

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

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POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP (“PGRS”): 2025

Criteria

Nelson Mandela University POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP (PGRS): 2025

The only qualification considered for the Scholarship via the Financial Aid office is Postgraduate Diploma (PG Diploma) that is offered fulltime.

PGRS will comprise 2 funding categories namely, **Full Cost Study (FSC)** and **Partial Cost Study (PCS)**

- FCS will cover Tuition, Accommodation, Living allowances, and electronic device.
- FCS will be available to South African citizens, and permanent resident students, who are:
 - Academically deserving and financially needy as determined through the established criteria and processes
 - Living with a Disability
 - Outstanding academics achievers (refer clause Academic requirements)
- PCS will cover Tuition and Accommodation costs only.
- PCS will be available to South African citizens, permanent resident students who are not eligible to be funded under FCS, as well as non-South African citizens.

The award for FCS is an once-off amount valid for the academic year 2025 and capped at a maximum of R139,000.

- Maximum of R10,000 for purchase of an electronic study device.
- Maximum of R20,000 for the Assistive device for students registered with a Disability via Universal Accessibility and Disability Services (UADS) department.



PGRS funding at FCS will be restricted to academically deserving and financially needy students who obtain:

- A minimum of 65% in the final undergraduate year of study for funding at Postgraduate Diploma level;
- The criteria used in the programme is aligned with the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) for undergraduate students. Applicants with a combined family income of less than R350 000.00 (three hundred and fifty thousand rand) per annum are deemed to be financially needy. In alignment with national funding agencies, all academically deserving and financially needy students will be funded at FCS.

PGRS funding at FCS will be restricted to outstanding academic achievers who obtain:

- A minimum of 75% in the final undergraduate year of study for funding at Postgraduate Diploma level;

The award for PCS is an once-off amount valid for the academic year 2025 and capped at a maximum of R100,000.

- A minimum of 65% in the final undergraduate year of study for funding at Postgraduate Diploma level;

Scholarship conditions

Academic requirements

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 degree (i.e the undergrad qualification).

Should the student have interrupted studies or transferring from another HEI, 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.

Completion period

The student must complete the PG 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

Students who receive PGRS funding are expected to undertake 80hours of academic support activities as part of their academic citizenship. These academic support activities may include tutoring or mentoring of other students; volunteering of orientation of new students or science engagement activities. Academic support activities must be included in the Student-Supervisor Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and reported on in the bi-annual progress reports.

FUNDING EXCLUSIONS

- Undergraduate qualifications, regardless of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) exit level
- Part-time Studies
- Postgraduate Certificates (including PGCE) regardless of the NQF exit level; and
- Employees and their dependents who receive formal study benefits (e.g. waiving of class fees or staff discount) are not eligible to receive the PGRS funding, they are encouraged to apply for the staff related financial incentive.

The student may use this award to register for your qualification.

Please note, that the funding will be allocated to approved students' fee account as follows:

- (i) 50% in Semester 1, after registration closes for Semester 1
- (ii) 50% in Semester 2, after registration closes for Semester 2, upon acceptable progression/academic results from the student

Reversal of PGRS funding

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***



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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.

“Information contained in this document was correct at the time of publishing. The University reserves the right to amend the policy with regards to the bursary, and may in its sole discretion, decide to implement such amendments retrospectively”.

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