

SAMRC RCD SCHOLARSHIPS



Pre-Application Webinar: 1 July 2025

Contact: Lindokuhle.Ndlandla@mrc.ac.za
Vincent.Fipaza@mrc.ac.za



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 webinar 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

[Request for Applications | SAMRC](#)

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

Welcome and Introduction

- ☐ Introduction-Scholarship Team

Scholarship Programme Background

- ☐ Objectives of the SAMRC Postgraduate Research Associate Programme
- ☐ Objectives of the Clinician-Researcher Development Programme
- ☐ Objectives of the Researcher Development Programme
- ☐ Purpose of the three RFAs
- ☐ Available funding and funding period

Application Requirements

- ☐ Eligible applicants
- ☐ Required Supporting Documents

Submission Process, Evaluation Process and Q&A

THE RCD TEAM



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Project Coordinator: RCD Grants and Fellowships



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Ms Lerato Hlatshwayo
RCD Intern
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The strategic goal # 4 of the SAMRC is “building capacity for the long-term sustainability of the South African health research”.

CAREER AWARDS| RESEARCH GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Research
Capacity
Development
Initiative (RCDI)

Extramural
Postdoctoral
Fellowship

Mid-Career
Scientist
Programme

Intramural
Postdoctoral
Fellowship

SAMRC Early
Investigators
Programme

SCHOLARSHIPS| DOCTORAL AND MASTERS

Bongani
Mayosi
National
Health
Scholars
Programme

Clinician-
Researcher
Development
Scholarship

SAMRC
Postgraduate
Research
Associate
Programme

Researcher
Development
Awards

Specialized
Training in
Vaccinology/
Biostatistics

SCHOLARSHIPS| GENERAL ELIGIBILITY



1. SA citizen or permanent resident



2. Registered full-time PhD student at a South African University



3. Research project and where applicable, ethics approval

NB: For Equity and redress, preference is given to scholars from under-represented groups/institutions and/or underprioritized/funded research areas.



4. Research project must be aligned with the national research priorities (Responsive to RFA)

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.

SAMRC POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROGRAMME

Objective	Contribute towards the SAMRC's transformation agenda to increase the representation of quality postgraduate scientists from designated groups in strategic and emerging research fields where these groups are underrepresented.
Partners	SAMRC Research Units and Research Centres
Scholarship value	PhD: 250,000 p.a. x 3 years (+1*) MSc: 200,000 p.a. x 2 years
Funding period	Funding over 3 yrs (+ 1*) for PhD and max 2yrs for MSc * Additional year of funding on compelling motivation (PhD)
Deadline	Thursday, August 21, 2025 - 23:50

STRATEGIC RESEARCH FIELDS

Biostatistics

Bioethics

Bioinformatics

Data Science

Digital Health

Demography

Epidemiology

Environmental
Public Health

Evolutionary
Virology

Implementation
and
Translational
Science

Health
Economics

Genomics

Immunology and
Structural
Biology.

SAMRC POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROGRAMME

REQUIREMENTS	Masters	PhD
Fully developed & officially approved research proposal and ethics approval	 N/A 1 st yr in 2026	
Research project must fall within the SAMRC priority research areas		
Written commitment of participation by a research unit director who is willing to host the student for the entire duration of the degree.		
Main or co-supervisor must be based at SAMRC		
Supervisor/s must have research funding for the project and appropriate facilities for the scholar to conduct the research project effectively		

SAMRC POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROGRAMME



- ❑ SAMRC intramural units
- ❑ SAMRC extramural units
- ❑ SAMRC research centres and platforms
- ❑ Masters funded for 1 year
- ❑ Masters in scarce skills and candidates registered in HDIs funded for 2 years
- ❑ 1st year Masters in 2026
- Admission letter & recommendation letter from the University supervisor

CLINICIAN-RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Objective	<p>Develop a cadre of highly trained clinician-scientists who are likely to be attracted to and excel in careers in academic medicine.</p> <p>Degree in medicine, dentistry and nursing</p>
Partners	Medical schools
Scholarship value	<p>R600K full-time candidates (medicine/dentistry)</p> <p>R250K full-time nursing candidates</p> <p>Up to R300K for part-time candidates</p> <p>MBChB-PhD full-time candidates R250K</p>
Funding period	Funding over 3 yrs (+ 1*) for PhD
Deadline	Monday, September 22, 2025 - 23:59













**** Additional year of funding on compelling motivation***

CLINICIAN-RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



- ☐ Medical degree
 - In a dual degree
 - Interns
 - Medical officers
 - Specialist
- ☐ Dentistry
- ☐ Nursing degree

CLINICIAN-RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

REQUIREMENTS	Full-time PhD	Candidates in dual training	Part-time PhD
Full-time registration			
Fully developed & officially approved research proposal and ethics approval			
Research project must fall within the SAMRC priority research areas			
Institutional support letter			
Budget and research support	Indicate the availability of project funding and research facilities	Indicate the availability of project funding and research facilities	Complete budget request form NB: SAMRC awards do not cover

RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Objective	Support employees in academic institutions or SAMRC units who are engaged in clinical/health research and wish to complete their doctoral degrees. Degree in health science/project in health science
Partners	Health science faculties of SA universities
Scholarship value	Up to R250K
Funding period	Once-off (NRF Thuthuka-funded employees can split funding over 3 years)
Deadline	Monday, August 18, 2025 - 23:59

RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



PhD Funding| Part-time candidates

- ❑ Researchers in academic institutions in their final year of studies.
- ❑ SAMRC employees (intra/extramural units and research centres/platforms)
- ❑ Employees supported by NRF
Thuthuka can split funding over 3 yrs
- ❑ SAMRC employees affected by US funding cuts.

REQUIREMENTS

- ☐ South African citizen or permanent resident.
- ☐ Full-time employees of academic institutions in South Africa or SAMRC researchers.
- ☐ Officially approved research proposal and ethics clearance (where applicable) for the PhD project.
- ☐ Must have at least one accepted publication emanating from their PhD studies.
- ☐ Must complete their thesis write-up within twelve (12) months from the date of commencement of the award.
- ☐ Full research proposal to be provided.
- ☐ Research project must fall within the SAMRC priority research areas.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

FUNDING

- Funding at the SAMRC
- Request for Applications (RFAs)
- Research Capacity Development
- Self-Initiated Research
- Conference Applications

Request for Applications



Deadline: Monday, September 22, 2025 - 23:59
RFA: SAMRC Clinician-Researcher Development Programme

PhD funding opportunity for South African citizens or permanent residents who are students or graduates in medicine, dentistry, or nursing. This funding opportunity is designed to offer flexible and realistic options to clinicians who want to pursue their PhD studies. Funding may be used to provide protected research time from clinical training or clinical service obligations to support PhD studies undertaken in parallel with clinical activities. The use of funds is strictly for research training, i.e., obtaining a PhD.



Deadline: Thursday, August 21, 2025 - 23:50
SAMRC Postgraduate Research Associate Programme

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



Deadline: Monday, August 18, 2025 - 23:59
SAMRC Researcher Development Programme

Funding opportunity for emerging researchers who are at the late stages of their PhDs (last 12-months). The funds can be used for dedicated time to spend on their research activities, pay for work relief, or any justifiable intervention. This Request for Applications particularly encourages applications from SAMRC staff and affiliated postgraduate students for whom completion of their PhD degrees has been directly impacted by the US funding cuts. Such applications may be considered for funding beyond 12 months.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

How to apply

Opening date: 25 June 2025

Closing date: 22 September 2025, 23:59

Three-step process:

Step 1 – Applicant to complete the **online application**.

Step 2 – Applicant to upload all the **required supporting documents**.

Step 3 - Research supervisor or proposed supervisor must complete the **research supervisor's commitment form** and submit the application.

Four documents to assist you with your application:

(1) Abstract example

(2) 2025 RFA SAMRC Clinician-Researcher Development Programme guideline which includes the checklist of the required supporting documents

(3) Budget request form

(4) Supervisor CV Template.

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

THE SUBMISSION PROCESS

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

[Returning?](#)
AAA
□ □

Scholarship Application

SAMRC Institutional Clinician-Researcher Development Programme

Research Award and Scholarship Conditions

- All remuneration/fellowships and grants received concurrently with this award for the purpose of obtaining a PhD received, must be declared to the Division of Research Capacity Development of the SAMRC.
- Awardees may not, without seeking approval from the Division of Research Capacity Development of the SAMRC, register at a university other than that through which the application was submitted.
- Once the award has been made, the awardee may not change the research supervisor or subject of research without informing the Division of Research Capacity Development of the SAMRC.
- Awardees are required to submit bi-annual progress reports endorsed by the request supervisor or upon request.
- Where applicants are engaged in parallel clinical training (including undergraduate medical training, internship, community service or specialist training), they are required to submit an annual statement detailing their progress with clinical training, with an estimate for completion of training, which must be countersigned by the Dean or Programme Director.
- The award is for one year, renewal of funding will be considered on an annual basis, and success thereof will be subject to satisfactory progress being made.
- Research awardees who have not spent all funds 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 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, and therefore cannot be deferred to the subsequent years.
- Awardees are expected to conduct the research in accordance with the approved research proposal and budget.
- Once awarded funding, awardees are not allowed to move between RCD scholarship programmes and funding categories (e.g., full-time to part-time)

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/>

2

- 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.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

* must provide value

☐ Agree ☐ Do not Agree

reset

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

Submit

Save & Return Later

THE SUBMISSION PROCESS

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Application Form

AAA
🔍 🗨

Personal Details

Title (Ms, Mr, Dr) <input type="text" value="Mr"/>	First name <input type="text" value="Vincent"/>
Surname <input type="text" value="Fipaza"/>	Gender <input type="text"/>
Population group <input type="text" value="African"/>	Date of Birth <input type="text" value="13-09-2024"/> <input type="text" value="Today"/> <input type="text" value="13-09-2024"/>
Citizenship	South African Permanent resident <input type="text"/>
Specify Other	
Study permit number	
South African ID number:	<input type="text" value="9002055363088"/> 0 characters remaining
Postal Address	<input type="text" value="320 Pretorius Road, Arcadia"/> <small>Expand</small>
Work telephone number <input type="text" value="1"/>	Mobile number <input type="text" value="0000"/>
Alternative number	<input type="text" value="1"/>
University e-mail address	<input type="text" value="vincent.fipaza@mrc.ac.za"/>
Alternative e-mail address	<input type="text"/>

Academic Information

Highest qualification	<input type="text" value="MSc"/> (Major subjects and full course name e.g. BSc Honours Biotechnology)
Other/ previous tertiary qualifications	<input type="text" value="MSc"/> (Major subjects and full course name e.g. BSc Honours Biotechnology)
Field of Specialisation	<input type="text"/>
Other (specify field of specialisation)	<input type="text"/>
Are you currently studying?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="button" value="reset"/>
Full name of the qualification (e.g., Biotechnology Honours)	<input type="text"/>

THE SUBMISSION PROCESS

4

Academic Information

Highest qualification	<input type="text" value="MSc"/> (Major subjects and full course name e.g. BSc Honours Biotechnology)
Other/ previous tertiary qualifications	<input type="text" value="MSc"/> (Major subjects and full course name e.g. BSc Honours Biotechnology)
Field of Specialisation	<input type="text" value="Biotechnology"/>
Other (specify field of specialisation)	
Are you currently studying?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No reset
Full name of the qualification (e.g., Biotechnology Honours)	
Institution where registered	
Anticipated completion date	
Are you currently employed?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No reset
Name of the employer (please include the department name)	
If employed, please provide details on how the studies will be accommodated in the next 2 years (2025 and 2026)	
SAPC registration number (if applicable)	<input type="text" value="12-07-2024"/>
Years of relevant work experience	<input type="text" value="2"/>
Is this application for MSc Pharmacy Administration and Policy Regulation at UWC:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No reset
If yes, please enter your UWC application number or current student number	<input type="text" value="333"/>
Year of study in 2025	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 1st year <input type="radio"/> 2nd year reset

I Vincent Fipaza, hereby submit my application for a Scholarship and am cognisant of the conditions under which this scholarship is awarded. NB: An application which does not comply with the above requirements will be regarded as incomplete and will not be processed

Submit

Save & Return Later

Supporting Documents

AAA



List of required supporting documents

1. A certified copy of the applicant's South African identity document/Study Permit: (must be certified by a Commissioner of Oaths)

* must provide value

☐ Yes ☐ No

[reset](#)

2. Certified copy of qualifications that meet the entry criteria

* must provide value

☐ Yes ☐ No

[reset](#)

3. Certified academic transcripts

* must provide value

☐ Yes ☐ No

[reset](#)

4. Reference or recommendation letter from an academic or industry mentor who has worked with the applicant, highlighting the applicant's key skills, strengths, accomplishments and suitability for the program

* must provide value

☐ Yes ☐ No

[reset](#)

5. Applicant's motivational letter

* must provide value

☐ Yes ☐ No

[reset](#)

motivation letter stating their career objectives and how success in this program will impact their career

6. Applicant's curriculum vitae

* must provide value

☐ Yes ☐ No

[reset](#)

curriculum vitae containing a full list of current qualifications, research outputs (e.g., publications, conference, or symposium presentations etc.) and other meritorious achievements (e.g., scholarships, awards etc.) and relevant research and work experience (if applicable)

7. Are you currently employed?

* must provide value

☐ Yes ☐ No

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS!!!

Checklist




Requirements and selection criteria (Please use this list to ensure that 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 scholarship application will impact the candidate's career. Must be written by the applicant.	Y	N
2. Suitability of the candidate: Abridged curriculum vitae containing a full list of research outputs in the last seven years and other meritorious achievements.		
3. Quality of the science: Max. 2 pages: Abstract of the Master's or 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.	Y	N
4. Main supervisor's track record: Max. 2 pages: An abridged outline of publications, grants and experience of the main supervisor in research supervision of Master's and PhD students in the last five (5) years	Y	N
5. 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 and project funding for the scholar to effectively conduct and complete their research project within the prescribed degree study period.	Y	N
6. Certified copy of the applicant's South African identity document (must be certified by a Commissioner of Oaths within the last 6 months from submission of application.)	Y	N
6. Proof of registration for the current year. If 2026 will be your first year of registration please provide official admission letter from the institution where the applicant will register.	Y	N



THE SUBMISSION PROCESS

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Signature:	 Add signature Electronic signature	Date:	03-10-2024   D-M-Y
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Submit

Save & Return Later

Close survey

Thank you for submitting your application for the MSc Pharmacy Administration and Policy Regulation Scholarships for Pharmacy, Health, Life and Allied Sciences Graduates Programme"

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 31st 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.

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

THE SUBMISSION PROCESS

Email Confirmation| Applicant

MSc Pharmacy Administration and Policy Regulation Scholarships for Pharmacy, Health, Life and Allied Sciences Graduates: Application Submission



RCD Scholarship <Vincent.Fipaza@mrc.ac.za>

To Vincent Fipaza | SAMRC



Reply



Reply All



Forward



Thu 10/3/2024 10:49 AM

Good day

Thank you for submitting your application for the MSc Pharmacy Administration and Policy Regulation Scholarships for pharmacy, health, life and allied sciences Graduates.

The SAMRC 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 31 December 2024, please assume that your application has been unsuccessful.

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THE SUBMISSION PROCESS

Supervisor Commitment Form

From: redcap.support@mrc.ac.za <redcap.support@mrc.ac.za>

Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2025 8:23 AM

To: Lerato Hlatshwayo | SAMRC <Lerato.Hlatshwayo@mrc.ac.za>

Subject: SAMRC Researcher Development Award | Supervisor Commitment Form

Good day,

This email serves to notify you that you have been nominated as the Research Supervisor in the SAMRC Researcher Development Award Programme Application for Rock Paper

You are required to endorse the application by completing the Research Supervisor commitment form before the closing date of **18 August 2025**.

[Supervisor Commitment form](#)

If the link above does not work, try copying the link below into your web browser:

<https://samrc-redcap.mrc.ac.za/surveys/?s=MWdzGztmDUxjBtLt>

This link is unique to you and should not be forwarded to others.



EVALUATION CRITERIA

Review Criteria	Description
1. Suitability of the candidate	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Academic merit and candidate's research experience2. Specific and clear career goals (cover letter)3. Past research outputs (journal articles, conference presentations and proceedings, book chapters, patents and awards)
2. Quality of science	Scientific merit and feasibility (3 yrs for a PhD) Alignment to the call's research priority areas, originality, clear objectives, research methodology and potential impact
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 and patents etc.)
4. Research environment	Institutional and/supervisor's support for the applicant through providing research infrastructure, project funding and an enabling environment.
5. Equity Race, gender and institution	Race , gender and institutions (Historically Disadvantaged Institutions vs Historically Advantaged Institutions)

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



THANK YOU



WWW.SAMRC.AC.ZA



@MRC



@SAMRC.ZA