

July 2024 RFA
2025 Enrollment

The Chan Soon-Shiong Family Foundation (CSSFF)-South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC)
Capacity Development Programme
Building a vaccine R&D and manufacturing workforce for Africa

MSc and PhD Scholarships for Health, Life and Allied Sciences Graduates

This Capacity Development Programme is a partnership between the CSSFF and the SAMRC with the objective of training and building an Africa-based workforce and innovation pipeline for vaccine development, testing and manufacturing in Africa. The programme is geared to enhance Africa's health and biotechnology human capital and to grow Africa's workforce in vaccine manufacturing.

We are seeking applications from promising masters and doctoral candidates for the CSSFF-SAMRC Scholarship awards in disciplines related to vaccine research and development. This includes, for example, but is not limited to, chemical and process engineering, molecular biology, biochemistry, microbiology, virology, structural biology, bioinformatics, immunology, synthetic/analytical chemistry, and industrial pharmacy. The scholarship awards will include a stipend and some funds to cover research costs.

Preference will be given to candidates who have graduated with a degree in health sciences, life sciences, chemistry (including process chemistry), chemical engineering, pharmacy and allied sciences that are relevant for the health and biotechnology sector and, particularly, for vaccine development, testing and/or manufacturing. Applicants for masters scholarships must hold a relevant honours or four year degree, and applicants for doctoral scholarships must hold a relevant masters degree. The research project undertaken for the studies should be directly related to vaccine development, testing or manufacturing.

The maximum scholarship values and funding periods are summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Masters and PhD scholarship values and funding periods

Level	Funding period (years)	Value of scholarship p.a.	*Maximum value of project funding p.a.	Notes
PhD	3 (1 additional year may be considered on compelling motivation from the main supervisor and evidence of satisfactory progress)	R200 000 stipend per annum	R400 000 research project funds per annum	Candidates must i) provide proof of full-time registration, and ii) have both PhD research approval and ethics clearance, where applicable, before funding can be released. ii) The research project funding component should not be sourced from more than one SAMRC grant.



Masters	1 (1 additional year may be considered on compelling motivation from the main supervisor and evidence of satisfactory progress)	R160 000 stipend per annum	R240 000 research project funds per annum	<p>Candidates must</p> <p>i) provide proof of full-time registration, and ii) have both Masters research approval and ethics clearance, where applicable, before funding can be released.</p> <p>ii) The research project funding component should not be sourced from more than one SAMRC grant.</p>
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****Project funds will not be awarded in cases where the supervisor or principal investigator is already receiving SAMRC funding for the project.***

Requirements for all applications

- Must be South African citizens/South African permanent residents/Africans studying at a South African university.
- Must be full-time registered students, or intend to register, for PhD or masters studies at any South African public university in 2025.
- Prospective PhD candidates should have obtained a masters qualification at the time of application with the intention to pursue doctoral studies. Similarly, prospective masters candidates should have obtained an honours/four year qualification at the time of application with the intention to pursue masters studies.
- Applicants must be registered for the intended masters or doctoral degree at the time of commencement of the award.
- The research project must fall within the vaccine research, development and manufacturing areas.
- Applications must include a supervisor's endorsement form supporting the proposed doctoral or masters research to be undertaken by submitting the supervisor's form and full research proposal via the REDCap application system. The applicant must complete the supervisor's details on the supervisor information section of the application. An e-mail will then be generated requesting the supervisor to complete the form electronically. The supervisor's commitment form is an integral part of the application and without this information, the application will not be considered for funding.

How to apply

Opening date: 26 July 2024
Closing date: 18 October 2024, 23:59 SAST

Application process

Application steps 1 to 3 below must be completed before or by 18 October 2024, 23:59 SAST.

- Step 1 - Complete the [online application form](#).



- Step 2 - Upload all the required supporting documents.
- Step 3 - Research supervisor must complete the full research proposal together with the endorsement form and submit the application on behalf of the student.

Please use the checklist below to ensure that you have submitted all necessary supporting documents.

List of required supporting documents	check (v)
To start the application, the applicant must satisfy the conditions of this check list.	
1) Certified copy of South African identity document or study permit	
2) Proof of registration for 2024 or letter of admission for 2025	
3) Evidence of ethics clearance (if applicable)	
4) Supervisor's endorsement form	
5) Supervisors abridged curriculum vitae showing supervisor's research and innovation outputs (including h-index), postgraduate student supervision, patents, and grants received in the last 5 years	
6) Applicant's motivation letter	
7) Applicant's curriculum vitae	
8) Full research proposal on the SAMRC template- to be submitted by the PI/main supervisor	

The South African Medical Research Council reserves the right to disqualify ineligible, incomplete, unresponsive 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 31 December 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.

Research Award and Scholarship Conditions

- Scholarship holders are expected to spend at least 80% of their time conducting research towards their studies.
- Teaching and clinical activities may not take up more than 20% 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 organisation 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.



- Once awarded, scholarship holders may not, without seeking approval from the SAMRC, change supervisor or research project or register at a university other than that through which the application has been submitted.
- Awardees are required to submit bi-annual (or upon request) progress reports endorsed by the supervisor.
- The awards are made for one year at a time. Renewal of funding will be considered on an annual basis, subject to satisfactory progress.
- Scholarship holders who have not spent all their research funding in a particular year must specifically request the carry forward of such funding into the subsequent year within their renewal application. The SAMRC reserves the right to adjust approved research funds based on submitted annual progress reports.
- Awardees are required to attend all training and support workshops organised by the SAMRC's division of Research Capacity Development RCD.
- Successful applicants will be required to enter into an agreement with the SAMRC to complete their studies within the specified time period.
- If awarded, applicants must be able to take up the award immediately.
- The scholarship is for the specified enrolment year (2025), and therefore cannot be deferred to subsequent years.
- Awardees are expected to conduct the research study in accordance with the approved research proposal and budget.



APPLICATION FORM *(Must be completed online by PhD or masters candidate)*

Personal details (Mark the correct one with a X)

1. Title (Ms, Mr, Dr)				2. First Name:		
3. Surname:				4. Gender: F/M		
5. Population group:	African	Coloured	Indian	Asian	White	6. Date of Birth: Day/Month/Year
7. Citizenship				South African citizen	South African permanent resident	Other (Specify)
8. South African ID number: (insert)				Attach a certified copy of the ID document and confirm here with a X that you have attached it		
9. Postal address:						
10. Work telephone number: (where applicable)				11. Mobile number:		
12. Alternative number:						
13. University e-mail address:						
14. Alternative e-mail address:						

Academic information (Mark the correct one with a X)

15. Highest qualification:	(Major subjects and full course name e.g. BSc Honours Biotechnology)		
16. This application is for which degree:	Masters	PhD	
17. Year of study in 2025:			
	1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd year
18. Field of specialisation:	Biochemistry	Biotechnology	Chemical engineering
	Chemistry	Immunology	Microbiology
	Pharmacy	Virology	Other (specify)
19. Current degree funded by: (if applicable)			
20. University at which you are currently registered or intend to register:			
21. First date of registration	Attach evidence of first date of registration. If 2025 is your first year, please attach admission letter		



22. Faculty	
23. Department	

Research project information

24. Title of research project to be funded		
25. Type of research	Vaccine discovery and development	Vaccine assessment
	Vaccine production	Other (Specify)
26. Potential economic and/or societal impact of the proposed research		
27. 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>		
28. Research supervisor's full name		
29. Research supervisor's institution		
30. Research supervisor's e-mail address		
31. Contact number of the research supervisor:		
32. Co-supervisor's full name (if applicable)		
33. Co-supervisor's e-mail address		
34. Co-supervisor's institution	National	International
35. Proposed research project requires ethics approval	Yes Attach official evidence of approval	No
36. Proposed research project has been approved by the postgraduate office or equivalent office	Yes Attach official evidence of approval	No

I, _____ (full names), hereby submit my application for a full-time scholarship and am cognisant of the conditions attached to the scholarship awards

NB: An application which does not comply with the above requirements will be regarded as incomplete and will not be processed.

Submit



Main research supervisor's commitment form Research supervisor will receive a link to complete the form online. Full research proposal must be completed using the SAMRC template and submitted together with this form by the main research supervisor.

Title (Prof/Dr/Ms/Mr)			
Research supervisor's full name			
Institution name			
Department			
E-mail address			
Contact number			
Gender			
Ethnic group			
Highest degree(s)			
Other degrees			
Current position			
Research site (where research will be conducted)			
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 office</u> ?	Yes	No	
Does the proposed project require ethical clearance?	Yes	No	
Has the ethics committee approved the research proposal?	Yes	No	NA 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	No	
Are there any concerns (if any please provide details)			
Comment on the feasibility of the proposed research project			
Will this research project (degree) be completed within the prescribed degree duration (MSc = 2 years; 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 CSSFF-SAMRC scholarship and commit to undertake the supervision of the applicant _____

(applicant's full name). **NB: This form together with the full research proposal must be submitted before the closing date.**



Submit

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 independent reviewers, members of Scholarship Selection Committees of the SAMRC, representatives from the Chan Soon-Shiong Family Foundation, the CSSFF-SAMRC Steering Committee and 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 as 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.

Y	N
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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

