**May 2022 RFA**

2022 Enrollment

**SAMRC Internship Scholarship Programme**

**Masters and PhD Scholarships for Clinical/Health Research**

**SAMRC INTRA & EXTRA-MURAL RESEARCH UNITS**

The SAMRC Internship Scholarship Programme (ISP) has been restructured to be in line with all other post graduate scholarship programmes offered by the SAMRC. The objective of the SAMRC Internship Scholarship Programme remains primarily to transform the composition of the country’s health and clinical research human capital to be more representative of the demographics of the nation. Within the context of the SAMRC, the SAMRC Internship Scholarship Programme is specifically designed to open an opportunity to develop Black Scientists i.e., African Black, Colored, Indian and Asian scientists through PhD training. Preference will be given to candidates registered for a doctoral degree in strategic and/or emerging research areas.

The purpose of this particular Request for Applications (RFA) is to attract black scientists within the following research fields, which will be given preference: Biostatistics, Bioethics, Data Science, Digital Health, Demography, Epidemiology, Evolutionary Virology, Implementation Science, Health Economics, Genomics, Immunology and Structural Biology

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Level** | **No of years** | **Value of scholarship p.a.** | **Notes** |
| PhD | 3 + (1 year extra, on strong motivation from hosting Unit Director and Supervisor) | R200 000.00 | 1. Funding is until completion of degree, or the specified number of years whichever comes first. Adequate performance is a requirement for annual renewal of scholarship.  2. Candidates must i) provide proof of being registered full time and ii) have ethics clearance for the research project. |
| MSc | 1 + (1 year on strong motivation from hosting Unit Director and Supervisor) | R160 000.00 | 1. Only scholars who are doing specialized Masters degrees in the following research areas will be considered Biostatistics, Computer science/ Data Science/ Epidemiology/ Demography and Data analytics.  2. Candidates must i) provide proof of being registered full time and ii) have ethics clearance for the research project. |

**Requirements for application**

1. South African citizen or permanent resident
2. Black candidate (African Black/Colored/Indian/Asian)
3. A fully developed research proposal for MSc/PhD
4. Research project must fall within the SAMRC priority research areas
5. Current registration at the university in which the degree will be awarded.
6. Written commitment of participation by an experienced research supervisor who is willing to train the student till degree completion.
7. Availability of research funding for the project and appropriate facilities to effectively conduct the research project.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Selection Criteria** | **Attached**  **check (√)** |
| 1. ***Suitability of the candidate:***   **1-page only**: motivation demonstrating candidate’s suitability and describing how success in the SAMRC Internship Scholarship Programme application will impact candidate’s career. It should be accompanied by an abridged curriculum vitae containing a full list of research outputs in the last five years and other meritorious achievements. |  |
| 1. ***Quality of the science:***   **≤2 pages only**: abstract of the PhD proposal outlining the rationale, design, feasibility, plans for research translation and information dissemination as well as potential impact of the proposed research project.  **NB: Proposed research project should be aligned with the priority research areas for this specific call** |  |
| 1. ***Supervisor’s abridged track record and signed commitment form***:   **≤3 pages only**: an abridged outline of publications, grants and experience in research supervision of PhD students and a signed commitment form **(Annexure A)** |  |
| 1. ***Research environment:***   **≤ 1-page** letter by the host SAMRC Research Unit outlining the career plan of the applicant upon completion of the MSc/PhD. |  |
| 1. ***Signed application form:*** please sign below and submit this form with your application. |  |
| ***6. Certified copy of South African identity document is attached*** |  |
| ***7. An official letter confirming date of first registration for the degree to be funded is attached*** |  |
| ***8. Evidence of ethics clearance is attached*** |  |
| ***9. Support letter detailing the availability of research funding/running cost is***  ***Attached*** |  |
| ***10. Confirm that 10 pages not exceeded (excluding official documents; 5,6, 7 and 8)*** |  |

Above is a table showing selection criteria and documents that must be submitted with the application (not more than 10 pages).

**It is important that you check (√) the right column to confirm completeness of application before submitting.**

**Scholarship Conditions**

* The Scholarship holder shall not hold full-time employment during the tenure of the scholarship but shall be entitled to undertake teaching, clinical or other related duties activities for a maximum of nine (9) hours per week and shall be entitled to be remunerated for that work provided that the level of remuneration is in line with the normal University rates.
* Scholarship holders may not receive, concurrently with this scholarship, other bursaries, grants or remuneration which bind them to enter the service of any organization without prior engagement towards agreement with the SA Medical Research Council through its Division of Research Capacity Development (SAMRC-RCD).
* Candidates may not hold a bursary from more than one South African Government statutory entity at any given time.
* Scholarship holders may not receive, concurrently with this scholarship, other non-binding remuneration/fellowships and grants without engaging with the Division of Research Capacity Development of the SAMRC.
* Scholarship holders may not, without seeking approval from the Division of Research Capacity Development of the SAMRC, register at a university other than that through which the application has been submitted.
* Once the scholarship has been awarded, the scholarship holder may not change the research supervisor without informing the Division of Research Capacity Development of the SAMRC.
* Research supervisors will be expected to submit 6-monthly progress reports or as requested.
* Application for renewal of funding will be considered on an annual basis, and success thereto will be subject to satisfactory progress being made.
* Successful applicants will be required to enter into an agreement with the SAMRC to complete their studies within the specified time period.

Full applications must be completed online, and all additional documents requested emailed to Mr Vincent Fipaza on or before **27 June 2022** at [Vincent.Fipaza@mrc.ac.za](mailto:Vincent.Fipaza@mrc.ac.za) (Tel 021 938 0311).

**The South African Medical Research Council reserves the right to disqualify ineligible, incomplete and/or inappropriate applications, change the conditions of the award, extend the closing date or make no awards at all. Please note that only successful candidates will be contacted after completion of the review, selection and approval processes.**

**Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA)**

*As of the 1st of July 2021, the new Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) came into full effect. The law is designed to protect how all juristic persons use, store and process data. You can read the full details on the act here:*[*https://popia.co.za/*](https://popia.co.za/)

*The SAMRC as a responsible statutory science council will comply with POPIA. The SAMRC will receive personal information through applications submitted to the SAMRC for the purposes of applying for funding. The personal information requested on the application template is necessary for the SAMRC to fully evaluate the applications for funding. This information will be shared with members of Scholarship Selection Committees of the SAMRC and external funders and/or stakeholders where applicable as well as the SAMRC management for the purposes of processing the applications. The SAMRC will process this personal information strictly in accordance with POPIA. The SAMRC undertakes specifically to process the personal information on the basis that (a) it was provided voluntarily and (b) the information will be processed only as far may be necessary and within the limitation and ambit of the purpose of evaluating the application for funding (i.e., the purpose with which the personal information was received). The SAMRC confirms that it is lawfully processing the information since the purpose of processing is to seek quality research proposals for funding which the SAMRC is mandated to do in terms of Section 4 of the SAMRC Act 58 of 1991, thus the SAMRC is fulfilling its legislated and lawful mandate, and strategic objectives as provided for in the SAMRC Act.*

For enquiries contact: Dr Lindokuhle Ndlandla at [Lindokuhle.Ndlandla@mrc.ac.za](mailto:Lindokuhle.Ndlandla@mrc.ac.za) / Tel 021 938 0442

**Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

**APPLICATION FORM**

**Personal Details** (Mark the correct one with a tick √)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Title (Ms, Mr, Dr) | | | | | | First Name: | | |
| Surname: | | | | | | Gender F / M | | |
| Population group: | Black | Coloured | Indian | Asian | White | Date of Birth:  *Day/ Month / Year* | | |
| Citizenship | | | | | | South African citizen | South African Permanent resident | Other (Specify) |
| South African ID no: (insert) | | | | | | Attach a certified copy of the ID document and confirm here with a tick (√) that you have attached it. | | |
| Postal Address: | | | | | |  | | |
| Work telephone no: (*where Applicable*) | | | | | | Mobile no: | | |
| Alternative no: | | | | | |  | | |
| University e-mail address: | | | | | |  | | |
| Alternative e-mail address: | | | | | |  | | |

**Academic Information** (Mark the correct one with a tick √)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Highest qualification: |  | | | | | | | |
| This application is for which degree level: | MSc | | | PhD | | | | |
| 1st year | 2nd year | | 1st year | | 2nd year | 3rd year | 4th year (please attach PhD completion plan) |
| Current degree funded by: |  | | | | | | | |
| University at which you are currently registered: |  | | | | | | | |
| First date of registration | **Attach evidence** | | | | | | | |
| Faculty |  | | | | | | | |
| Department |  | | | | | | | |
| Relationship to the SAMRC | SAMRC intramural unit | | SAMRC extramural unit | | | | | |
| SAMRC research centre | | Supervisor/main project funded by SAMRC | | | | | |
| Previous degree funded by RCD | | None of the above | | | | | |
| SAMRC Intra/Extramural Research Unit Name |  | | | | | | | |
| Title of research project to be funded |  | | | | | | | |
| Research field | Biostatistics | | | | Data Science | | | |
| Demography | | | | Digital Health | | | |
| Epidemiology | | | | Health Economics | | | |
| Genomics | | | | Immunology | | | |
| Bioethics | | | | Evolutionary Virology | | | |
| Implementation Science | | | | Structural Biology | | | |
| Alignment of the proposed research to the SAMRC priority research areas | Biomedical Research | | | | HIV, TB and other communicable diseases | | | |
| Health System Strengthening | | | | Health Promotion and Disease Prevention | | | |
| Maternal child and woman health | | | | Non-communicable diseases | | | |
| Public Health Innovation | | | | Violence, injury and trauma | | | |
| Potential societal impact of the proposed research |  | | | | | | | |
| Science engagement activities: *State how you intend to communicate and engage with the wider community on the significance of your research in an effort to bridge the gap between science and society* |  | | | | | | | |
| Research supervisor |  | | | | | | | |
| Research supervisor contact details:  Email address: |  | | | | | | | |
| Contact no of research supervisor: |  | | | | | | | |
| co-supervisor  (If applicable) |  | | | | | | | |
| Co-supervisor’s Institution: |  | | | | | | | |
| National | | | | International | | | |
| Co-supervisor contact details:  Email address: |  | | | | | | | |
| Proposed research project requires ethics approval | Yes ***(if yes Attach ethics clearance letter)*** | | | | No | | | |
| Proposed research project has been approved by the postgraduate office or equivalent office | Yes ***(attach official evidence)*** | | | | No | | | |

**I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (full names), hereby submit my application for a full-time PhD Scholarship and am cognisant of the conditions under which this scholarship is awarded**.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signature: | Date: |

**Annexure A**

**Main research supervisor’s commitment form**

(To be filled in and signed by the main supervisor)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Title (Prof/Dr) |  | | |
| Research supervisor’s full name |  | | |
| Institution name |  | | |
| Department |  | | |
| E-mail address |  | | |
| Contact number |  | | |
| Are you the main research supervisor of the applicant? | Yes | No | |
| Has the candidate’s research proposal been approved by the institution / or relevant authorised office? | Yes | No | |
| Does the proposed project require ethical clearance? | Yes | No | |
| Has the ethics committee approved the research proposal? | Yes  **Attach evidence** | No | NA  *State reason* |
| Does the area proposed for the research  complement or directly relate to your research interests? | Yes | No | |
| Does the institution have the internal  facilities, infrastructure (laboratories or as appropriate) and research funding that  will be required for the research to be  conducted? | Yes  **Attach support letter** | No | |
| Are there any concerns (if any please provide details) |  | | |
| Comment on the feasilibility of the proposed research |  | | |
| Will this research project ( degree) be completed within the prescribed degree duration (MSc = 2 years; PhD = 3 Years) | Yes | No  *State reasons* | |
| Comment on the applicant’s ability to conduct the proposed research project |  | | |

**I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (supervisor’s full names), hereby support the scholar’s application for the SAMRC scholarship and commit to undertake the supervision of the applicant**

**(applicant’s full name).**

**Please re– check that you have actioned all 10 points under selection criteria**