**SAMRC Clinician Researcher Programme**

**PhD Scholarships for Clinician-Scientists**

**Request for Applications**

(2023 enrolment)

The SAMRC’s Division of Research Capacity Development (RCD) invites applications from eligible South African citizen or permanent resident health professionals who hold an MBChB or BDS qualification to apply for PhD scholarship funding under the SAMRC Clinician Researcher Programme. The aim of the SAMRC Clinician Researcher Programme is to increase the number of clinician-scientists in South Africa who possess a PhD and have the capability to conduct high-impact research and occupy leadership positions in the South African academic, clinical, and research sectors. The full time PhD scholarships will only be awarded to candidates with a degree in medicine (MBChB) or dentistry (BDS).

**The 2023 SAMRC Clinician Researcher Programme (CRP) Request for Applications (RFA)**

This funding opportunity is aimed at individuals who are already enrolled for PhD studies. The overarching goal of the SAMRC in this programme is to increase racial diversity and gender balance in the pipeline of clinician-scientists. As such, we encourage participation from underrepresented groups.

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| **Level** | **No. of years** | **Value p.a.** | **Notes** |
| PhD scholarship | 3 (+1 year extra, upon special motivation from the Supervisor) | R500 000.00 | 1. Funding is until completion of the degree, or the specified number of years, whichever occurs first. Adequate performance is required for annual renewal of the scholarship. |

**Requirements for application**

1. Must be a South African citizen or permanent resident.
2. Must have an officially approved PhD research proposal.
3. Must be registered as a full-time PhD student at a South African university.
4. Must provide written commitment of participation by an experienced research supervisor who is willing to train the student for the entire duration of the degree.
5. 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 ensure your application is complete)** | **Attached**  **check (√)** |
| 1. ***Suitability of the candidate:***   **Max. 2 pages**: **Motivation** demonstrating the candidate’s suitability and describing how success in the CRP application will impact the 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. **Must be written by the applicant.** |  |
| 1. ***Quality of the science:***   **Max. 2 pages**: Abstract of the PhD proposal outlining the aim and objectives, 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 SAMRC’s priority research areas for this specific call. Please attach the official approval letter for the research proposal.** |  |
| 1. ***Supervisor’s track record and signed commitment form***:   **Max. 2 pages**: An abridged outline of publications, grants and experience of the supervisor in research supervision of Master’s and PhD students and a signed commitment form **(Annexure A).** |  |
| 1. ***Research environment:***   **Max. 2 pages**:Letter from the host institution confirming availability of research funding or running costs and appropriate research facilities for the scholar to effectively conduct and complete the PhD research project within the prescribed PhD period (max. 4 years). If 2023 is the applicant’s fourth year of PhD registration, please attach a detailed PhD completion plan with clear timelines of what remains to be completed. The PhD completion plan should be signed by both applicant and supervisor. |  |
| 1. ***Attach a certified copy of the applicant’s South African identity document* (*must be certified by a Commissioner of Oaths)*** |  |
| 1. ***Attach an official letter confirming the date of first registration for the degree to be funded and proof of registration for 2023*** |  |
| 1. ***Attach an official approval letter of the candidate's final version of their research proposal*** |  |
| 1. ***Attach evidence of ethics clearance*** |  |
| 1. ***Signed scholarship application form:*** Please complete and sign the application form below and submit this form with all documents listed in this table in a single pdf file |  |

Above is a table showing the selection criteria and documents that must be submitted with the application. An application which does not comply with the above requirements will be regarded as incomplete and will not be considered.

**Scholarship Conditions**

* Scholarship holders are expected to spend at least 90% of their time conducting research towards their PhD.
* 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 or 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 or research project without informing the SAMRC.
* Scholar will be expected to submit six-monthly progress reports endorsed by the supervisor.
* 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 period.

**How to apply**

**Opening date: 17 July 2023**

**Closing date: 15 August 2023, 23:59** **(EXTENDED TO 29 August 2023, 23:59)**

**Application Process**

Application steps 1 to 3 below must be completed.

* Step 1 - Complete the [online application](https://forms.gle/x22dfMGH3mjwWvMw7) before or by 15 August 2023, 23:59 **(EXTENDED TO 29 August 2023, 23:59)**
* Step 2- Complete the application form PhD Scholarships for Clinician-Scientists Request for Applications
* Step 3- E-mail the required supporting documents together with the application form from step 2 in a single pdf file to the dedicated e-mail address: [CRPapplications@mrc.ac.za](mailto:CRPapplications@mrc.ac.za) on or before 15 August 2023, 23:59 **(EXTENDED TO 29 August 2023, 23:59)**

**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.** **Should you not hear from the SAMRC by 30 October 2023, please assume that your application has been unsuccessful.**

For enquiries contact Dr Lindokuhle Ndlandla at [Lindokuhle.Ndlandla@mrc.ac.za](mailto:Lindokuhle.Ndlandla@mrc.ac.za) / Tel. 021 938 0442.

**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.*

**APPLICATION FORM**

**Personal Details** (Mark the correct one with a tick √)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Title: (Ms, Mr, Dr): | | | | | First Name: | | |
| Surname: | | | | | Sex: F / M | | |
| Population group: | Black | Coloured | Indian | White | Date of Birth:  *Day/ Month / Year* | | |
| Citizenship: | | | | | SA Citizen | SA Permanent Resident | Other (Specify) |
| South African ID no.: (enter) | | | | | Attach a certified copy of the ID document and confirm here with a tick (√) that you have attached it. | | |
| Postal Address: | | | | |  | | |
| Work telephone no.: (*where applicable*) | | | | | Mobile no.: | | |
| Alternative no.: | | | | |  | | |
| University e-mail address: | | | | |  | | |
| Alternative e-mail address: | | | | |  | | |

**Academic Information** (Mark the correct one with a tick √)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Highest qualification: |  | | | | |
| PhD year of study (2023): | 1ST year | 2ND year | 3RD year | | 4TH year |
| Current degree funded by: |  | | | | |
| University at which you are currently registered: | **Attach proof of registration for 2023** | | | | |
| First date of registration: | **Attach evidence** | | | | |
| Faculty: |  | | | | |
| Department: |  | | | | |
| Title of PhD research project to be funded: |  | | | | |
| Alignment of the proposed research to the SAMRC priority research areas: | Biomedical Research | | | HIV, TB and other communicable diseases | |
| Health System Strengthening | | | Health Promotion and Disease Prevention | |
| Maternal child and woman health | | | Non-communicable diseases | |
| Public Health Innovation | | | Violence, injury and trauma | |
| Potential societal impact of the proposed research: |  | | | | |
| Science engagement activities: *State how you intend to communicate and engage with the wider community on the significance of your research in an effort to bridge the gap between science and society* |  | | | | |
| Research supervisor: |  | | | | |
| Research supervisor contact details:  E-mail address: |  | | | | |
| Contact no. of research supervisor: |  | | | | |
| Co-supervisor:  (where applicable) |  | | | | |
| Co-supervisor’s institution: |  | | | | |
| National | | | International | |
| Co-supervisor contact details:  E-mail address: |  | | | | |
| Proposed research project requires ethics approval: | Yes ***(if yes, attach ethics clearance letter)*** | | | No | |
| Proposed research project has been approved by the postgraduate office or equivalent office: | Yes ***(attach official evidence)*** | | | 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 research supevisor’s commitment form**

(To be filled in and signed by the main supervisor)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Title (Prof/Dr) |  | | |
| Research supervisor’s full name |  | | |
| Institution name |  | | |
| Department |  | | |
| E-mail address |  | | |
| Contact number |  | | |
| Are you the main research 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? | Yes  **Attach evidence** | No | N/A  *State reason* |
| Does the area proposed for the research complement or directly relate to your research interests? | Yes | No | |
| Does the institution have the internal facilities, infrastructure (laboratories or as appropriate) and research funding that will be required for the research to be conducted? | Yes  **Attach support letter** | No | |
| Are there any concerns (if any, please provide details) |  | | |
| Comment on the feasibility 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 |  | | |

**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).**