

SAMRC Internship Scholarship Programme
Masters and PhD Scholarships for Clinical/Health Research

SAMRC INTRA AND EXTRA-MURAL RESEARCH UNITS

The objective of the SAMRC Internship Scholarship Programme is primarily to transform the composition of the country's health and clinical research human capital to be more representative of the demographics of the nation. Within the context of the SAMRC, the SAMRC Internship Scholarship Programme is specifically designed to open an opportunity to develop Black Scientists i.e., African Black, Coloured, and Indian scientists through PhD training. Preference will be given to candidates registered for a doctoral degree or MSc in scarce skills and strategic and/or emerging research areas.

The purpose of this Request for Applications (RFA) is to attract black scientists in the following research fields, which will be given preference: Biostatistics, Bioethics, Bioinformatics, Data Science, Digital Health, Demography, Epidemiology, Evolutionary Virology, Implementation Science, Health Economics, Genomics, Immunology and Structural Biology.

Level	No. of years	Value of scholarship p.a.	Notes
PhD	3 + (1 year extra, on compelling motivation from hosting Unit Director and Supervisor)	R200 000.00	<p>1. Funding is until completion of degree, or the specified number of years, whichever comes first. Adequate performance is a requirement for annual renewal of the scholarship.</p> <p>2. Candidates must: i) provide proof of being registered full time, and ii) have ethics clearance for the research project where applicable.</p>
MSc	1 + (1 year on compelling motivation from hosting Unit Director and Supervisor)	R160 000.00	<p>1. Only scholars who are doing specialized Master's degrees in the following research areas will be considered Biostatistics, Computer Science / Data Science / Epidemiology / Demography and Data analytics.</p>

			2. Candidates must: i) provide proof of being registered full time, and ii) have ethics clearance for the research project.
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Requirements for application

- 1) South African citizen or permanent resident.
- 2) Black candidate (African Black/Coloured/Indian).
- 3) A fully developed and officially approved research proposal for the MSc/PhD.
- 4) Must be registered as a full-time student at a South African university.
- 5) Research project must fall within the SAMRC priority research areas.
- 6) Current registration at the university in which the degree will be awarded.
- 7) Must provide written commitment of participation by a research unit director from SAMRC intramural unit or SAMRC extramural unit or SAMRC research centre who is willing to host the student for the entire duration of the degree.
- 8) Must be receiving supervisory support from SAMRC intramural unit or SAMRC extramural unit or SAMRC research centre who is willing to train the student for the entire duration of the degree.
- 9) The hosting research unit or supervisor must have research funding for the project and appropriate facilities for the scholar to effectively conduct the research project.

How to apply

Opening date: 22 January 2024
Closing date: 22 February 2024, 23:59

Application Process

Application steps 1 to 2 below must be completed before or by 22 February 2024, 23:59.

- Step 1 – Complete the [online application](#) and upload all the required supporting documents (see page 7-8).
- Step 2 – Main research supervisor must complete the research supervisor's commitment form

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 28 March 2024, please assume that your application has been unsuccessful.

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

Scholarship Conditions

- Scholarship holders are expected to spend at least 90% of their time conducting research towards their studies.
- 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.

Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA)

As of the 1st of July 2020, 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/>

The SAMRC as a responsible statutory science council will comply 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 research proposals 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.

- I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understood the scholarship conditions.
- I hereby authorise and consent to the organisation sharing my personal information for the purpose of evaluating my application for funding.

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

Incomplete applications will not be considered.



**SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL
RESEARCH COUNCIL
DIVISION OF RESEARCH
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

Y	N
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EXAMPLE OF THE APPLICATION

APPLICATION FORM

Personal Details (Mark the correct one with a tick ✓)

1. Title (Ms, Mr, Dr)					2. First Name:		
3. Surname:					4. Gender F / M		
5. Population group:	African Black	Coloured	Indian	White	6. Date of Birth: <i>Day / Month / Year</i>		
7. Citizenship					South African citizen	South African Permanent resident	Other (Specify)
8. South African ID no.: (insert)					Attach a certified copy of the ID document and confirm here with a tick (✓) that you have attached it.		
9. Postal Address:							
10. Work telephone no.: (<i>where applicable</i>)					11. Mobile no.:		
12. Alternative no.:							
13. University e-mail address:							
14. Alternative e-mail address:							

Academic Information (Mark the correct one with a tick ✓)

15. Highest qualification:							
16. This application is for which degree level:	MSc		PhD				
	1 st year	2 nd year	1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd year	4 th year	(If this application is for 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.)
17. Current degree funded by:							

18. University at which you are currently registered:		
19. First date of registration	Attach evidence of first date of registration	
20. Faculty		
21. Department		
22. Relationship to the SAMRC	SAMRC intramural unit	SAMRC extramural unit
	SAMRC research centre	Supervisor/main project funded by SAMRC
	Previous degree funded by RCD	None of the above
23. SAMRC Intra/Extramural Research Unit Name		
24. Title of research project to be funded		
25. Research field	Biostatistics	Data Science
	Demography	Digital Health
	Epidemiology	Health Economics
	Genomics	Immunology
	Bioethics	Evolutionary Virology
	Implementation Science	Structural Biology
26. 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
27. Potential societal impact of the proposed research		
28. Science engagement activities: <i>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</i>		
Research supervisor Details:		
29. Research supervisor's full name:		
30. Research supervisor's email address:		

31. Research supervisor's contact number:		
32. Co-supervisor's full name: (If applicable)		
33. Co-supervisor's Institution:		
	National	International
34. Co-supervisor contact details: Email address:		
Research Project Details:		
35. Proposed research project requires ethics approval	Yes	No
36. Proposed research project has been approved by the postgraduate office or equivalent office	Yes	No

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

Requirements and Selection Criteria (Please use this list to ensure your application is complete)	Attached check (v)		
1. Suitability of the candidate: Max. 2 pages: Motivational letter demonstrating the candidate's suitability and describing how success in the scholarship application will impact the candidate's career. Must be written by the applicant. The application should be accompanied by an abridged curriculum vitae containing a full list of research outputs in the last seven years and other meritorious achievements.	Y	N	
2. Quality of the science: Max. 2 pages: Abstract of the MSc/PhD research 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 priority research areas listed on the application form.	Y	N	NA
3. Supervisor's track record:	Y	N	

Max. 2 pages: An abridged outline of publications, grants, and experience of the supervisor in research supervision of Master’s and PhD students in the last five (5) years			
4. Research environment: Max 2 pages: Letter from the host institution/ SAMRC research unit confirming availability of research funding or running costs and appropriate research facilities for the scholar to effectively conduct and complete their research project within the prescribed MSc/PhD period (max. 4 years of PhD).	Y	N	
5. Attach a certified copy of the applicant’s South African identity document (must be certified by a Commissioner of Oaths)	Y	N	
6. Attach an official letter confirming the date of first registration for the degree to be funded and proof of registration for the current year	Y	N	
7. Attach an official approval letter of the candidate's final version of their research proposal	Y	N	
8. Attach evidence of ethics approval	Y	N	N/A

An application which does not comply with the above requirements will be regarded as incomplete and cannot be submitted.

Signature: <small>(You will be required to upload and attach your signature)</small>	Date:
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EXAMPLE OF THE APPLICATION

Research supervisor's commitment form

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

Title (Professor/Dr/Ms/Mr)			
Research supervisor's full name			
Applicant'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 <u>relevant authorised</u> office?	Yes	No	
Does the proposed project require ethical clearance?	Yes	No	
Has the ethics committee approved the research proposal?	Yes	No	NA <i>State reason</i>
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	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 (MSc = 2 years; PhD = 3 Years)	Yes	No <i>State reasons</i>	
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).



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Signature

(Please note that you will be required to upload and attach your signature)

Date:

EXAMPLE OF THE APPLICATION