

Waste RDI Roadmap

Masters and Doctoral Scholarships – 2017

1. Introduction

The Waste Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Roadmap is an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), aimed at guiding waste research and development, human capital development, and innovation in South Africa. The Roadmap is managed by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) on behalf of the DST. In support of the Roadmap, funding is made available for qualifying Masters and Doctoral students registered at public universities in South Africa. The scholarship programme is managed by the National Research Foundation (NRF) on behalf of the DST/CSIR.

The objectives of the Waste RDI Roadmap Scholarships are to:

- Contribute towards the increase in the number and quality of South African postgraduate students in the field of integrated solid waste management, at the Masters and Doctoral levels in South Africa; and
- Build a pipeline of the next generation of skilled scientists and researchers in South Africa.

2. Areas of support

The Waste RDI Roadmap supports students who wish to pursue their postgraduate studies in the thematic areas listed below viz.:

- Strategic planning (waste governance, policy and legislation, economics)
- Waste modelling and analytics
- Waste technology solutions
- Waste logistics performance
- Waste and climate change
- Waste and society

Scholarship applications must be aligned with one of the following priority waste streams –

- Municipal solid waste
- Organic waste
- Waste plastic
- Waste electric and electronic equipment (WEEE)
- Waste tyres

The Call is specifically focussed on solid waste streams and does not address wastewater or industrial effluent.

3. Value of the Waste Masters and Doctoral Scholarships for 2017

Scholarship values for full-time postgraduate students are indicated below. Scholarship awards will be administered as a block grant to universities at which the students will be registered for a postgraduate degree.

Scholarship	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Masters degree	R80 000 per annum	2 years
Doctoral degree	R120 000 per annum	3 years

Masters applicants are supported for two years from year of initial registration and doctoral applicants are supported for three years from year of initial registration. Periods of support are calculated from year of first or initial registration for the degree. The programme is unable to support masters and doctoral students that are only eligible for half-year support under the programme.

Travel grants for Masters Students

In addition, Masters scholarship-holders may apply for a travel grant of up to R10 000 which may be used to attend local conferences or a visit to a laboratory or any other activity that supports the beneficiaries' current research progression. This is the maximum amount allowed during the tenure of the scholarship.

Travel grants for Doctoral students

Doctoral scholarship-holders may apply for a travel grant of up to R15 000, for local travel, and up to R50 000, for international travel. These funds may be used to attend conferences, workshops, visits to a laboratory or, any other activity that supports the beneficiaries' current research progression. These are the maximum amounts allowed during the tenure of the scholarship.

Scholarship-holders who wish to access the travel grant must complete a travel grant application form accessible from the NRF system for consideration and approval/disapproval by the NRF.

4. Eligibility criteria

The following eligibility criteria apply to the Waste RDI Roadmap Masters and Doctoral scholarships:

- Scholarships are open to South African citizens and South African permanent residents.
- Applicants must undertake full-time study during the period of the award at an accredited public South African Higher Education Institution.
- All applicants for full-time Masters or Doctoral studies in South Africa must be registered or, intending to register at a South African public university
- Applicants applying for:
 - Masters Scholarships must have an Honours/ BTech degree;
 - Doctoral Scholarships must have a Masters degree, or should be upgrading from Masters to Doctoral studies in the year of award.

- Applicants may apply for a scholarship in the previous year of study and must meet all eligibility criteria and institutional requirements at the time of taking up the award.
- Applicants that already hold a degree at the level at which they are applying for funding, are not eligible.
- Scholarship-holders may not hold full-time salaried employment during the tenure of the award. Applicants holding employment at the time of application are required to include a motivation letter indicating that they will resign from their employment to take up the scholarship. If no motivation is included the application will not be considered for review.
- Applications that do not include the required documentation for review, e.g. certified ID or passport copy, permanent residency permit, and certified academic transcript will not be considered for funding under the programme.

5. Selection criteria

The following will be considered in evaluating all applications in a competitive merit review process:

- The applicant's past, current and potential academic performance. This will be measured by the applicant's:
 - Academic record
 - Potential to undertake an independent research project
 - Leadership roles
 - Previous awards, prizes and honours, and
 - The potential research outputs and impact
 - Alignment with national waste research, development and innovation priorities (www.wasteroadmap.co.za)
- The feasibility and merit of the applicant's research project proposal
- Support from the identified supervisor.

6. Equity and redress

In line with the national imperative of equity and redress, the bursary scheme prioritises support for appropriately qualified applicants from designated groups viz. black, female and persons with disabilities, while ensuring that only applications that meet the NRF merit review and selection criteria are supported.

7. Screening and review processes

7.1. Overview of the screening process

All applications are screened by the Waste RDI Roadmap Implementation Unit for compliance with the eligibility criteria of the Scholarship Call. Applications that fail to meet the stipulated requirements will be immediately rejected.

7.2. Overview of the review process

The NRF's peer review policy requires that all Masters and Doctoral applications be subjected to a review process. Applications submitted to this funding instrument will go through a panel review process.

7.3 Panel review

All eligible applications will be submitted to a panel of experts for review. In compiling the review panel, the expertise and experience of individuals in application adjudication are taken into account. In assessing the application, agreed assessment criteria are applied in the form of a scorecard. The Review Panel provides recommendations and the final funding decision is made by the DST/CSIR. In awarding grants in this funding instrument, the DST/CSIR takes into account the recommendations of the review panel, the objectives and targets of the funding instrument, and the available funds.

8. Conditions of award for the Waste Masters and Doctoral Scholarships

- Successful applicants who are offered the scholarships by the NRF are required to complete and sign the student agreement that will be forwarded at the time of the award.
- The scholarship-holder may 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 normal institution tariff for services rendered.
- Scholarship-holders may not hold full-time salaried employment during the tenure of the award.
- All NRF scholarships awards shall be held as primary funding towards the research study.
- Scholarship-holders are allowed to hold non-binding supplementary grants or emoluments to half the value of the NRF award. Alternatively, should the host university have an institutional capped value, the NRF award can be supplemented to the university capped value for the level of study.
- NRF scholarships may not be held simultaneously with a bursary / scholarship from any other government or NRF administered source.
- Since the Waste RDI Roadmap Scholarships are awarded based on the proposed research project, should a scholarship-holder wish to change their research project, supervisor or institution for which the scholarship was awarded, a letter of request from the student, initial supervisor and new supervisor must be submitted to the NRF through the appropriate institutional authority for consideration prior to such a change.
- The scholarship-holder must obtain the degree for which the scholarship was awarded by the contractual date which is within one (1) year after NRF funding has ceased and notify the NRF via the university authority. Should the scholarship-holder not complete the degree for which the scholarship was awarded, the funds will have to be returned to the NRF plus interest at the prevailing prime rate charged by the NRF bankers.

9. Reporting

For continuous monitoring of the funding instrument, the scholars will be required to submit Annual Progress Reports (APR) in a format provided by the NRF, against deliverables as outlined in the application form and the signed NRF Scholarship Agreement. The NRF may, in consultation with the

grant holder's research office, request interim progress report for the purpose of implementing corrective measures timeously to ensure that stated objectives are met within the stipulated timeframes.

10. Financial control

These awards will be managed in terms of standard NRF financial policies and procedures. The payment of the grant by the NRF to successful applicants will be administered by the Grants Management and Systems Administration (GMSA) Directorate. The institution will in turn administer the funds on behalf of the successful applicant to the value of the full sum awarded by the NRF.

Scholarships not taken up by June of the year of award will be cancelled for reallocation unless otherwise approved by the NRF.

11. How to submit an application for a Masters or Doctoral Scholarship

Applicants (students) should work together with their supervisor(s) / planned supervisor(s) to complete the Waste RDI Roadmap Scholarship Application Form. Once completed the form (and all supporting documentation) is to be emailed to the Waste RDI Roadmap Implementation Unit office (Attention: Dr Linda Godfrey) on email address info@wasteroadmap.co.za

The closing date for applications is **2 September 2016**. No applications will be accepted after this date.

The following documentation is to be submitted –

- Completed application form
- Certified copy of South African ID or proof of permanent residency
- Certified copy of University Degree certificates including official Academic Transcripts
- At least temporary admission letter (for full time registration)
- Two reference reports
- Letter from supervisor
- Medical certificate (only where applicable)

12. Contact persons

For any queries relating to the Waste RDI Roadmap Masters and Doctoral Scholarship programme, please contact:

Dr Linda Godfrey: Manager of the Waste RDI Roadmap Implementation Unit, Telephone: (012) 841-4801, E-mail: LGodfrey@csir.co.za