  



**A partnership between the NDoH, PHEF and the SAMRC**

**A National Health Research Committee Initiative**

**Request for Applications**

(2023 enrolment)

**About BM-NHSP**

The Bongani Mayosi National Health Scholars Programme (BM-NHSP) is an initiative by the National Health Research Committee (NHRC) and a partnership between the National Department of Health (NDoH), the Public Health Enhancement Fund (PHEF) and the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC). The objective of the BM-NHSP is to fund the training of 1000 PhDs in health and clinical research over a 10-year period.

**The 2023 BM-NHSP Request for Applications (RFA)**

Applications are invited for PhD scholarships for study at the selected South African universities listed below. Funding is towards the completion of the degree and is made available for a full degree period (i.e. prescribed time for a PhD) as a tax-free scholarship for full-time study. The value of the scholarship is equivalent to the after-tax take-home pay of the applicant, in terms of the public service professional scales applicable to the qualification(s) of the candidate (excluding overtime pay). Applicants are to note that, once the benchmarking process has been completed (based on the criteria at the time) and a scholarship amount has been awarded, it will remain fixed for the full duration of the studies, irrespective of a change in circumstances, such as, for example, additional qualifications/credentials obtained or an increase in Occupation Specific Dispensation scales.

The purpose of this particular RFA is to build capacity for clinical and health research through doctoral level research training in historically disadvantaged institutions, namely: (i) University of Fort Hare, (ii) University of Limpopo, (iii) University of Venda, (iv) Walter Sisulu University, (v) University of the Western Cape, (vi) University of Zululand, (vii) Mangosuthu University of Technology and (viii) Sefako Makgatho Health Science University. The current funding opportunity is targeting the following health professionals enrolled at one of the above institutions (list not exhaustive): Professional nurses, Occupational therapists, Optometrists, Biostatisticians, Social Workers, Demographers, Physiotherapists, Pharmacists, Psychologists, Medical Practitioners and Medical Scientists who are currently enrolled for a PhD and conducting research in the following national research priority areas: Communicable diseases, Non-communicable diseases, Maternal and child health, Trauma and violence, Mental Health and Health System Strengthening.

**Requirements for application (Please check your eligibility before you apply).**

1. Must be a South African citizen or permanent resident
2. Applicants must hold a master’s degree
3. Must have an officially approved PhD research proposal
4. Must be registered as a full-time PhD student in one of the institutions listed above
5. Must provide written commitment of participation from an experienced research supervisor who is willing to train the student for the entire duration of the degree
6. The research supervisor must have research funding for the project and appropriate facilities for the scholar to effectively conduct the PhD research project

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| --- | --- |
| **Requirements and Selection Criteria** (**Please use this list to make sure your application is complete)** | **Attached****check (√)** |
| 1. ***Suitability of the candidate:***

**Max 1-page**: Motivation demonstrating candidate’s suitability and describing how success in the BM-NHSP application will impact candidate’s career. It should be accompanied by an abridged curriculum vitae containing a full list of research outputs in the last seven years and other meritorious achievements. |  |
| 1. ***Quality of the science:***

**Max 2 pages**: Abstract of the PhD proposal outlining the rationale, design, feasibility, plans for research translation and information dissemination as well as potential impact of the proposed research project. **NB: Proposed research project should be aligned with the priority research areas for this specific call. Please attach the official approval letter for the research proposal.**  |  |
| 1. ***Supervisor’s abridged track record and signed commitment form***:

**Max 3 pages**: An abridged outline of publications, grants and experience of the supervisor in research supervision of PhD students and a signed commitment form **(Annexure A). If 2023 is the applicant’s fourth year of PhD registration, please attach applicant’s PhD completion plan signed by both applicant and supervisor.** |  |
| 1. ***Research environment:***

**Max 1-page**:Letter from the host institution confirming it will provide appropriate facilities for the scholar to effectively conduct the PhD research project. |  |
| 1. ***Signed application form:*** Please sign below and submit this form with your application.
 |  |
| ***6. Please attach a certified copy of South African identity document*** (***must be certified by a Commissioner of Oaths)*** |  |
| ***7. Please attach an official letter confirming the date of first registration for the degree to be funded***  |  |
| ***8. Please attach an official approval letter of the candidate's final version of their research proposal*** |  |
| ***9. Please attach evidence of ethics clearance***  |  |
| ***10. Please attach a support letter detailing the availability of research funding/running costs***  |  |
| ***11. Confirm that the 10-page limit is not exceeded (excluding official documents; 5,6, 7 and 8)*** |  |

Above is a table showing the selection criteria and documents that must be submitted with the application (not more than 10 pages). It is important that you check (√) the right column to confirm completeness of the application before submitting.

**Scholarship Conditions**

* Scholarship holders are expected to spend at least 90% of their time conducting research.
* Teaching and clinical activities may not take up more than 10% of the time of the scholar.
* Scholarship holders may not receive, concurrently with this scholarship, other bursaries, grants or remuneration which bind them to enter the service of any organization without prior agreement of the SAMRC.
* Candidates may not hold a bursary from more than one South African Government statutory entity at any given time.
* Scholarship holders may not receive, concurrently with this scholarship, other non-binding remuneration/fellowships and grants without prior agreement of the SAMRC.
* Scholarship holders may not, without seeking approval from the SAMRC, register at a university other than that through which the application has been submitted.
* Once the scholarship has been awarded, the scholarship holder may not change his/her supervisor without informing the SAMRC.
* Supervisors will be expected to submit 6-monthly progress reports.
* Application for renewal of funding will be considered on an annual basis, and success thereof will be subject to satisfactory progress being made.
* Successful applicants will be required to enter into an agreement with the SAMRC to complete their studies within the specified time period.

Full applications must be completed online, and all additional documents requested emailed to Mr Vincent Fipaza on or before **18 May 2023** at Vincent.Fipaza@mrc.ac.za (Tel 021 938 0311).

**The South African Medical Research Council reserves the right to disqualify ineligible, incomplete and/or inappropriate applications, change the conditions of the award, extend the closing date or make no awards at all. Please note that only successful candidates will be contacted after completion of the review, selection and approval processes.**

**Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA)**

*As of the 1st of July 2021, the new Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) came into full effect. The law is designed to protect how all juristic persons use, store and process data. You can read the full details on the act here:*[*https://popia.co.za/*](https://popia.co.za/)

*The SAMRC as a responsible statutory science council complies with POPIA. The SAMRC will receive personal information through applications submitted to the SAMRC for the purposes of applying for funding. The personal information requested on the application template is necessary for the SAMRC to fully evaluate the applications for funding. This information will be shared with members of Scholarship Selection Committees of the SAMRC and external funders and/or stakeholders where applicable as well as the SAMRC management for the purposes of processing the applications. The SAMRC will process this personal information strictly in accordance with POPIA. The SAMRC undertakes specifically to process the personal information on the basis that (a) it was provided voluntarily and (b) the information will be processed only as far may be necessary and within the limitation and ambit of the purpose of evaluating the application for funding (i.e., the purpose with which the personal information was received). The SAMRC confirms that it is lawfully processing the information since the purpose of processing is to seek quality applications for funding which the SAMRC is mandated to do in terms of Section 4 of the SAMRC Act 58 of 1991, thus the SAMRC is fulfilling its legislated and lawful mandate, and strategic objectives as provided for in the SAMRC Act.*

For enquiries contact: Dr Lindokuhle Ndlandla at Lindokuhle.Ndlandla@mrc.ac.za / Tel 021 938 0442

**Incomplete applications will not be considered. Should you not hear from the SAMRC by 31 July 2023, please assume that your application has been unsuccessful.**

**Application Form**

**Personal details:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title (Ms, Mr, Dr)  | First name:  |
| Surname:  |  |
| Gender:  | Female | Male |
| Population group: | African  | Colored | Indian | Asian | White |
| Citizenship | South African citizen | South African Permanent resident  | Other (Specify) |
| ID number:  | Attach a certified copy of South African identity document  |
| Postal address:  | Physical address:  |
| Work telephone no: (*where Applicable*) | Mobile no:  |
| University e-mail address:  | Personal e-mail address: |

**Academic Information:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Highest qualification |  |
| Profession |  |
| Years of experience in the profession |  |
| Current position (where applicable) |  |
| Employer (where applicable) |  |
| Income per annum (pre-tax, where applicable) | Attach recent payslip (not older than three months) |
| Alignment of the proposed research to the national priority research areas  | Communicable diseases | Non-communicable diseases |
| Maternal and child health | Trauma and violence  |
| Mental Health  | Health system strengthening |
| Are you registered for a PhD?*Please Mark the correct box*  | Yes (attach evidence of current registration) | No |
| PhD registration in 2023 | Full-time | Part-time  |
| Year of PhD Study in 2023 | First Year | Second Year |
| Third Year | Fourth YearAttach completion plan signed by applicant and supervisor  |
| University at which currently registered  |  |
| Date of first registration for the degree to be funded  | Attach evidence |
| Faculty  |  |
| Department  |  |
| Title of PhD research project |  |
| PhD supervisor  |  |
| E-mail address of supervisor |  |
| PhD co-supervisor (where applicable) |  |
| My research project has ethics clearance*Please Mark the correct box* | Yes | No |
| The post graduate office or equivalent office has accepted the project title *Please Mark the correct box* | Yes | No |

**I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (full names), hereby submit my application for a full-time PhD Scholarship and am cognisant of the conditions under which this scholarship is awarded**.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signature: | Date: |

**Annexure A**

**Main supevisor’s commitment form** (To be filled in and signed by the main supervisor)

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| --- | --- |
| Title |  |
| Supervisor’s full name |  |
| Institution name |  |
| Department |  |
| E-mail address |  |
| Contact number |  |
| Are you the main supervisor of the applicant? | Yes | No |
| Has the candidate’s research proposal been approved by the institution / or relevant authorised office? | Yes | No |
| Does the proposed project require ethical clearance? | Yes | No |
| Has the ethics committee approved the research proposal? | YesAttach evidence | No | NA*State reason* |
| Does the area proposed for the researchcomplement or directly relate to your research interests? | Yes | No |
| Does the institution have the internalfacilities, infrastructure (laboratories or as appropriate) and research funding thatwill be required for the research to beconducted? | YesAttach support letter | No |
| Are there any concerns (if any please provide details) |  |
| Comment on the feasilibility of the proposed research  |  |
| Will this research project (degree) be completed within the prescribed degree duration (PhD = 3 Years) | Yes | No *State reasons* |
| Comment on the applicant’s ability to conduct the proposed research project |  |
| Comment on the applicant’s progress to date |  |

 **I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (supervisor’s full names), hereby support the scholar’s application for the SAMRC scholarship and commit to undertake the supervision of the applicant**

**(applicant’s full name).**

