



**DESMOND TUTU DOCTORAL PROGRAMME
IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK**

Directorate: Human and Infrastructure Capacity Development

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1. Background and Rationale

The National Research Foundation (NRF) and VU University Amsterdam entered into a partnership to co-fund South African students carrying out doctoral studies in a split-site mode. The official launch of the Desmond Tutu Doctoral Programme (DTP) took place in the presence of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu on 4 December 2008. In honour of Archbishop Desmond Tutu's lifetime struggle against inequality and his quest for reconciliation, VU offered the Archbishop a Chair on Youth, Sports & Reconciliation to bear his name.

Initially, four faculties hosted a Desmond Tutu Chair for a period of five years under the banner of the SA VU University Strategic Alliances (SAVUSA). These include, the Faculty of Social Sciences (Prof. Stephen Ellis), the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (Prof. Chris Elbers), the Faculty of Human Movement Sciences (Prof. Geert Savelsbergh), the Faculty of Theology (Prof. Eddy Van der Borgh). On October 1, 2009 VU added a fifth Desmond Tutu Chair holder to the Programme at the Faculty of Medicine (Prof. Marceline van Furth).

The rationale of the DTP is that VU University Amsterdam joins forces with its South African partners, contributing to capacity building of scholarship holders and at campuses in South Africa. The DTP aims to strengthen cooperation between VU University Amsterdam and partner South African institutes through joint supervision of South African doctoral candidates.

The format is a sandwich programme in which students will:

- Register and obtain their research doctoral degrees from VU University Amsterdam, and preferably in the form of a Joint Doctoral Degree with a South African Higher Education Institution (HEI);
- Be jointly supervised by academic researchers at VU University Amsterdam and a South African HEI;
- If required, complete relevant course work for doctoral studies both in South Africa and in the Netherlands;
- Spend between one (1) and two (2) months per year over a period of four (4) years at VU University Amsterdam to undertake course- and thesis-related work, if necessary with an additional stay of 6 months maximum in Amsterdam in the final year of their studies; and
- Carry out their research in South Africa, with a restricted amount of teaching obligations on the basis of an agreement between the NRF and the employing South African HEI.

2. Objectives

The strategic priorities of the partnership entail the funding of one hundred (100) South African doctoral students over a period of five (5) years starting January 2015, with a mid-term review following the enrolment of 60 South African doctoral students. This will contribute towards reaching the NRF and SA PhD Project target of 6 000 doctoral graduates per year. The location of activity within the NRF rests in the South African PhD Project, a unit of the Human and Infrastructure Capacity Development (HICD) Directorate. Funding activity within the NRF rests within HICD.

The objectives of the DTP are to increase the target number of doctoral candidates in this programme, which currently stands at 18, to one hundred (100) over the years 2015-2020 (20 per annum). This is an extension of the current NRF-VU partnership to co-fund South African students in the DTP, a sandwich doctoral study programme.

3. Principles for the awarding of the scholarships

The DTP will have 'Bridging Diversities for Academic Advancement' as its overarching theme with the aim to contribute to a more equal world by integral thinking in which diversities are considered enriching rather than threatening. This means making connections: the programme stands for dialogue and engaged scholarship. Research undertaken in this programme aims to provide a safe space for thinking through the ambiguities and paradoxes of diversities.

The DTP aspires to make a difference to society: 'academic advancement' is here understood as relevant to, and serving the improvement of, society. VU University (Amsterdam) and the NRF are in agreement that following a trans-disciplinary, multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary approach will bring together diverse knowledge partners and beneficiaries. Research undertaken in this framework (i.e., 'bridging science and society') strives for high quality research in a context of equitable opportunities, access and outcomes for a broad and diverse range of beneficiaries. The following two themes will be key areas for research projects:

I. Prosperous Societies:

Research themes: food industry; HIV; identities; reconciliation; security; service delivery; development of high potentials; culture and communication; and corporate social responsibility.

II. Sustainable Energy:

Research themes: environment; sustainability; climate change; natural resource management; energy provision. Priority will be given to the above-mentioned themes or any combination of themes, in such a way that 'pockets' of research will emerge. In addition, doctoral positions for multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary projects are considered, and for innovative single projects outside these themes.

Applications from candidates intending to pursue doctoral studies in the following specific areas will be considered:

- Economics
- Theology
- Human Movement Sciences
- Social Sciences/Sport Sciences
- Medicine
- Earth and Life Sciences
- Sciences
- Law
- Mathematics

For the first call of the new phase of the DTP the following research projects have been identified:

Economics

- 'Township economics', Prof. Dr. Chris Elbers, Research Group, Development Economics.
- 'Optimising public value contribution of NPO's to a sustainable development of South African communities', Prof. Dr. Goos Minderman, the Zijlstra Centre.

Theology

- 'Bridging confessional and socio-cultural identities within religious traditions', Prof. Dr. Ed van der Borgh, Department of Dogmatics and Ecumenics.
- 'South Africa's religious discourse in the public domain: a theological analysis', Prof. Dr. Ed van der Borgh, Department of Dogmatics and Ecumenics.

Human Movement Sciences

- 'Motor control and learning: the development of (high) potential in sport, physical education, or in a rehabilitation/clinical context', Prof. Dr. Geert Savelsbergh, Motor Control Group at the MOVE Research Institute.
- 'Interacting networks - how does complexity transfer from one network to another?', Prof. Dr. Andreas Daffertshofer, Coordination Dynamics Research Group, the MOVE Research Institute.

Social Sciences

'South Africa's transition from apartheid to democracy: local-level aspects', Prof. Dr. Stephen Ellis, Department of Anthropology.

Medicine/Health Science

- 'A genetic approach to unravel neurotropism of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*: The bacterial side of tuberculosis meningitis', Prof. Dr. Marceline van Furth, Department of Paediatrics (VUmc).
- 'The pathogenesis of central nervous system granuloma and in tuberculous meningitis: a neuropathology study of human postmortem brain', Prof. Dr. Marceline van Furth, Department of Pediatrics (VUmc).
- 'Life after the game: Quantitative and qualitative analyses of long-term effects of injuries in Rugby Union players', Prof. Dr. Willem van Mechelen, Department of Public & Occupational Health / EMGO+ Institute (VUmc).

Earth and Life Science

'Metrological traceability for the accurate quantification of brominated flame retardants in the South African environment', Prof. Dr. Jacob de Boer, Department of Chemistry and Biology, IVM Institute for Environmental Studies.

Psychology and Education

'Parenting relationships and parent-child attachment: children with intellectual disabilities', Prof. Dr. Catrin Finkenauer, Department of Clinical Child and Family Studies.

Law

'Delivering public services through Corporate Social Responsibility', Prof. Dr. Frank van Ommeren, Department of Constitutional and Administrative Law.

Mathematics

'Multidimensional truncated moment problems,' Prof. S. ter Horst (NWU) or Prof. A.C.M. Ran (VU).

4. Eligibility

The required criteria for a successful doctoral candidate includes individuals with a research Master's degree, or students in the process of completing requirements for such a degree. However, applicants must have successfully completed a Master's degree to be admitted into the programme. Applicants must be South African citizens or permanent residents.

5. Application process

The scholarship programme is administered and managed by the South African PhD Project. Over the past years, the partnership has enjoyed a positive relationship in a cooperative spirit.

A call for applications will be placed by the NRF. The call will be published on the NRF's South African PhD Project website, and circulated through the NRF university stakeholder database, the South African PhD Project database and distributed through word of mouth by relevant NRF personnel. The call will close within two months from the announcement date.

The DTP team will screen the shortlisted applications for completeness. The screening outcome will be a shortlist of applicants to be considered for a doctoral scholarship. SAVUSA and Desmond Tutu Chairs will be requested to provide inputs and feedback on applicants as they are

experts on their field (Remote Reviews). The shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by the selection panel consisting of at least two NRF and two VU University representatives (Panel Reviews). Successful applicants will be offered the scholarship award by the NRF. In order for the applicant to accept the award, they are required to accept and sign the letter of award, scholarship conditions and banking details. The scholarship is awarded through an annual grant.

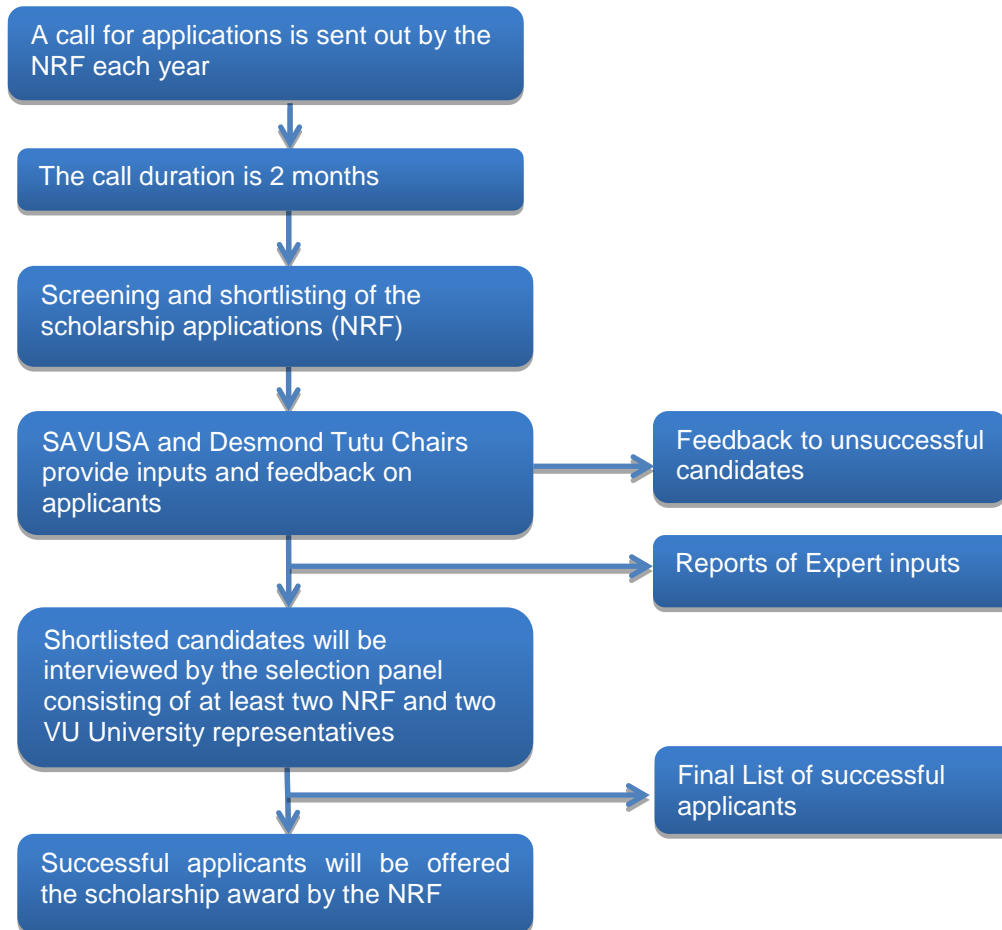


Figure 1: The Desmond Tutu Doctoral Programme Funding Process.

6. Funding

NRF - VU University Amsterdam DTP will cover overall costs related to scholarships and programme management both in South Africa and the Netherlands, it will provide to selected PhD students a scholarship of approximately R 220 000-00 (depending on exchange rates), each year toward doctoral study costs and will cover:

- Two economy return flights from South Africa to Amsterdam per year;

- Required visa and residence permit costs;
- Accommodation and living allowance in Amsterdam (for two one-month visits each year);
and
- Course fees at VU University Amsterdam;

In addition to the stated amount the doctoral dissertation defense will be covered in the final year, and the project management and supervisor travelling costs will be covered by the NRF – VU University Amsterdam DTP each year.

7. Reporting

For continuous monitoring of the programme the awardees will be required to submit Annual Progress Reports (APR) in a format provided by the NRF, against deliverables as outlined in the application form and the signed Conditions of Grant. The student's supervisor will be requested to endorse the APR.

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