



NRF Freestanding Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

1. Background

The National Research Foundation Freestanding fellowships were introduced as a means of contributing towards human resource development by providing postdoctoral research fellowships, based on merit and potential.

2. Areas of support

The fellowships are intended to support candidates who would like to pursue postdoctoral research training in all areas of Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) and in Social Sciences and Humanities, in South Africa and abroad.

3. Values of the Fellowship

For the 2012 academic year, the fellowship shall be a maximum of R120 000 per annum for post-doctoral research conducted in South Africa and US\$ 16 500 for postdoctoral research training abroad. Recipients of the fellowship may apply for a once-off mobility grant of R5 0000.

4. Selection Criteria

South African citizens who intend to undertake full-time research at institutions in South Africa or at approved institutions abroad can apply. Outstanding candidates from foreign countries will be considered for full-time research in South Africa. Applicants must have obtained their doctoral degrees within the last five years. Fellowships are awarded on a competitive basis, taking into

account the applicants' academic achievements, outputs and research potential. The Fellowship will preferably not be granted to an individual in the same university department immediately after completion of a doctoral degree at that institution. Special consideration will be given to applicants where the individual's research training and outputs may be enhanced by continuing with postdoctoral research at the same institution or under the same mentor. In such instances the applicant must provide a detailed motivation describing the benefits to the applicant and for advancing innovation. Fellowships will be awarded for full-time research at higher education institutions.

5. How to apply for funding

Applicants can apply by following the steps below:

Application: <http://nrfinterim.nrf.ac.za> and **Update CV information on:** <http://nrfonline.nrf.ac.za>

- Login using your registered username (ID number) and password for the above systems.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** First time users should register with the same ID and password on both **systems**.
- Carefully read through the Scholarships and Fellowships funding manual and guidelines for applicants.
- Select the call for which you wish to apply for (refer to step by step guideline for applicants).
- Remember to complete all sections of the application and attach all the necessary documentation including certified full academic transcripts, certificates and identity documents.
- Applicants must also update their CV on the NRF online system.
- Remember to submit your application on completion.
- Complete applications will go to the host university for verification before being forwarded to the NRF for further processing.
- Incomplete applications that do not include updated CV information will not be considered.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered (please refer to funding manual for details on eligibility of fellowship programmes).
- Please contact the university post graduate office or research office if you have any queries.
- The closing date for submitting applications is **30 September 2011**.