



**NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY
POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH
SCHOLARSHIPS (PGRS)**

CALL FRAMEWORK

OFFICE OF RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

OCTOBER 2021

CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	3
2.	AREAS OF SUPPORT	3
3.	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.....	3
4.	APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS	5
5.	FEEDBACK TO APPLICANTS AND APPEALS.....	6
6.	FUNDING PRINCIPLES	7
7.	CONDITIONS OF AWARD.....	7
8.	REPORTING	8
9.	CONTACT DETAILS	8

1. INTRODUCTION

South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP) outlines the need for strategic approaches to drive the country towards a competitive knowledge society and develop the required human capacity in key areas. Central to a highly productive, globally-connected economy are high-level skills and extensive participation in research scholarship. The Nelson Mandela University Research and Innovation Strategy highlights the institution's aspiration to provide an enabling environment that enhances postgraduate student success and accelerates the career advancement of emerging researchers.

The postgraduate cohort is an essential group for improving the research capacity of the University and contributing to the development of the next generation of academics and researchers. An important objective of the Postgraduate Research Scholarships is increasing the critical high-end skills base necessary for national socio-economic development and global competitiveness.

This scholarship programme links to the strategic intent of Vision 2030, which seeks to invest in the attraction, development and retention of socially diverse, research-active postgraduate students to promote talent continuity, research productivity and academic excellence. This framework document outlines the context and operational procedures for the Postgraduate Research Scholarships (PGRS) and should be read in conjunction with the policy on masters and doctoral degrees (IRC 403.01).

2. AREAS OF SUPPORT

The funding is intended to support honours, masters and doctoral candidates to **pursue postgraduate studies at Nelson Mandela University**, in all areas of Science, Engineering, the Social Sciences and Humanities, including the institutional research themes, which are: Ocean and Coastal Sciences; Social Justice and Democracy; Environmental Stewardship and Sustainable Livelihoods; Innovation and the Digital Economy; Origins, Culture, Heritage, and Memory; as well as Humanising Pedagogies.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

3.1. Eligibility for First-Time Applicants for Honours, Masters and Doctoral Funding

PGRS funding is open to **South African citizens, permanent residents and international candidates** who intend to undertake honours, masters and doctoral studies at Nelson Mandela University in the 2022 academic year. To be eligible, applicants must:

- Meet the following minimum academic requirements:
 - **For first-time honours funding** - A minimum average of 60% for the

- undergraduate degree.
- **For first-time masters funding** - A minimum average of 60% for the honours degree or postgraduate diploma.
- **For first-time doctoral funding** - A minimum average of 65% for the masters degree.
- Be Bachelor of Education students to be eligible for part-time funding at the honours level.

3.2. Eligibility for Extension Support for Masters and Doctoral Studies

The eligibility criteria for applicants for Extension Support for full- and part-time **masters and doctoral studies** in 2022 are as follows:

- Applicants must have received PGRS funding in 2021. Extension will only be granted under exceptional circumstances such as ill-health or bereavement leave and will be for either six (6) or twelve (12) months as Nelson Mandela University expects all postgraduate students to complete their qualifications within the funding period indicated in section 6.1 below.
- Applicants must attach a letter of motivation detailing reasons why the degree was not completed during the funding period. The letter must include a **detailed work plan with timelines of six (6) or twelve (12) months** for the outstanding activities and must be **signed by both the student and supervisor**.
- Applicants seeking extension support at the masters level must have registered for their masters degree in 2020 or by July 2019 for full-time studies and in 2019 or by July 2018 for part-time studies.
- Applicants seeking extension support at the doctoral level must have registered for their doctoral degree in 2019 or by July 2018 for full-time studies and in 2017 or by July 2016 for part-time studies.
- Applicants seeking extension support will be eligible for postgraduate funding at the same value as their 2021 funding.

3.3. Students not Eligible for PGRS Funding

The following categories of individuals are not eligible to apply for PGRS funding:

- Students who hold full- and part-time PGRS funding, which will still be active in 2022 are not eligible to apply for funding as new students. These continuing students must submit all required Progress Reports **through their supervisors on the PGRS Online System** by the stipulated cut-off date to receive funding for the 2022 academic year.

- Students who registered for full- and part-time masters studies before July 2020 and July 2018 respectively.
- Students who registered for full- and part-time doctoral studies before July 2019 and July 2016 respectively.
- Individuals who already hold a degree for the same level at which they intend studying, are not eligible to apply, e.g., individuals who already hold a masters qualification may not apply for PGRS funding for masters studies.
- Students who de-registered from a degree and are applying for funding for the same level may apply. However, the first date of registration for the original degree will be considered when determining the eligible period for PGRS funding.
- Students who intend to study towards a Postgraduate Diploma, Advance Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate, BTech or Postgraduate Certificate in Education. These students should contact the Financial Aid Office at FinancialAid@mandela.ac.za.
- Employees and dependents of employees of Nelson Mandela University who receive study-related financial incentives (e.g. waiving of class fees) are not eligible for PGRS funding.
- Students pursuing an undergraduate degree irrespective of the degree for which they are enrolled. This includes students in the final year of a four-year degree.

4. APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

Students must first identify the postgraduate programme they want to be enrolled in for their postgraduate degree and apply for admission *before* applying for PGRS funding. Applications for funding in 2022 must be submitted by accessing the link <http://researchscholarship.mandela.ac.za>. **The closing date for applications is Friday, 19 November.**

Applicants must **select the 'I Agree' button** before submitting the application, otherwise the application will be deemed incomplete.

First time and extension support applicants must attach the documents listed below. All the required documents should be scanned and submitted as **a single PDF file**.

- Certified ID/passport
- An official academic record on the University letterhead.
- Applicants with outstanding fees are required to attach their University account statement reflecting outstanding fees.
- First-time applicants who NSFAS previously supported must attach a letter from NSFAS or proof in the form of an official University financial statement clearly showing that the

funds originated from NSFAS.

- Extension support applicants must attach a letter of motivation detailing reasons why the degree was not completed during the funding period. The letter must include a **detailed work plan with timelines of six (6) or twelve (12) months** for the outstanding activities and must be **signed by both the student and supervisor**.
- Applicants with disabilities must attach a medical certificate in support of the disability.
- Proof of income for applicants in full-time salaried employment, working part-time or receiving other sources of funding.
- Applicants for whom PGRS will be their only source of funding must attach a letter (dated and signed) confirming that they have no other source of income.
- Applicants admitted for postgraduate studies at Nelson Mandela University in 2022 should provide proof of admission. Applicants who are awaiting confirmation of admission should provide proof that they have applied for admission.

***Applications that do not have the required attachments, are incomplete, contain insufficient or incorrect information or fail to comply with instructions will be rejected.**

Applications that meet the eligibility criteria will be subject to review by an internal panel constituted by the Office of Research Development. The panel will consider among other things, academic performance, financial need and alignment to Nelson Mandela University's institutional research themes. Based on the outcomes of the review process, applications will either be recommended for funding or not. Final awards will be based on the recommendations from the review process and the availability of funds. The Office of Research Development cannot guarantee funding for all eligible applicants, therefore students are encouraged to apply to multiply funders.

IMPORTANT: The Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (POPI Act) has been promulgated and was implemented on 1 July 2020. All personal identifiable information provided by applicants shall be treated in accordance with this statute and be used only for academic and academic administration purposes, as indicated by the Nelson Mandela University Privacy Policy. By applying for the scholarship, applicants provide consent to use all their personal identifiable information provided to the University for the aforesaid purposes.

5. FEEDBACK TO APPLICANTS AND APPEALS

Once the assessment processes have been completed and the Office of Research Development has approved the recommended funding decision, the status of applications on the PGRS system will indicate whether the application is successful or unsuccessful.

To be compliant with the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act (Act 3 of 2000), the Office of

Research Development will conduct an Appeals Process two months after outcomes have been communicated. Appeals by applicants may be submitted to rd@mandela.ac.za and will be responded to by the respective scholarship administrators. Only those applicants who met the eligibility criteria but were not recommended for funding are eligible to appeal. An appeal must be justified and must be endorsed by the supervisor to be considered. It is worth noting that a successful appeal does not automatically constitute an award, rather the application will be moved to the list of applications recommended for funding but may not be awarded due to budget constraints.

6. FUNDING PRINCIPLES

This scholarship programme aims to attract, nurture and retain high academic achievers in the system to pursue postgraduate studies up to the doctoral level. Every attempt will be made to allocate funding to meet the target of 80% South African citizens, 80% Black and 55% women, in line with the institutional transformation plan.

6.1. Scholarship Value and Duration

The period of support for all scholarships is calculated from the first year of registration for the degree, regardless of the years of PGRS funding. Scholarship values for the 2022 academic year for full- and part-time honours, masters and doctoral studies are indicated in the table below.

Level of Study	Full-Time Value (ZAR)	Full-Time Funding Period	Part-Time Value (ZAR)	Part-Time Funding Period
Honours	35 000	1 year	19 250	2 years
Masters (Course Work)	46 500	2 years	25 575	3 years
Masters (Research)	55 000	2 years	30 250	3 years
Doctoral	75 000	3 years	41 250	5 years

6.2. Assistive Devices for Students with Disabilities

All Scholarship-holders with disabilities may apply for additional funding for an assistive technology device or human support of up to **R20 000**. This is the maximum amount permitted during the tenure of the scholarship.

7. CONDITIONS OF AWARD

- Successful applicants who are offered PGRS funding are required to complete and sign the student agreement (Acceptance of Conditions) that will be forwarded at the time of

the award.

- All successful candidates will be expected to obtain the degree within one (1) year after the PGRS funding has ended and notify the Office of Research Development in writing. Scholarship-holders who fail to complete the degree will have to pay back the amount equal to all the PGRS funding they have received.
- Honours scholarships **not taken up by 30 April 2022** and **masters and doctoral scholarships not taken up by 31 July 2022 will be cancelled for reallocation** unless otherwise approved by the Office of Research Development.
- PGRS funding may **not** be held concurrently with Full Cost of Study (FCS) funding from the National Research Foundation (NRF) or any other funder.
- PGRS funding may be held concurrently with Partial Cost of Study (PCS) funding from the NRF or any other funder up to the Nelson Mandela University maximum value for honours, masters and doctoral studies. The combined value of scholarships held by each student may not exceed R140 000, R180 000 and R350 000 for honours, masters and doctoral students respectively.

8. REPORTING

For continuous funding and monitoring of the PGRS programme, scholarship-holders will be required to submit bi-annual progress reports **through their supervisors on the PGRS Online System**. Funds for continuing students will only be released subsequent to the submission of the progress report.

9. CONTACT DETAILS

For technical enquiries relating to the PGRS Online System, please contact the ICT Helpdesk (Mondays to Fridays from 08h00 to 16h30) on:

Tel: +27 (0) 41 504 3000 or E-mail: helpdesk@mandela.ac.za

For any other programme related enquiries, refer to the contact people in the table below:

Roles	Contact Person	Email
Honours	Mr Jolindon Petersen	jolindon.petersen@mandela.ac.za
Masters and Extension Support	Ms Olayide Olajuyin	olayide.olajuyin@mandela.ac.za
Doctoral and Extension Support	Mrs Delene Gerber	delene.gerber@mandela.ac.za