2023

DSI–CSIR INTER-BURSARY SUPPORT PROGRAMME

CLOSING DATE: 11 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 17:00 PM.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) and the Council for Scientifc and Industrial Research (CSIR) invite applications for a bursary under the DSI-CSIR Inter- Bursary Support (IBS) Programme. The IBS postgraduate bursary is intended for full-time studies at any South African public university under specifc themes.

ELIGIBILITY

Students approved for or registered for **full-time** studies at any South African public university, who intend to register or are registered for the following degrees:

- **Honours/4th year Engineering/Postgraduate Diploma**
- **Masters**
- **Doctoral**

FOCUS AREAS

Students who are interested in pursuing post graduate studies in the following Thematic areas to support the People Centred Mine Modernisation drive:

- Mining Engineering
- Engineering Geology
- Rock Engineering
- Mechatronics Engineering
- Data Modelling and Machine Learning
- Electrical and Electronics engineering (sensor design engineering),
- Systems Engineering
- Software Engineering (software design and integration)
- Environmental Engineering / Environmental Science
- Civil engineering / Geotechnical
- Energy and renewable energy

VALUE OF THE BURSARY AWARD PER ANNUM

- **Honours/4th year Engineering/Postgraduate Diploma:** R100 000
- **Masters:** R120 000
- **Doctoral:** R140 000
- Students will receive additional R10 000 once-off laptop allowance.

HOW TO APPLY

Please click on the provided link below to complete an online application:
https://www.csir.auraams.app

For more information on the DSI CSIR Inter-bursary Support (IBS) Programme, please contact the CSIR IBS team via email at: **hcd-interbursary@csir.co.za**

WHEN WILL I RECEIVE FEEDBACK?

Communication will be sent to all the applicants **within two months of the closing date** of the applications to notify students of their application status.

science & innovation
Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

CSIR
Touching lives through innovation

General Guidelines on Eligibility for Support:

DSI - CSIR Inter-Bursary Support Programme (IBS)

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1. Introduction

The Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) established the inter-bursary support programme for postgraduate studies to support capacity development in key strategic and priority areas identified in key departmental strategies. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is supporting the DSI in the development of skills in these areas.

2. Eligibility

‒ All students accepted for - or registered for **full-time** studies at any South African public university.

‒ All students who intend to register or are registered for the following:

- **Honours/4th year Engineering/Postgraduate Diploma**

- **Masters**

- **Doctoral**

The CSIR-DSI Inter-Bursary Support Programme applications are restricted to those students **whose degrees are aligned to the thematic research areas and research themes/technology streams indicated below.** Supervisor endorsement and motivation will be required with each bursary application for Masters and Doctoral applications.

Preference will be given to applicants from previously disadvantaged backgrounds and people living with disabilities.

3. Value of the bursary award per annum

Level of Study	Funding Amount	Once-off Laptop Allowance
Honours	R100 000	R10 000
Masters	R120 000	R10 000
Doctoral	R140 000	R10 000

4. Payment process and conditions of the bursary

‒ **The full bursary amount will be deposited to the student's university account to cover registration and tuition fees, the balance will be allocated on a monthly or quarterly basis by the university to the student**.

‒ This funding cannot supplement existing bursaries from other government sources (e.g., NRF or other government-derived bursaries). If the student, applies for more than one

government derived bursary and becomes successful in all of those s/he should choose **only one** before accepting this award. Once the funds have been legally paid to the student's university account**, the reversal of the funds is not allowed later in the course of the academic year.**

− Funding allocated for each bursary is for the specific academic year in which it was awarded. For first time registration, an Honours/4th year Engineering/Postgraduate Diploma award will be limited to one year, Master's award to two years and Doctoral award to three years.

− Funding is only guaranteed for one year, continuation of funding is dependent on student's performance and the availability of funds from the sponsor.

− The period of the award is calculated from the first year of registration of the study or research regardless of the Inter-Bursary Support Programme funding. **For example, a Master's student who obtains support in their second year of registration will only be funded for 1 year.**

5. Feedback

− Once an application has been made, applicants will be able to check their application status using the log-in details supplied to them during the initial application process.

− Communication will be sent to all the applicants within two months of the closing date of the applications to notify students of their application status.

6. Reporting requirements

Honours/4th year Engineering/Postgraduate Diploma

− Students are expected to submit the results at the end of each semester.

Masters and Doctoral students

− Students are required to submit mid-year progress reports, which are to be signed-off by the supervisor, at the end of the academic year, students must submit an annual progress report (APR).
− An official template for the APR will be provided. The purpose is to ensure that stated objectives are met within the stipulated timeframes.

7. Work-back requirements

Students are **NOT** subject to any work-back agreement with the CSIR upon completion of their

studies.

8. Thematic research focus areas

Preference will be given to projects within the below mentioned areas.

Honours/4th year Engineering/Postgraduate Diploma level students should state clearly which thematic research focus area they are applying for, so that it is clear that they can form part of the future pipeline development. It will be an added advantage to show whether their final year project is aligned with the research focus area.

Thematic research areas of interest for bursary support are summarised below:

8.1. Modelling and digital sciences

Prospective physics, mathematics, computer science and engineering postgraduate students intending to pursue topics in the following streams of information security are considered:

- Biometrics (including but not limited to fingerprint, iris, facial and gait recognition)
- Token-based authentication (including but not limited to smart card systems)
- Cybersecurity
- Data science

8.2. Microsystems technology

Students interested in pursuing post graduate studies in areas relating to microfluidics and micro electro mechanical systems (MEMS), broadly referred to as microsystems technology, may focus on any area which will contribute towards the improvement of one of the following streams:

- Microfluidics
- MEMS
- Printed functionality
- Sensors

8.3. Titanium (manufacturing elements)

Students interested in pursuing post graduate studies in areas that are in support of the Titanium Centre of Competence (TiCoC), a program in support of a sustainable South African titanium industry that will contribute to future growth of the economy, will be considered. Preference will be given to projects that are aligned with research and development within the following streams:

- Primary metal (titanium) production
- Titanium powder consolidation
- High speed additive manufacturing
- Investment casting

- High performance cachining

- Friction welding

- Sheet forming

Cross-cutting aspects such as physical metallurgy and characterisation, design, simulation and modelling will also be considered.

Please note that students that are already funded under TiCoC will not be considered for funding in this program.

8.4. Photonics

Students interested in pursuing post graduate studies in the following areas will be considered:

- Free-space and fibre optics

- Optical tweezing

- Bio-photonics

- Quantum optics

- Laser research

- Quantum control with photonic systems

- Laser cooled atomic systems research

- Laser welding

- Free-space and fibre optical communication systems

8.5. Biotechnology

- Biopharming

- Bioprocessing

- Bio-catalysis

8.6. Information and communications technology

- Information systems

- Computer science

- Information technology

- Electrical & computer engineering

- Electronic engineering

- Information systems management

- Statistics

- Data science

- Mathematical statistics

- Applied mathematics

- Epidemiology and biostatistics

- Artificial intelligence

8.7. Indigenous knowledge systems

Students interested in pursuing post graduate studies in the following areas will be considered:

- Bio-economy (food security, health, technology, nutraceuticals and cosmeceuticals)

- Climate change (Environmental Management)

- Technology innovations

- Energy (alternative and clean sources)

- Agriculture (indigenous agricultural practices)

- Engineering (product and process development)

- Ethnobotany and ethno-pharmacology

- Community engagement and scientific research

8.8. Health

Students interested in pursuing post graduate studies in the following areas will be considered:

- Pharmaceutical sciences

- Biomedical sciences

- Health sciences (excluding medicine, dentistry and veterinary Science)
  - Biochemistry
  - Pharmacology
  - Microbiology

- Physiology

- Pathology

- Forensic medicine

- Nutrition

- Biokinetics, recreation and sport science

- Synthetic biology

- Precision medicine

- Molecular biology

- Bioinformatics

8.9. Mining

Students who are interested in pursuing post graduate studies in the following Thematic areas to support the People Centred Mine Modernisation drive:

- Mining engineering
- Rock engineering
- Engineering geology
- Systems engineering
- Software engineering
- Mechatronics engineering
- Energy and renewable energy
- Civil engineering / Geotechnical
- Data modelling and machine learning
- Environmental Engineering / Environmental Science
- Software engineering (software design and integration)
- Electrical and Electronics engineering (sensor design engineering)

9. Continuation of funding

Although the award is for the 2023 academic year, continuation of the award for Masters and Doctoral students will be dependent on the availability of funds and the academic progress of the student (as captured in the APR with input from the supervisor of the proposed research). Students will be notified about the outcome of their renewal via direct correspondence.

The applicant and supervisor must indicate when they submit their APR whether continuation support is required.

10. Successful completion of the online application form

Applicants are required to complete their online application forms in full. **Incomplete application forms will not be considered**.

All applications must be accompanied by the following supporting documents:

− Proof of South African identity document (ID) or Passport (for international students) and permanent residency

− Official and certified university degree certificates

− Transcript of academic record indicating a minimum accumulative academic achievement in previous degree

− Recommendation letter by supervisor (compulsory for master's and doctoral applicants)

− Admission letter indicating full time registration (if available). This will be required if application is successful

− Reference letters (if available). This will be required if application is successful

It is the responsibility of the student to find a suitable supervisor and ensure that the supervisor supports the application.

Contact details

For Enquiries the CSIR may be contacted by email at HCD-Interbursary@csir.co.za

CSIR DSI Interbursary Support Programme (IBS) FAQ's

1. **What does being placed on the waiting list mean, was my application successful or unsuccessful?**

   • Being placed on the waiting list, means that your application details will be kept on a database for consideration when a funding opportunity arises.

2. **Which areas does the bursary fund?**

   • Please refer to the list of the funded thematic areas on the link: https://www.csir.co.za/sites/default/files/Documents/DSI%20CSIR%20InterBursary%20Support%20Programme%20-%20Eligibility%20Guidelines_%20Final.pdf

3. **What is the minimum academic requirement for the IBS bursary?**

   A student must obtain:

   • A minimum average of 65% for major subjects in the final undergraduate year of study for honours funding;

   • A minimum average of 65% at the honours level or final year of a four year degree for master's funding; and

   • A minimum of 65% at the master's level for doctoral funding.

4. **Can I still apply if I am an international student?**

   • Yes, the bursary does fund international students you will need to submit proof of a permanent residency and a passport.

5. **Can I still apply if I am employed?**

   • The bursary only supports fulltime registered students who are unemployed.

6. **What is the age restriction on the CSIR bursary programme**

   • An applicant should not be older than 35.

Study Level	Honours	Masters	Doctoral
Maximum age at application	28 years	30 years	32 years

7. **Will late applications be considered?**

   • We do not consider any late applications.

8. **Does the bursary fund short courses or students studying part time?**

- No, the bursary does not fund short courses or part time studies. Only full-time registered students are funded.

9. **What is the status of my application?**

- You can check the status of your application on **https://www.csir.auraams.app** by putting your application ID sent to you on email and ID Number.

10. **How are the Bursary payments made?**

- The full bursary amount will be deposited to the student's university account to cover registration and tuition fees, the balance will be allocated on a monthly or quarterly basis by the university to the student.

- On receipt of a signed bursary contract and proof of registration, payment to the University is then processed.

11. **Why is my application unsuccessful?**

- You did not meet the CSIR DSI Interbursary Support Programme eligibility criteria.
- There is a limited number of bursary positions available.
- Incomplete application e.g. research details not submitted and no supporting documents uploaded.
- Misalignment to the funded thematic areas.

12. **Can I hold 2 sponsors simultaneously?**

- You are not prohibited to receive additional funding from any source provided it is **NOT** funding from any government department/agency (e.g. NRF, CSIR Studentship, CSIR Bursary, CAIR Bursary, TiCoc, SETA's and Ledger Bursary). **The CSIR must be informed in writing of any additional funding that you may receive from any private company/institution. Please note that the additional funding should not be more than 50% of the CSIR value.**

13. **I do not have a research topic yet, can I still apply?**

- It is compulsory for Masters and Doctoral students to submit their research proposal as this is crucial in terms of determining whether students research work is aligned to one of the funded thematic areas on the programme.

14. **I do not have a supervisor as yet, can I still apply?**

- It is the responsibility of the student to find a suitable supervisor and ensure that the supervisor supports the application.