



APPLICATION FOR THE MAX & LILLIE SONNENBERG

DOCTORAL TRAVEL GRANT

CLOSING DATE: 31 MARCH 2026

The Max & Lillie Sonnenberg scholarships, established by Max Sonnenberg in memory of Jan Christiaan Smuts, are available to doctoral students at UCT, particularly those in **Marine engineering and Political economy**. These scholarships aim to support young researchers from South Africa or Zimbabwe in their second, third, or third years of study, with awards based on **academic merit**, irrespective of race or religion.

Additionally, the Max & Lillie Sonnenberg travel grants are offered through a competitive application process to cover travel, conference registration, and subsistence costs for presentation at a conference.

First round

Conference presentations must be between June and October 2026 to qualify.

Deadline to submit your online application by **31 March 2026**.

Eligibility Criteria

- South African or Zimbabwean Doctoral candidates
- Doctoral students who will present their research at a conference in the SECOND, THIRD YEARS of study.
- Doctoral students who successfully apply in the THIRD year of study may use their grants in the 4th year of study on condition that they are registered at the time of the conference.
- *Students who have UPGRADED from Master's to Doctoral study are eligible in the FIRST year of registration as a Doctoral student only. Evidence of the upgrade must be provided*

Conditions of Award

- Eligible applicants must not be full-time employed/ work for more than 20 hours per week
- Must be currently registered with the University for a PhD
- Only two travel grants (one in-person local and/or one in-person international) per doctoral applicant may be awarded in any one calendar year, up to the max value and cannot exceed R32 000.
- The Max & Lillie Sonnenberg travel grants and UCT Scholarships for International Travel cannot be held concurrently in any one year.
- These travel grants are not full-cost and are subject to proof of sufficient alternative funding
- Applicants are required to provide documentary evidence that sufficient alternative funding has been secured to support the costs of the conference

- Awards that are offered to students who have not sourced the balance of funds required
- An abstract of the paper/poster to be presented at the conference must be attached to the application. This document must not exceed ONE A4 page in total.
- Proof of abstract acceptance is required

Value

- In-Person - Up to a maximum of R32 000 for international and
- In-person up to a maximum of R10 000 for local/SADC conferences

Application instructions

- If Abstract acceptance has not yet been received by this application deadline, the application **may still be submitted**, and proof of acceptance sent as soon as it is received. If a travel grant is offered to an applicant who has not provided proof of acceptance, payment of the grant will not be made until proof of acceptance is submitted.
- Cost for accommodation, subsistence and travel will only be considered for ONE DAY BEFORE and for ONE DAY AFTER the official dates of the conference.
- A full budget must be completed in the space provided online. **Quotations/ costing screenshots supporting the summary costs must be attached to the online application as ONE PDF**
- A copy of ALL academic transcript(s) must be attached online.
- A CV of no longer than ONE A4 page must be attached online.
- Written motivation for presentation at the conference from the applicant's supervisor and HOD must be submitted to fellowships@uct.ac.za . If the required motivation is not submitted, the application will be disqualified.
- **Incomplete online applications will not be considered. Make sure to submit your online application before or on the deadline.**
- The awarded conference travel funds may not be used towards another conference, that is, the funds are not transferable. Should the conference be cancelled, or the full amount not be utilized for any reason, then the funds are to be returned.

It is compulsory for successful applicants to submit a brief report upon their return, with specific details on any publications that may result from the conference. Failure to do so will result in the cancellation of the award made and recovery of the funds paid out.

Enquiries to: fellowships@uct.ac.za