating future academic and research orientation),
- leadership qualities,
- previous prizes and awards,
- the likelihood that the candidate will successfully complete a Master's or a doctoral degree,
- capacity of institutional research support and expertise to support application and
- recommendation letters from supervisor and referees,
- students are expected to follow up with their supervisors and referees in reasonable time on the submission of their recommendation reports online as this is critical to the application,
- German and or international study or academic experience would be an added advantage,
- The significance and relevance of the proposed research in particular to the South African context must be depicted (alternatively a convincing explanation of the regional and or transnational relevance),
- Masters by coursework: a convincing motivation must be submitted indicating future academic and research orientation”.

## 10. Post Award

Successful candidates will be notified by the NRF regarding the NRF / DAAD Joint In-Country Scholarship award.

All successful candidates should complete all the necessary documents / conditions of grant related to the acceptance of the award sent by the NRF.

An Annual Progress report must be submitted to the NRF by the scholarship-holder and the supervisor in order for the scholarship to be renewed on a yearly basis.

The DAAD / NRF may, during the course of the scholarship, hold annual research events – Winter or Summer Research Schools - which the scholarship-holder is expected to attend. The same applies should the scholarship-holder be invited by representatives of the German diplomatic service, the DAAD or the NRF for award ceremonies or other events.

## 11. Renewal of Scholarship

An annual (or shorter) extension of the scholarship is possible upon individual request and receipt of a university report proving good study progress in each individual case.

**Applications for renewal should be completed on the NRF Submission System during the Call for Annual Progress Reports by the NRF and submitted through the Research Office / Postgraduate Office / Financial Aid Office / Bursary Office;** the university's Designated Authorities will validate the application and forward it to the NRF to consider.

Scholarship-holders will be notified about the outcome of their renewal through their university Research Office / Postgraduate Office / Financial Aid Office / Bursary Office.

## 12. Queries

For any further assistance and information around the DAAD/NRF In-Country Scholarship programme please contact your institutions financial aid / bursary / postgraduate office.

## 13. Additional information on the DAAD/NRF In-Country Scholarship Programme South Africa

### Follow-up contacts and evaluation of study results

DAAD and NRF would like to strengthen and maintain contacts with former In-Country scholarship-holders. Therefore, every scholarship-holder who is about to complete his/ her Master's or PhD degree will receive a questionnaire together with the final letter of award, requesting information on the result of





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the degree acquired, the future address and intended employment. The scholarship-holder is obliged to respond to the questionnaire truthfully and to forward a certified copy of the degree certificate to the NRF. The scholarship-holder gives consent for the questionnaire and certificate to be forwarded to DAAD for their records. The university should take care that this information is transmitted to the NRF as soon as the scholarship ends.

The scholarship-holder is expected to uphold contact with the DAAD, thus benefitting from the DAAD's continuous alumni support schemes. Please contact the DAAD Information Centre, Johannesburg for further information ([daad@wits.ac.za](mailto:daad@wits.ac.za)).