



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN THE MAX & LILLIE SONNENBERG DOCTORAL TRAVEL GRANTS 2025

The Max & Lillie Sonnenberg scholarships were established by the late Mr Max Sonnenberg, in memory of Jan Christiaan Smuts.

These limited scholarships are open to doctoral students of all faculties, preference being given to candidates of proved ability in the field of Marine engineering or Political economy.

The intention of these awards is to provide opportunities for young researchers of South African or Zimbabwean citizenship, who are registered at UCT for doctoral study and enrolled for the SECOND, THIRD or FOURTH YEARS of study. Doctoral students who successfully apply in the FOURTH year of study may use their grants in the 5th year of study on condition that they are registered at the time of the conference.

The award will be made primarily on academic merit without distinction of race or religion.

The Max & Lillie Sonnenberg travel Grants are available via competitive application, towards the costs of travel, conference registration and subsistence.

Current round: For presentation at conferences between June 2025 - October 2025 submit by **25th April 2025**

Second round: For presentation at conference between November 2025- May 2026- submit by **25 September 2025**

ELIGIBILITY and award value

Doctoral students who will present their research at a conference in the SECOND, THIRD or FOURTH YEARS of study. Doctoral students who successfully apply in the FOURTH year of study may use their grants in the 5th 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 AND SECOND years of registration as a Doctoral student only. Evidence of the upgrade must be provided

Value:

- In-Person** - Up to a maximum of R32 000 (max of R10 000 for local/SADC conferences)

Note: The following SADC countries are not considered to be "international", and the local value (R10,000 maximum) will apply *Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique*

CONDITIONS OF AWARD AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Individuals who are employed for more than 20 hours per week are INELIGIBLE to apply for these grants.
- Individuals who are employed at UCT on T1, T2 contracts and permanent staff are ineligible to apply for the grants.
- Applications from students who are registered for an Honours degree, master's degree, 5th year and beyond of doctoral study or have less than a 50% research component will not be considered.
- Applicants who are offered awards must take up the offer whilst registered at UCT and must be registered for the full duration of their conference stay.
- Students who are no longer registered at the time of proposed travel will be INELIGIBLE to claim the grant.
- 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.
- No applications will be accepted for research visits or for participation in academic programmes in other countries. Students wishing to apply for support towards the cost of international research visits are referred to the UCT Scholarships for International Travel. Details: <http://www.students.uct.ac.za/students/fees-funding/postgraduate-degree-funding/bursaries-scholarships/travel>
- These travel grants are **not full-cost** and 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 and stated in the summary of costs will be withdrawn.
- 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. **(If 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 compiled in the space provided - see No.6 of the application form. Quotations/ costing screenshots supporting the summary costs must be attached to the application.
- A copy of ALL academic transcript(s) must be attached.
- A CV of no longer than ONE A4 page must be attached.
- Written motivation for presentation at the conference from the applicant's supervisor must be submitted. If the required motivation is not submitted, the application will be disqualified.
- Incomplete and/or late applications or applications from ineligible students will not be considered.
- Retrospective applications will NOT be considered. It is important to note that conferences that take place before the application submission deadline will be considered RETROSPECTIVE.
- 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 awarded 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: fellowships@uct.ac.za