**SAPRIN Request for Applications Nodal PhD Fellowship** 30 Jan 2024

## Summary

SAPRIN is excited to announce an opportunity for a second nodal PhD fellowship, which uses a **Principal Investigator** (PI) model. The PI who will supervise the PhD activities will be the main applicant. The PI needs have had at least three years post-doctoral experience and be affiliated to a SAPRIN node. The PhD student must register at one of the universities associated with a SAPRIN node. The PhD candidate must be registered and protocol approved within six months (by 08 October 2024) of receiving the award. The PI will be responsible for the recruitment and supervision of the PhD fellow. The study must make use of Health and Demographic Surveillance System data that is routinely collected at a SAPRIN node, and/ or be based on primary data collected in a study that is embedded in one or more SAPRIN nodes. The fellowship will be awarded by an adjudication panel in a competitive process, and the final award approved by the Steering Committee. One fellowship will be available in 2024, and we expect annual repeats to follow in later years.

## Aim

The aim is to advance a theme of knowledge at a node under the guidance of a PI whose work is embedded in the node. It will also provide first-rate learning experience for the research student, who will obtain the doctorate based on this work.

## Budget

The fellowship will be a total of R2,080,000 over a four-year period, covering tuition and research, as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Annual cost** | **Total** |
| Stipend | R 180,000 | R720,000 |
| Tuition | R 30,000 | R120,000 |
| Travel to node | R 10,000 | R 40,000 |
| Research Project  | R 300,000 | R1,200,000 |
| **Total** | **R520,000** | **R2,080,000** |

### Budget justification:

1. **Stipend and Tuition:**
	1. Living allowance at R180,000 untaxed
	2. University tuition at around R20,000 to R30,000
	3. Travel expenses between HDSS Node and University, at around R10,000 to R20,000
2. **Research Project**
	1. Up to a maximum of R300,000 per year.
	2. All costs must be justified.
	3. Excluded costs include the following:
		1. Indirect costs or institutional overheads because SAPRIN already funds the node;
		2. Purchase or construction of a building;
		3. Rental costs for space that is owned by the institution;
		4. Recruitment costs of staff;
		5. The costs of purchasing or leasing office furniture, stationery or telephone and IT infrastructure costs;
		6. Membership fees of any sort such as journal subscription costs and textbooks and the like.

## How to Apply

The fellowship will be awarded by an adjudication panel in a competitive process, and the final award approved by the Steering Committee. To apply complete and submit the application form below. A letter of support is required from the nodal director and an up-to-date curriculum vitae for the main applicant. The completed application form must be emailed to **saprin@mrc.ac.za**.

## Key Dates

**Application submission closing date:** 18:00 on Friday 15 March 2024

**Adjudication complete:** 29 March 2024

**Notice to successful applicant:** 5 April 2024

**Registration of PhD with protocol approved:** 08 October 2024.

## Assessment Criteria

The following criteria will be used in assessing the applications for the nodal PhD fellowship.

1. Is the Principal investigator eligible?
* affiliated to an HDSS node
* more than three years post-doc
1. PhD location
* student registered at one of the universities associated with SAPRIN
* full-time degree
1. Quality of the proposal:
* originality of the research question and/ or relevance to public policy
* innovation in methodology
* contribution to existing theme at the node

# **Application Form**

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| --- |
| Application Summary |
| Application Title |
| Name of the PhD research being proposed  |
| Name of the administering organisation |
| The organisation that will sub-contract with the South African Medical Research Council to host the SAPRIN nodal PhD fellowship |
| SAPRIN node(s) involved |
| Where will the PhD research be located? |
| Lead Applicant (Principal Investigator) |
| **Title:** |  | **Full Name:** |  |
| **Department:** |  |
| **Division:** |  |
| **Organisation:** |  |
| **Address:** |  |
| **City/Town:** |  | **Postcode:** |  |
| **Telephone Nr:** |  | **Email:** |  |
| **1.4.1 Career History (current/most recent first)** |
| **From** | **To** | **Position** | **Organisation** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **1.4.2 Education/Training** |
| **From** | **To** | **Qualification** | **Subject** | **Organisation** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **1.4.3 Do you have experience supervising PhD students?** |
|  |
| **1.4.4 What are your most important research-related contributions?** Examples can include publications and impacts on policy. |
|  |
| **1.4.5 Research Outputs.** List up to 12 of your most significant research outputs, including but not limited to* Peer-reviewed publications;
* Datasets, software and research materials;

Give the citation in full, including the title of paper and all authors (unless more than 6, in which case you may use 'et al', ensuring that your position as author remains clear).  |
|  |
| **1.4.6 Applicant Signature:** |  |
| Nodal PhD fellowship application |
| Application SummaryProvide a summary of the application. 300 words maximum |
|  |
| The proposal Describe the main question(s) to be addressed in the PhD research and proposed methodology. 1500 words maximum  |
|  |
| Originality of the research question and/ or relevance to public policy Describe what is original about the research question. If the question is less original but is relevant for public policy, then describe this instead. If is it both summarise both.  |
|  |
| Innovation in methodologyDescribe any methodological innovations to be developed in the research. |
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| Contributions to an existing theme at the nodeDescribe an existing theme or body of work at the node that the PhD will contribute to. |
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