

MSc bursaries: Scientific Authority (2014 – 2015)

The South African National Biodiversity Institute is offering MSc bursaries to two enthusiastic students with strong conservation interests and a desire to contribute to the mandate of the Scientific Authority (see <http://www.sanbi.org/programmes/conservation/mandate-and-functions-scientific-authority>). The Scientific Authority was established in terms of Section 60 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act of 2004 (NEMBA) to assist government with regulating and restricting the trade in specimens of threatened or protected species (TOPS) and species listed on the Appendices to CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).

Prospective students must identify an appropriate supervisor at a South African university prior to applying for the bursary and then register with the university if they are awarded the bursary. The project to be undertaken by the student in fulfilment of the requirements of an MSc will be in collaboration with the Scientific Authority office at the SANBI. The SANBI will cover all operational costs of the project.

Student bursaries are open to all South African citizens and preference will be given to students from previously disadvantaged backgrounds.

Description of the MSc project: The project must involve appropriate and relevant research to support the management and sustainable use of a utilized or traded species. One MSc bursary will be awarded to support a project on a utilized or traded plant species and one MSc bursary will be awarded to support a project on a utilized or traded animal species. On award of the bursary, the student will be expected to select for their project a TOPS- or CITES-listed species in consultation with their supervisor and SANBI's Scientific Authority office, prioritizing the species selection on the basis of the size of the global population, the IUCN Red List status of the species, and the extent of use / volumes traded. The student will be expected to identify current research gaps to ensure the selection of an under-researched species.

Duration: March 2014 – December 2015

Bursary information: A student bursary of R 105 000 p.a. (excludes operational costs) is available for the successful applicant and will be renewable in the second year of study.

Application procedure: Each application is to be accompanied by a standard bursary application cover sheet (available at www.sanbi.org.za/jobs/current-vacancies). All required documents to be submitted to students@sanbi.org.za Subject: MSc bursary Scientific Authority. The letter of interest must indicate the prospective supervisor and university and whether the student is applying for the MSc plant or MSc animal bursary.

For further details regarding the project please contact:

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Email: M.Pfab@sanbi.org.za

SANBI reserves the right not to fill this bursary.

If no response has been received within 21 days of the closing date, candidates may assume that their applications were unsuccessful.

Closing date: 31 January 2014 (16h00)