

SAMRC RCD SCHOLARSHIPS



Pre-Application Workshop

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The South African Medical Research Council

recognizes the catastrophic and persisting consequences of colonialism and apartheid, including land dispossession and the intentional imposition of educational and health inequities.

Acknowledging the SAMRC's historical role and silence during apartheid, we commit our capacities and resources to the continued promotion of justice and dignity in health research in South Africa.

HOUSE KEEPING

- This workshop will be recorded
- Participants will be muted during the presentation
- Please chat your questions in the Q&A window
- The RFA documents can be found at the SAMRC funding webpage

<https://www.samrc.ac.za/funding/samrc-internship-scholarship-programme-masters-and-phd-scholarships-clinicalhealth-research>

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

Welcome and Introduction

- Division Manager- Abeda Dawood
- Introduction-Scholarship Team
- Natasha- REDCap support (IT)

Scholarship Programme Background

- Objectives of the Programme
- Purpose of the RFA
- Available funding and funding period

Application Requirements

- Eligible applicants
- Required Supporting Documents

Submission Process

Evaluation Process

Q&A

RCD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMES

PROGRAMME	BONGANI MAYOSI NATIONAL HEALTH SCHOLARS PROGRAMME	CLINICIAN- RESEARCHER (MBChB-PhD) DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME	SAMRC INTERNSHIP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME	VACCIINOLOGY PROGRAMME	RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
OBJECTIVE	Develop a vibrant and a transformed health research academic pipeline in SA that is adequately equipped to train healthcare workers and inspire a new generation of health/clinical researchers	Develop a cadre of highly trained clinician-scientists who are likely to be attracted to and excel in careers in academic medicine. MBChB/BChD holders	Contribute towards the SAMRC's transformation agenda to increase the representation of quality postgraduate scientists from designated groups (African, Coloured, Indian and Asian)	Develop the next generation of leaders in the field of Vaccinology. The focus is on early career researchers specializing in the various research areas within the broad field of Vaccinology	Support employees in academic institutions or SAMRC units who are engaged in clinical/health research and wish to complete their doctoral degrees.
KEY PARTNERSHIPS	NDoH PHEF NHRC	SA Medical Schools	SAMRC Intramural and Extramural Units	University of Lausanne South African Universities and/ research councils	Health faculties of academic institutions
SCHOLARSHIP VALUE	No set amount, the scholarship value is equivalent to the after-tax take-home pay of the candidate, based on the salary scales of the relevant post (or equivalent) in the National Department of Health.	500K per annum	PhD 200K per annum MSc 160K per annum	PhD 200K per annum MSc 160K per annum	Up to 250K once-off funding

<https://www.samrc.ac.za/research-capacity-development/scholarships-funding>

PURPOSE OF THE RFA

- ❑ Specifically designed to develop **Black Scientists** i.e., African Black, Coloured, and Indian scientists through PhD training.
- ❑ **Fields:** Biostatistics, Bioethics, Bioinformatics, Data Science, Digital Health, Demography, Epidemiology, Evolutionary Virology, Implementation Science, Health Economics, Genomics, Immunology and Structural Biology.
- ❑ **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 and Violence, injury and trauma.
- ❑ **Preference** will be given to candidates registered for a doctoral degree or MSc in scarce skills and strategic and/or emerging research areas.

AVAILABLE FUNDING AND FUNDING PERIOD

- Budget for 10 Scholarships
- Scholarship amount R200k for PhD and R160k for MSc (stipend & tuition fees)
- 2024 enrollment
- Funding cycle 1 April- 31 March (FY)

Funding Period

- 3 + (1 extra on compelling motivation)
- 1+ (1 year on compelling motivation)
- 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.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility Criteria:

- South African citizen or permanent resident.
- Black candidate (African Black/Coloured/Indian).
- A fully developed and officially approved research proposal for the MSc/PhD.
- Full-time registration at a South African university.
- Research project must fall within the SAMRC priority research areas.
- Current registration at the university in which the degree will be awarded.
- Commitment from the hosting research unit (SAMRC intra/extamural research unit or centre)

-Support letter from unit director

-Supervisory support

-Research funding for the project and appropriate facilities for the scholar to effectively conduct the research project.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

How to apply

Opening date: 22 January 2024

Closing date: 22 February 2024, 23:59

Two-step process

Step 1 – Complete the online application and upload all the required supporting documents (**see example of the application form template for the list of the required supporting documents**).

Step 2 – Main research supervisor must complete the research supervisor's commitment form

NB: For technical enquiries contact the RedCap support team at redcap.support@mrc.ac.za

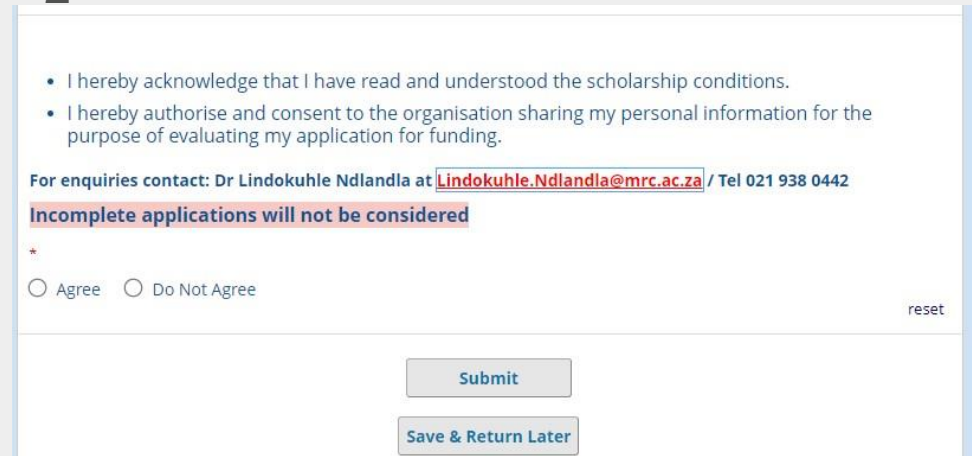
1

THE SUBMISSION PROCESS



The screenshot shows the SAMRC website header with the logo and text: SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, DIVISION OF RESEARCH, CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT. Below this is the title 'SAMRC Internship Scholarship Programme' and sub-titles 'Masters and PhD Scholarships for Clinical/Health Research' and 'SAMRC INTRA & EXTRA-MURAL RESEARCH UNITS'. A section titled 'Scholarship Conditions' contains a list of 10 bullet points detailing expectations for scholarship holders, such as spending 90% of time on research and submitting progress reports. At the bottom, it mentions the 'Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA)'.

2



The screenshot shows a form with two bullet points: 'I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understood the scholarship conditions.' and 'I hereby authorise and consent to the organisation sharing my personal information for the purpose of evaluating my application for funding.' Below this is contact information for Dr Lindokuhle Ndlandla at Lindokuhle.Ndlandla@mrc.ac.za / Tel 021 938 0442. A warning states 'Incomplete applications will not be considered'. There are radio buttons for 'Agree' and 'Do Not Agree', with a 'reset' link. At the bottom are 'Submit' and 'Save & Return Later' buttons.

THE SUBMISSION PROCESS

Application Form:

Personal Details:	
Title: <input type="text"/>	First Name: <input type="text"/>
Surname: <input type="text"/>	Gender: <input type="text"/>
Population group: <input type="text"/>	Date of Birth: <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Today"/> D-M-Y
Citizenship <input type="text"/>	Specify other: <input type="text"/>
South African ID number: <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Research Supervisor	
Supervisor's full name :	<input type="text" value="Vincent Fipaza"/> <i>Name and Surname</i>
Supervisor's contact number:	<input type="text" value="0722527168"/>
Supervisor's email address:	<input type="text" value="Vincent.Fipaza@mrc.ac.za"/> <i>remember to verify supervisor email by typing it in.</i>

THE SUBMISSION PROCESS

Research Project Details:

Proposed research project requires ethics approval

Yes No

reset

* must provide value

Attach evidence of Ethics approval:

[Upload file](#)

Proposed research project has been approved by the postgraduate office or equivalent office.

Yes No

reset

* must provide value

Attach evidence of Research project approval:

[Upload file](#)

I Zandi Zondi, hereby submit my application for a full-time Scholarship and am cognisant of the conditions under which this scholarship is awarded.

Submit

Save & Return Later

Supporting Documents

[Requirements and Selection Criteria](#) (Please use this list to ensure your application is complete)

1. Suitability of the candidate:

Max 2 pages:

Motivation 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.

* must provide value

Yes No

reset

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 list on the application form.

* must provide value

Yes No NA (Only applicable to 1st year Masters students who are doing course work in their 1st year)

reset

3. Supervisor's track record:

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

* must provide value

Yes No

reset

4. Research environment:

Max 2 pages: Letter from the host institution or SAMRC research unit (Head of Department/SAMRC Research Unit Director) confirming availability of appropriate research facilities for the scholar to effectively conduct and complete their research project within the prescribed degree study period.

THE SUBMISSION PROCESS

Please confirm that the e-mail address provided is the correct Supervisor's e-mail:
lindokuhle.ndlandla@mrc.ac.za

* must provide value

Yes No

reset

Signature:	<input type="text" value="Upload file"/> <i>upload electronic signature</i>	Date:	<input type="text" value="Today"/> D-M-Y
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Thank you for submitting your application for the SAMRC Internship Scholarship Programme.

Please note that the Supervisor commitment form for Doctoral studies or Course coordinator endorsement letter for Masters studies will be required with each scholarship application.

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.

RedCap technical queries may be addressed to redcap.support@mrc.ac.za.

THE SUBMISSION PROCESS

Last step- supervisor's commitment form (attach signature)

Grant Application



Grants Applications <r cdscholarship@mrc.ac.za >
To Lindokuhle Ndlandla | SAMRC



Start your reply all with: [Completed.](#) [I completed this.](#) [Submitted.](#) [Feedback](#)

Good day,

This email serves to notify you that you have been nominated as the Research Supervisor in an SAMRC Scholarship Application for Ms Zandi Zondi.

You are required to endorse the application by completing the Research Supervisor commitment form before the closing date of **22 February 2024**. [Click here to open the form.](#)

Scholarship Application Queries may be addressed to Lindokuhle.Ndlandla@mrc.ac.za

RedCap technical queries may be addressed to redcap.support@mrc.ac.za

Please note that this email is not to be submitted to/shared with the applicant.

Regards,

SAMRC Scholarship Committee

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. Motivational letter and an abridged curriculum vitae of the applicant
2. Research abstract (example is attached)
3. Supervisor's abridged curriculum vitae (supervision and outputs in the last 5 yrs)
4. Research environment- Unit Director support letter confirming availability of project funding and appropriate research facilities
5. Certified copy of the applicant's ID
6. Proof of registration for the current year and first year of registration
7. Official approval letter of the research project
8. Evidence of ethics approval

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Review Criteria	Description	Weight (100)
1. Suitability of the candidate (CV and motivation letter)	1. Academic merit, previous completion time and research track record) 2. Specific and clear career goals (cover letter) 3. Past Research Outputs (Journal articles, conference presentations and proceedings, Book Chapters, Patents and Awards) the candidate's research experience.	20
2. Quality of science	Scientific merit and feasibility (3 years) Alinment to the call's priority research areas, originality, objectives, research methodology and Potential societal impact	25
3. Supervisor's track record in the last 5 years:	Past contributions to knowledge production and mentorship (e.g. Postgraduate students' supervision, journal articles, book chapters, designs, patents, etc.)	15
4. Research environment:	Institutional and/ supervisor's support for the scholar through providing infrastructure facilities, research cost and an enabling environment.	15
5. Equity Race, gender and institution (HDI)	Race, gender and institution Historically Disadvantaged Institution vs Historically Advantaged Institution (HDI)	25

The crucial aspect of scholarship criteria is that you have to show how you meet and perhaps even exceed them.

