

NRF - ANNOUNCEMENT OF CALLS - 2027 SARAO DOCTORAL - NRF POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS CATEGORY NOW OPEN – INTERNAL CLOSING DATE – 15TH JUNE 2026

SARAO will consider applications from South African citizens and permanent residents, citizens of Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, and Zambia.

Eligibility: Master's Degree

SARAO will only consider applications from:

- Students who completed or graduated from a Master's degree since 2025, where the research work is directly relevant to the approved research project selected for their Doctoral degree (see Section 2);
- Students who are currently in the final year of a Master's degree, where the research work is relevant to the approved research project selected for their Doctoral degree (see Section 2).

Eligibility: Minimum Academic Requirements

SARAO will consider applications from students who achieved a minimum of 65% for a relevant Master's degree. Note:

- (i) For students currently pursuing a relevant Master's degree, applications will be evaluated based on their Honours degree results, or on their BEng degree results. Only those with a minimum average of 65% in these results will be considered for a scholarship.
- (ii) If a student currently pursuing a relevant Master's degree is offered a SARAO Doctoral scholarship based on their Honours or BEng results, but fails to achieve a minimum of 65% upon completion of their Master's degree, the scholarship offer will be revoked.

DOCTORAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

Please see the application funding guide for required information to be presented in your application.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Identity document or passport
2. University results
3. An up-to-date CV
4. Supervisor-agreement letter
5. Letter of Motivation
6. Two academic reference letters

How to apply for a SARAO Freestanding Doctoral Scholarship for the 2027 Academic Year

- **Application forms are accessible online** at <https://nrconnect.nrf.ac.za>
- Select the "**SARAO Doctoral**" option.
- Students may only **submit ONE application by no later than 15th June 2027**.
- Students **MUST upload all five required documents** (see Section 3), in the Attachments Section of the application form. **IF ANY OF THESE DOCUMENTS ARE NOT ATTACHED TO YOUR APPLICATION, SARAO WILL NOT CONSIDER YOUR APPLICATION.**
- Your application **must be supported by at least two letters of reference** (see Section 4). **IF YOUR APPLICATION IS NOT SUPPORTED BY TWO LETTERS OF REFERENCE, SARAO WILL NOT CONSIDER**

YOUR APPLICATION. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE YOUR REFEREES HAVE SUBMITTED LETTERS OF REFERENCE TO SARAO.

- Once you submit your application, it will automatically be routed to the institution where you are applying to study. In order for your application to be considered for 2027 funding, you must submit your application on or before the cut-off date. It is YOUR responsibility to check the application closing date with the university's Research or Postgraduate office.

APPLICANTS ARE REQUIRED TO APPLY WELL BEFORE UCT'S INTERNAL CLOSING DATE. INCOMPLETE AND LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AND REJECTED.

Please refer to the SARAO WEBSITE – <https://www.sarao.ac.za/researchandstudy/doctoral-scholarships/> to view the SARAO Freestanding Doctoral Scholarships for 2027

- [Read the application guide for SARAO Freestanding Doctoral Scholarships for 2027](#)
- [Read and check the Approved Doctoral Research Projects for 2027](#)
- [Read and check the Supervisor Contact Details for Approved Doctoral Research Projects for 2027](#)

Enquiries:

Please refer enquiries via email to nrfdasupport@uct.ac.za

Telephone: +27 21 650 3622 option 3

Kindly note information sessions will be communicated in due course