

Screening Checklist: NRF Postgraduate Student Funding Call 2022

General checklist (honours, master's, doctoral)

Section	What to look for	Accept	Reject
Registration Details	Nationality	<p>General scholarships and Grantholder-linked scholarships Honours - South African citizens and permanent residents</p> <p>Master's and doctoral – all nationalities supported</p> <p>Extension support scholarships Master's and doctoral – all nationalities supported</p> <p>SASAC Master's and Doctoral All nationalities supported</p> <p>Nuffic and DAAD scholarships South African citizens and permanent residents</p> <p>SARAO scholarships Honours - South African citizens and permanent residents</p> <p>Master's and doctoral - South African citizens and permanent residents, AND citizens of Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia</p>	<p>Honours – applicant is a foreign citizen</p> <p>DAAD – applicant is a foreign citizen</p> <p>Nuffic – applicant is a foreign citizen</p> <p>SARAO – applicant is not a citizen of one of the countries on the approved list</p> <p>TWAS - applicant is not a citizen of one of the developing countries on the approved list.</p>

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		<p>TWAS doctoral scholarships Foreign citizens from developing countries. *Please refer to the Framework for the list of countries.</p>	
	<p>Age</p> <p>Honours – applicant should not have been born before 1993</p> <p>Master’s - applicant should not have been born before 1991</p> <p>Doctoral - applicant should not have been born before 1989</p> <p>* The entry age requirement is 28, 30 and 32 years for honours, master’s and doctoral studies respectively, in the year of application, regardless of first year of registration.</p>	<p>Honours – born in 1993 onwards</p> <p>Master’s - born in 1991 onwards</p> <p>Doctoral - born in 1989 onwards</p>	<p>Honours – born before 1993</p> <p>Master’s - born before 1991</p> <p>Doctoral - born before 1989</p>
Academic achievements	<p>Minimum academic entry requirement</p> <p>The cumulative grade point average (GPA) should be $\geq 65\%$. The following checks are only applicable to those who have completed their “previous” degrees. Honours applicants – previous degree = undergraduate degree Master’s applicants – previous degree = honours/postgraduate diploma/final year of 4-year degree Doctoral applicants – previous degree = master’s degree</p>		

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	Honours – the GPA of the major subjects in the final year of undergraduate degree should be $\geq 65\%$	If GPA $\geq 65\%$ for major subjects final year of undergraduate degree.	If GPA $< 65\%$ for the major subjects in the final year of undergraduate degree.
	Master's – the GPA for Honours/postgraduate diploma/final year of 4-year degree should be $\geq 65\%$.	If the GPA for Honours/postgraduate diploma/final year of 4-year degree is $\geq 65\%$.	If the GPA for completed Honours/postgraduate diploma/final year of 4-year degree is $< 65\%$.
	Doctoral – the GPA for master's degree should be $\geq 65\%$.	If the GPA for master's degree is $\geq 65\%$.	If the GPA for completed master's degree is $< 65\%$.
	For those who have not completed their highest degrees, this information will have to be submitted to the NRF if a provisional award is made.	<p>Master's and doctoral applicants with an average academic merit score of $< 65\%$, should not be rejected if their highest studies are still in progress.</p> <p>Please do not reject international applications with a classification of "Pass" or "Pass with distinction" from international institutions.</p>	Please reject South African citizens, permanent residents and international applicants who studied at SA institutions with a classification of "Pass" or "Pass with distinction".
Degree to be funded	Only full-time students are eligible.	Full-time	Not full-time
	<p>Master's and doctoral only</p> <p>Indicate what you are currently doing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Student - n/a - Employed and willing to resign 	Employed and NOT willing to resign (masters and doctoral applications only)

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Career Profile	Honours Only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not employed - Temporary employment 	*Individuals who will be in contractual or permanent employment, whether salaried or unpaid, that exceeds 12 hours of work per week, while pursuing honours, master's or doctoral studies are not eligible.
Degree to be funded Academic transcript	<p>Degree registration</p> <p>Honours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the first date of registration should not be before July 2021 - Applicants should not have completed or be enrolled for a BTech degree or PG Diploma. <p>Master's - applicants 1st year of registration for the degree should not be before July 2020.</p> <p>Doctoral - applicants 1st year of registration for the degree should not be before July 2019.</p>	<p>Applicant registered for the degree after:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - July 2021 for honours - July 2020 for master's - July 2019 for doctoral 	<p>Honours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applicant already completed a BTech. - *Students who are pursuing an undergraduate degree in 2022 e.g. 4th year engineering <p>Applicant registered before:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - July 2021 for honours - July 2020 for master's - July 2019 for doctoral <p>*Students who intend to register for a pre-proposal year in 2022 are not eligible.</p> <p>*Students who intend to pursue a 100% master's by coursework are not eligible.</p> <p>*Students who intend to enrol for postgraduate diplomas or postgraduate certificates in education are not eligible.</p>

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			*Professional degrees (i.e. MBA, MBL, DBA, DBL, etc.) are not supported.
Qualifications/Academic Transcript	Applicants must not have a completed degree for the level they are applying for.	Applicant does not have a degree for the same level.	Applicant already has a degree for the same level. Honours – applicant has a BTech or PG diploma qualification.
Attachments	Copy of ID or passport must be attached to the application for all applicants.	ID/passport copy attached.	No ID/passport copy attached.
	Official academic transcript - applicants without academic transcripts because they owe university fees must attach either: (1) an official letter from university confirming their first year of registration for the degree and indicating that they still owe fees or (2) a statement showing that the applicant owes fees.	Official academic transcript OR Official letter from university confirming their first year of registration for the degree and indicating that they still owe fees.	No academic transcript or Official letter from the university attached.
	Proof of NSFAS/ISFAP for applicants who indicated that they received such funding in previous/current degrees.	If not attached, please make a comment, do not reject.	n/a

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		If there is proof of NSFAS, and the applicant has indicated that they need financial means test done. Please make a comment.	
Attachments	ISFAP Consent Form for applicants who indicated that they need a financial means test to be done.	Form correctly completed and signed by applicant and all household contributors. Form must be certified by a commissioner of oaths.	n/a
	Proof of disability for applicants who indicated that they are living with disability	If not attached, make a comment.	n/a
References *Note: General Scholarships only - a decision has been taken by the NRF to accept applications with a response from any of the referees listed in the References section. We will not look at the role of this referee.	Referee responses Honours – n/a Master's – master's supervisor or head of department or referee Doctoral – doctoral supervisor or referee	At least 1 referee has responded	No response from any referee *The deadline for the referee to respond is the same as the closing dates for the various funding opportunities. SARAO = 14 August 2021 M&D first time applicants = 20 August 2021 Nuffic = 20 August 2021 Extension support = 01 October 2021
Details of research Research project information	Master's and doctoral only Project title must be listed. Project outline should have sufficient details.	Project title provided. Sufficient details provided for project outline.	No title No project outline

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<p>Previous or current funding</p> <p>*This will be checked by the NRF as DAs do not have access to person history</p>	<p>Applicants must not have a valid NRF grant on the system for the same degree that they are applying for.</p> <p>This includes freestanding, grantholder-linked and block grants.</p>	<p>No previous NRF funding for the level applying for.</p>	<p>Applicant already has NRF funding for the same level.</p> <p>Freestanding and block grant students should complete a progress report for funding in 2022.</p> <p>Grantholder-linked students should be re-nominated under the grant in 2022 to receive funding.</p>

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The following checklists contain additional checks (over-and-above the general checklist) for the specific funding opportunities.

Grantholder-linked scholarships

***Please ensure that applicants select “grantholder-linked scholarship” as the scholarship applying for (Application Category section)**

Honours

Details of degree section – applicants who have been recruited to work under an NRF funded project (SARChI, CoE, Thuthuka etc.) should indicate their supervisor’s **UID/Grant Number** or **Application Reference Number** in the space provided. In the case of a student being linked to a CoE, the CoE grantholder may not be the supervisor but **must** be listed together with the UID (grant number).

Master’s and doctoral

References section - Applicants who are linked to supervisors with NRF Research Grants e.g. SARChI, Thuthuka, CoE etc. must list either the application reference number or the UID (grant number) of the supervisor in this section. In the case of a student being linked to a CoE, the CoE grantholder may not be the supervisor but **must** be listed together with the UID (grant number).

This will enable the NRF to separate the application during the funding decisions process. Missing information may affect the outcome of the application.

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DAAD master's and doctoral scholarships

Section	What to look for	Accept	Reject
Registration details	Citizenship	South African citizens or permanent residents	Foreign citizen
Attachments	A brief motivation on the interest to undertake a three (3) to six (6) months research visit in Germany.	If not attached, do not reject. Make a comment.	n/a
Attachments References	Applicants must also indicate if they have established collaborations in Germany and if they do, the applicant must provide the details of the collaborator.	If not provided, do not reject. Make a comment.	n/a

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TWAS doctoral scholarships

Section	What to look for	Accept	Reject
Registration Details	<p>Nationality and place of residence</p> <p>*Please refer to the Framework for the list of eligible countries.</p>	<p>Foreign citizens from developing countries.</p> <p>Not currently in South Africa.</p>	<p>South African citizens.</p> <p>Citizens and permanent residents of any developed country.</p> <p>Foreign citizens who hold permanent residence permits of South Africa.</p> <p>Foreign citizens who are already resident in South Africa and hold SA temporary residence or study permits.</p>
Degree to be funded	Science Engineering and Technology (SET) disciplines only.	SET discipline	Non-SET discipline
Qualifications Career profile	Applicants who conducted research or were employed in SA should have exited SA more than 2 years ago.	Applicant has been out of SA for more than 2 years after studying/working in SA.	Applicant has been out of SA for less than 2 years.
Attachments	<p>Proof of completion of master's or equivalent degree is mandatory.</p> <p>Academic transcript.</p> <p>SAQA Certificates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> attach certificates that are SAQA certified, OR 		<p>Proof of completion of master's degree not attached.</p> <p>Academic transcript not attached or not certified.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proof of application for SAQA certification. 		SAQA certificates OR proof of application not attached.
References Attachments	Support from SA host/supervisor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supervisor to respond under References section or, - Acceptance letter of support from supervisor. Research must be approved by SA host. An official letter from the host/laboratory/department/institution approving topic and permitting the applicant to do research within South Africa or with them must be attached. 	If doctoral supervisor has responded under references section <u>or</u> if a letter from the SA host is attached.	If doctoral supervisor did not respond and there is no letter from the SA host attached.

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SARAO scholarships (honours, master's, doctoral)

Section	What to look for	Accept	Reject
Registration details	Nationality	<p>Honours - South African citizens and permanent residents</p> <p>Master's and doctoral - South African citizens and permanent residents, AND citizens of Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia</p>	Applicant is a citizen of a country not on the provided list.
<p>Degree to be funded</p> <p>Research project information</p> <p>Details of research</p>	Degree focus	<p>Honours – Bachelor of Science – Honours: in Physics and Electronics or Astronomy or Astrophysics or Computer Science OR Bachelor of Science - Honours at NASSP (National Astrophysics and Space Science Programme)</p> <p>Master's and Doctoral – Students who wish to pursue postgraduate-level research relevant to the scientific and</p>	Degree focus is outside

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		<p>technical goals of the SKA and MeerKAT radio telescopes.</p> <p>*Please see the SARAO application guide for more details</p>	
Research Project		<p>Master's and doctoral only</p> <p>SARAO will only consider Master's/Doctoral scholarship applications from students who have selected an approved 2022 SARAO postgraduate research project.</p> <p>*Please see the SARAO application guide for more details</p>	
Attachments	Motivation or biography should be attached to the application.	Motivation/biography attached. If not, make a comment.	n/a
References Attachments	<p>Master's and doctoral only</p> <p>Support from supervisor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supervisor to respond under References section or, - If a supervisor agrees to supervise a student, the supervisor will be required to provide the student with a signed letter, on a university letterhead, stating that he/she has agreed to supervise the 	If supervisor has responded under references section <u>or</u> if a letter from the supervisor is attached.	If supervisor did not respond and there is no letter from the supervisor attached.

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	<p>student for the relevant project. The student must upload a signed copy of this letter with their application.</p> <p>*Please see the SARAO application guide for more details</p>		
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Extension support for master's and doctoral

Section	What to look for	Accept	Reject
Phoenix (person history)	The applicant must have a valid grant on the system in 2021	Valid grant on the system in 2021 (freestanding, grantholder-linked or block grant)	No grant on the system in 2021.
Degree to be funded	Full time studies in 2022	Full-time	Not full-time
Degree to be funded Academic transcript	<p>First date of registration for the degree</p> <p>Master's applicants first year of registration for the degree should not be before July 2019.</p> <p>Doctoral applicants first year of registration for the degree should not be before July 2018.</p>	<p>Registered for the degree after:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - July 2019 for Master's (i.e. will be in 3rd year of studies in 2022) - July 2018 for Doctoral (i.e. will be in 4th year of studies in 2022) 	<p>Registered for the degree before:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - July 2019 for Master's - July 2018 for Doctoral
References	<p>Supervisor response</p> <p>*the supervisor must support the extension application</p>	Supervisor responded	<p>No supervisor response</p> <p>*The deadline for the supervisor to respond is the same as the closing date i.e. 01 October 2021</p>

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Nuffic doctoral scholarships (split-site)

Section	What to look for	Accept	Reject
References	Commitment from supervisors from the Dutch HEI and the South African Partner Institution	Both supervisors have responded.	No responses or only one supervisor responded. *The deadline for the supervisor to respond is the same as the closing date i.e. 20 August 2021
Attachments	Provisional letter of acceptance for doctoral studies at the Dutch HEI and South African university in the case of a joint degree. The letter must confirm that the necessary research infrastructure, resources and funds for undertaking the research and supporting the doctoral student exists within their faculty/school/department	Letter attached	n/a (make a comment if letter not attached, do not reject)
Current degree funding If applicant has resumed with the doctoral study	Students who currently hold South African or Netherlands government funding for a doctoral degree.	Applicant does not hold any SA or Netherlands government funding for their doctoral degree.	Applicant currently holds SA or Netherlands government funding for their doctoral degree.