CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

2027 NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS "PGRS"

(PGRS for Postgraduate Diploma only)

Closing Date for Applications: 27 November 2026

INTRODUCTION

South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP) outlines the need for strategic approaches to drive the country towards a competitive knowledge society and develop the required human capacity in key areas. Central to a highly productive, globally connected economy are high-level skills and extensive participation in research scholarship. The Nelson Mandela University Vision 2030 Strategy highlights the institution's aspiration to invest in the attraction, development and retention of socially diverse, research active postgraduate students to promote talent continuity, research productivity and academic excellence. Nelson Mandela University implemented a new postgraduate funding policy in 2023 which seeks to advance social justice, equality and inclusion by providing postgraduate funding as a lever to address the challenges of inequity of access, success and throughput, in an ongoing effort to represent excellence. Citizenship, gender and disability are considered in the allocation of funding, with transformation of the postgraduate cohort as the core objective. Financial need is included as a criterion for determining the level of funding.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

PGRS funding is open to **South African citizens, permanent residents and international candidates** who intend to undertake **full-time** Postgraduate Diploma studies at Nelson Mandela University in the 2027 academic year.

In addition to meeting the admission requirements for the postgraduate programme, to qualify for PGRS funding at the Postgraduate Diploma level, students must be of high academic standing and must have achieved a minimum pass mark of 65% in their previous qualification (i.e the undergrad qualification).

Should the student have interrupted studies or transferring from another Higher Education Institution, then the student must submit their latest academic results record and qualification certificate to Financial Aid. The minimum pass mark will be calculated from those results.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Students must first identify the Postgraduate Diploma programme they want to be enrolled in for their postgraduate degree and apply for admission before applying for PGRS funding. Applications for funding in 2027 must be emailed to Financial Aid (Fatima Jiba) before the closing date. (Fatima.Jiba@mandela.ac.za).

Kindly ensure that the Subject Line reads "PGRS funding 2027AY – PG Diploma"
The closing date for applications is 27 November 2026.
The supporting documents to be attached to the application are listed in the application form.

Completion period

The student must complete the Postgraduate Diploma for which the PGRS funding was granted within One (1) year.
Failure to complete studies in the prescribed time will result in the funding already awarded being reversed, unless such failure was the result of:

- Proven medical incapacity, or
- Death of the student

Student Debtors will be handed over to the Finance Department for recovery of the outstanding amounts where the student does not complete qualification in one year.

Age at completion

All students who enter the postgraduate studies should complete their qualification within the prescribed age in order to maximise their involvement and contribution to the knowledge economy.

- Maximum age at application for the PG Diploma is 28years of age
- Number of years to complete is One (1) year
- Anticipated maximum age at completion is 29years of age

FUNDING PRINCIPLES

This scholarship programme aims to attract, nurture and retain outstanding academic achievers in the system to pursue postgraduate studies up to the doctoral level.
PGRS funding will be allocated in line with the following transformation targets:

- 90% South African citizens and permanent residents
- 10% students from SADC countries and beyond
- 55% women

The South African Citizens and permanent residents' targets are further disaggregated in terms of race and disability as follows

- 75% Black (African, Coloured, and Indian)
- 24% White
- 1% students living with a disability

SCHOLARSHIP VALUES

The scholarship categories and values for Full Cost of Study (FCS) and Partial Cost of Study (PCS) are presented in the table below.

Category	Postgraduate Diploma	
	FCS	PCS
Scholarship Value (ZAR)	139 000	100 000
Electronic Study Device Allowance (ZAR)	10 000	0

Maximum Assistive Technology Device (ZAR) for students living with a Disability	20 000	0

MAXIMUM FUNDING PERIOD
The maximum period of support for each postgraduate level of study is indicated in the table below.

Degree Level	Maximum Funding Period
Postgraduate Diploma	One year

For any other Postgraduate Diploma programme related funding enquiries, refer to the relevant contact people in the table below:

Roles	Contact Person	Email
Manager Financial Aid	Mr Fazlur Abdulla	Fazlur.Abdulla@mandela.ac.za
Financial Aid Officer	Mrs Fatima Jiba	Fatima.Jiba@mandela.ac.za

Mr Wayne Muller
Deputy Director: Financial Aid