

Russian Government Scholarship for South African Students 2015

The Russian Government is offering scholarships for South African students to study at Russian institutions from the academic year 2015/16.

The scholarship may be awarded for undergraduate (Bachelors) or postgraduate (Masters or PhD) studies. Preference is given for postgraduate studies.

Criteria and Eligibility

- South African citizens in good health with a strong academic record.
- Available to study in Russia from September 2015 (no extensions will be allowed).
- Demonstrated interest in Russia and commitment to the development of South Africa.
- Applications from all qualified candidates in any field will be accepted, but priority will be given to applications for postgraduate studies, previously disadvantaged applicants and applicants in the following fields:
 - Biotechnology
 - Climate change
 - Engineering sciences
 - Maritime Studies
 - Natural and physical sciences
 - Nuclear and renewable energy
 - Space science and technology
 - Statistics
 - Telecommunication
- All students must meet the minimum academic requirements for entry into a similar programme at a South African university.

Guidelines for education achievements:

STUDY PROGRAM	RECOMMENDED EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS
Doctoral degree	Master's degree (a minimum of 65% average is recommended)
Master's degree	Bachelor's degree (honours) (a minimum of 65% average is recommended)
Bachelor's degree	National Senior Certificate (or equivalent) with a university entrance (a minimum of 60% average is recommended)

About the Scholarship

Language of Instruction

According to the regulations of the Russian Ministry of Education, all programmes for scholarship students are instructed in the Russian language. Applicants with no command of Russian are required to take the college preparatory courses for one year before pursuing major studies. Only after passing the examinations of the college preparatory course can they start their university studies.

Institutions and Programmes

Applicants are required to do their own research into available programmes, institutions and programme-specific entrance criteria. The programmes and institutions available under this scholarship are listed at www.russia-edu.ru.

The final decision on admittance to institutions is done by the Russian institution and the Russian Government. Scholarships may therefore be awarded to institutions outside of an individual's preference.

Approximate duration of scholarships

STUDY PROGRAM	DURATION OF PROGRAM	DURATION OF PREPARATORY RUSSIAN LANGUAGE COURSE	DURATION OF SCHOLARSHIP
Doctoral degree	3-4	1	4-5
Master's degree	2-3	1	3-4
Bachelor's degree	4-5	1	5-6

Studies must be completed within the duration of the scholarship, as specified in the award letter.

Scholarship Conditions

The Russian Government provides the following:

- Tuition,
- Basic monthly allowance

The South African Government provides the following (subject to the availability of funds):

- One return economy airfare
- Monthly living allowance equivalent to R7000 for accommodation, meals, transport and personal expenses.
- Once-off settlement allowance equivalent to R4500

Successful scholarship applicants will be required to sign a contract and return to South Africa upon completion of studies.

Selection Process

Applicants can choose one academic programme and three preferred institutions from the list provided.

Applications will be assessed by the South African Department of Higher Education and Training. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview between 6 and 18 April 2015. Application documents of recommended candidates will be submitted to the Russian Government for a final decision and placement at an appropriate institution.

The Russian Government reserves the right to make adjustments to the proposed institutions, specialities and duration of study. If candidates do not meet the required criteria, the institution reserves the right to revise their academic program or give a conditional offer for their proposed programme. Students who attend Russian language courses or the college preparatory programme prior to their university study must pass all required examinations before they start their major studies.

Students are not, in principle, permitted to apply to change their specialities, institutions or the duration of study as specified in their scholarship award letter.

How to Apply

Complete application form (attached) and submit it to the DHET with all supporting documents. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Ensure that you include a valid email address and your current cell phone number. The DHET takes no responsibility in cases where applicants cannot be reached.

Supporting Documents Checklist

UNDERGRADUATE APPLICANT	POSTGRADUATE APPLICANT
1. Print out of completed application form.	1. Print out of completed application form.
2. A maximum 1 page cover letter explaining why you want to study in Russia and why you are a good candidate for this scholarship.	2. A maximum 1 page cover letter explaining why you want to study in Russia and why you are a good candidate for this scholarship.
3. Copy of passport or passport application receipt.	2. Copy of passport or passport application receipt.
4. Certified copy of National Senior Certificate or equivalent.	3. Certified copy of Bachelor's degree or Master's degree certificate (as applicable).
5. One letter of recommendation from a teacher or employer. Letter must be signed and on a letterhead.	4. Two letters of recommendation from professors or senior lecturers. Letters must be signed and on a letterhead.
	6. Copy of academic transcripts from university studies.
	7. A maximum 1 page study or research plan.

Note:

- **Do not submit CVs, ID documents or any other documents not requested.**
- **Incomplete applications will not be considered.**
- **Medical examination documents are not required with your initial application.** Only recommended candidates will be requested to submit medical examination documents including HIV/AIDs test results after interviews have been conducted.

DEADLINE: 30 MARCH 2015

Applications may be submitted by post, by hand or by email and must reach the DHET by the deadline of 30 March 2015.

By post: Scholarships Management, Room 713, Department of Higher Education and Training, Private Bag X174, Pretoria, 0001

By hand: Scholarships Management, Room 713, Department of Higher Education and Training, 117-123 Francis Baard Street, Pretoria

By email: Subject: Russian Scholarship Application, [Your surname]
internationalscholarships@dhet.gov.za or dhetscholarships@gmail.com if attachments are larger than 3MB.

Enquiries: phone: 012 312 5287 or email: internationalscholarships@dhet.gov.za

All applications received by the DHET will be acknowledged by email within 2 working days. Please follow up if you do not receive an email acknowledgement.