



science and technology

Department:  
Science and Technology  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Department of Science & Technology



National  
Research  
Foundation

Renewable & Sustainable Energy Scholarships (RSES)

Information Manual for 2014

# The Department of Science & Technology (DST) Renewable & Sustainable Energy Scholarships Programme (RSES)

Call for applications for 2014

## Information Manual

**Read this manual carefully before completing the online application form.**

*This manual has been compiled based on the relevant DST programmes as contained herein and all applications that are within the energy strategic focus areas within South African universities will be considered.*

Your application will however only be considered if you comply with the requirements as set out in this manual

**Complete the application form which can be found on:**

<https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za/>

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### 1. Background and introduction

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) previously provided funding to support human capital development for the renewable energy sector through the South African National Energy Research Institute (SANERI). In 2011, the DST decided to migrate this programme to the National Research Foundation (NRF).

This programme is now called the Renewable and Sustainable Energy Scholarships programme (RSES). The primary focus is to provide scholarship grants at masters and doctoral levels focusing on research studies that will support and facilitate the shift towards a sustainable energy sector.

The RSES is a component intervention of the Energy Human Capital and Knowledge Generation Programme (E-HCD&KG), of which its current undergraduate students in the energy human capital development pipeline at honours and 4<sup>th</sup> Year level of studies are strongly encouraged to apply and will be given preference.

In line with the draft DST energy research focal areas, the grants are offered to candidates that are focusing on the following focus areas:

- Cleaner fossil fuel development, including clean coal technologies;
- Renewable energy (bioenergy including bio-fuels, solar energy, wind energy, etc.);
- Energy impact on the environment;
- Energy for socio-economic development;
- Energy system planning and modelling; and
- Energy policy research.

Funding is therefore made available for masters and doctoral postgraduate studies in 2014 at universities across South Africa which offer studies that will further the objectives of the renewable energy sector.

### 2. Eligibility Criteria

- 2.1 South African citizens and permanent residents of South Africa who wish to complete a masters or doctoral degree at a South African university. Please note that preference will be given to candidates from the designated groups, including female students.

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- 2.2 These scholarships are available to university graduates with degrees in Engineering, Natural Science, AgriScience, Management Science, Law, Economics, and other related and relevant disciplines.
- 2.3 The relevant qualifications for eligibility are- BSc Hons, BSc Eng, BEng or MTech for master's and MSc or MSc Eng for doctoral degrees.
- 2.4 Scholarships are available for successful candidates studying on a full-time basis in the field of Renewable and Sustainable Energy.

**3. Research proposals and supervision**

- 3.1 All master's and doctoral scholarship applicants **MUST** submit a research proposal.
- 3.2 It is recommended that supervisors/ hosts proofread the student's application and proposal content before submission.
- 3.3 Applications submitted without a research proposal will **NOT** be considered for a scholarship.
- 3.4 **The research proposals must be written by the student, and NOT by the supervisor of the research.**
- 3.5 All applications are to be submitted online, if an application has not been submitted online it will not be considered outside the call process.
- 3.6 All applications, once submitted, are routed through the university designated office for validation before being sent to the NRF for consideration.
- 3.7 Supervisors/ hosts of the study are expected to respond to the referee reports sent to them online for input and support of the student's application.

Description	Value and Duration
<b>Doctoral Scholarship</b>	R 100 000.00 per annum 3 years (subject to satisfactory progress)
<b>Masters Scholarship</b>	R 85 000.00 per annum 2 years (subject to satisfactory progress)



#### **4. Value and Duration of the RSES Postgraduate Scholarships**

##### **NOTE:**

- All funds are paid by the NRF to the respective university for disbursement to the student between January and March of each year.
- The respective universities are expected to distribute funding under the same guidelines as stipulated with free standing NRF scholarships.

##### **Additional discretionary items (Masters and Doctoral):**

- The programme has a limited budget for travel grants for both masters and doctoral students which may be paid for approved travel related to studies. This grant is focussed on international conferences where the student is invited to participate as opposed to just attending. The grant includes subsistence, accommodation, conference registration and travel expense. A motivation for travel must be provided at least two months before any trip is to be undertaken and a written report must be provided to the RSES Programme via the National Research Foundation (NRF) two weeks after returning from the trip.
- Please note that students must apply for these items separately and with supporting documentation and endorsements as required. The NRF may support these depending on the feasibility and strength of the application and available funding.

#### **5. Conditions of RSES Scholarship Awards**

*The following conditions are extracted from the RSES Scholarship Agreement to be signed by all successful applicant students and of which the full document shall represent the legal conditions of the award*

5.1 The award of a RSES scholarship to a student will be based on past, current and potential academic performance. Selection criteria will include equity targets of the programme, academic merit, promise of research ability, leadership qualities and previous award of various prizes and honours.

5.2 In addition to the above criteria, the award of the RSES scholarship will be based on the



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- feasibility and merit of the applicant's research project proposal.
- 5.3 Once an RSES scholarship is awarded, a change in course of study, or institution where the studies are to be undertaken, or a change of supervision, requires prior approval.
- 5.4 Continued funding is dependent on satisfactory performance determined through the submission of annual progress report, as well as compliance with the overall conditions of the award.
- 5.5 Based on the assessment of your progress, the RSES Programme in its sole discretion may extend your scholarship for a period not exceeding one further year for masters studies, and two further years for doctoral studies (beyond the standard duration stipulated herein). **The standard period is two years for a Masters and three years for a Doctoral degree.**
- 5.6 Students who do not obtain the degree for which the scholarship was awarded, relinquish their studies or leave the tertiary institution during the period for which the scholarship was awarded, will have to refund all payments already received from the RSES Programme. The RSES Programme may waive this condition at its sole discretion.
- 5.7 Students may be required to present their work at national or international conferences and/or symposia at the request of the RSES Programme.
- 5.8 Students will be required to present their work at the Bi-Annual Energy Postgraduate Scholarship Conference as organised by the RSES Programme
- 5.9 Students are compelled to attend all developmental activities as arranged by the RSES Programme. These include (but are not limited to):  
Bi-Annual Energy Postgraduate Scholarship Conference,
- Annual Lifeskills Workshop
  - Other activities will be communicated to students, of which most are held over weekends or during vacations.
- 5.10 On completion of the studies supported by means of an RSES scholarship, students are required to submit proof of obtaining the degree concerned.
- 5.11 Students may, on the completion of their degrees, be requested to take up posts offered by the DST through the RSES Programme for a limited period, normally aligned to the duration of funding support.
- 5.12 Successful students who are offered the RSES scholarship by the NRF are required to complete and sign the RSES scholarship agreement which will be communicated at the time of the award.



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- 5.13 A list of successful candidates will be published on the NRF website as soon as the internal NRF approval processes for the award are finalised.
- 5.14 Students that are unsuccessful may enquire from the NRF through their postgraduate/research or financial aid office on how to improve their application in the next round.
- 5.15 Appeals, in the case of unsuccessful applicants, will only be considered in extremely exceptional cases that are motivated strongly and in detail and are considered warranted for appeal.

**6. How to apply for funding**

- 6.1 Applications must be submitted through an online application process to the National Research Foundation (NRF): <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za/NrfMkII/>
- 6.2 Register/ Login using your email address and password.
- 6.3 Select create new application from the list of existing calls.
- 6.4 Select the call for which you are applying to: RSES – Masters and Doctoral Scholarship Call for 2014
- 6.5 Select Apply now.
- 6.6 Complete all screens and sub-screens online for application summary, application and biographic information, research project information, supervisor and referees and outputs.
- 6.7 Once complete click on the submit form tab
- 6.8 Your application will be directed to the university designated office for further processing and then to the NRF for assessment and selection through a panel review process.
- 6.9 Successful applicants will be notified through the university research office no later than 30 November 2013.
- 6.10 **Please consult the university with regard to their internal closing dates, which will be prior to 15 August 2013.**

**Deadline for applications 15 August 2013**



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