

Information Session

NRF Postgraduate Funding Opportunities for 2023



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Grants Management and Systems Administration (GMSA)

June 2022

*These slides have been updated with inputs by CoE-MaSS in May 2023
for 2024 Funding Applications for the purposes of this presentation*

General eligibility criteria

- Full-time studies
- Require $\geq 65\%$ GPA for previous degree
- Age restriction
- Full cost of study (FCS) = SA citizens and permanent residents
- Partial cost of study (PCS) = SA citizens, permanent residents and international students

Honours Level

Study Level	FCS		PCS
	Exceptional Achievers	Financially Needy and Applicants with a Disability	Other
Honours	Average of $\geq 75\%$ mark for major subjects in the final year of undergraduate study	Average of $\geq 65\%$ mark for major subjects in the final year of undergraduate study	Average of $\geq 65\%$ mark for major subjects in the final year of undergraduate study
	<p>Applicants for honours funding must be 28 years of age or younger in the year of application i.e., applicants must not be over 28 years by 31 December 2023. Only South African citizens and permanent residents are eligible for honours scholarships.</p>		

Masters Level

Study Level	Full Cost of Study		Partial Cost of Study
	Exceptional Achievers	Financially Needy and Students with Disability	Other
Master's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum average of 75% for all subjects at the honours level; OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum average of 75% for all subjects for a Postgraduate diploma level; OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum average of 75% for final year subjects of a four-year degree 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum average of 65% for all subjects at the honours level; OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum average of 65% for all subjects for a Postgraduate diploma; OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum average of 65% for final year subjects of a four-year degree 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum average of 65% for all subjects at the honours level; OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum average of 65% for all subjects for a Postgraduate diploma; OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum average of 65% for final year subjects of a four-year degree
<p>Applicants for master's funding must be 30 years of age or younger in the year of application i.e. applicants must not be over 30 years by 31 December 2023.</p>			

Doctoral Level

Study Level	Full Cost of Study		Partial Cost of Study
	Exceptional Achievers	Financially Needy and Students with Disability	Other
Doctoral	Minimum average of 75% for Master's degree	Minimum average of 65% for Master's degree	Minimum average of 65% for Master's degree
	Applicants for doctoral funding must be 32 years of age or younger in the year of application i.e., applicants must not be over 32 years by 31 December 2023.		

* Please note additional Eligibility requirements for NRF-SARAO, NRF-TWAS, NRF-DAAD at Masters and Doctoral levels. Refer to pages 6 & 7 of the [Framework document](#).

Masters and Doctoral Extension

- Applicants must be NRF scholarship-holders in 2023.
- Extensions will only be granted under exceptional circumstances and will be for either six (6) or twelve (12) months as the NRF expects all postgraduate students to complete their qualifications within the NRF funding period;
- Applicants applying for extension support at the master's level must have registered for their master's degree in 2022 or July 2021;
- Applicants applying for extension support at the doctoral level must have registered for their doctoral degree in 2021 or July 2020
- Only students pursuing full-time master's or doctoral studies in South Africa are eligible to apply
- Applicants for extension support will be eligible for postgraduate funding at the same value as their 2023 funding
- Applicants must have the support from their supervisor in order for the Extension application to be considered.

Age Limitation

To contribute to lowering of age at Doctoral completion, the NRF eligibility criteria for bursaries for full time studies, will have an age limit to achieve Doctoral completion by age 35.

Study Level	Honours	Masters	Doctoral
Maximum age at application	28 years	30 years	32 years
Number of years to completion	1	2	3
Anticipated maximum age at completion	29 years	32 years	35 years



Citizenship Eligibility

Levels of study	Citizenship Eligibility
Honours	South African citizens and permanent residents.
Masters	South African citizens, permanent residents and international students (PCS).
Doctoral	South African citizens, permanent residents and international students (PCS).
Master's upgrade to doctoral	South African citizens, permanent residents and international students(PCS).
Extension Support for MSc and PhD	South African citizens, permanent residents and international students

* **Note: Masters and Doctoral citizenship eligibility requirements is dependent on the Funding Opportunity. Refer to the [Framework document](#).**




Exclusion for NRF Postgraduate Funding

- **Students supported through the NRF and are still within the eligible periods of support for masters and doctoral studies- should complete a progress report**
- **Students registered for masters before July 2022**
- **Students register for doctoral degree before July 2021**
- **Students whose highest qualification is the same as the level under which they applying**
- **Undergraduate qualifications, regardless of the NQF exit level**
- **Postgraduate certificates or diplomas, regardless of NQF exit level**
- **Students pursuing a 100% masters coursework only and Professional masters and doctoral degrees**
- **Students that deregistered and reapply for support can apply but their period of support will be from date of initial registration for degree**
- **Individuals on sabbatical leave from their employment**
- **Employed individuals (contracted or permanent) paid or unpaid working for more than 12 working hours per week**
- **Students in their pre-proposal year of their study**



Financial Means Test

- SA citizens and permanent residents only
- Financial Needy Students - household income of less than R350 000 per annum
- Complete Consent Form for Financial means test
- Students previously supported by National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) or the Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme (ISFAP) will not be subjected to financial means testing – MUST attach proof of NSFAS/ ISFAP 
- Applicants who were previously funded by Funza Lushaka, Department of Military Veterans, or received Department of Social Development (DSD) bursaries for their undergraduate studies must undergo a financial means test upon application for DSI-NRF postgraduate student funding
- Completed all requirements under form - co-signed by household contributors, commissioner of oaths

Postgraduate Scholarship Values: FCS and PCS

Category	Funding per level of Postgraduate Study ¹					
	Honours		Master's		Doctoral	
	FCS	PCS	FCS	PCS	FCS	PCS
Value of the Scholarship (Rand)	R157 125 pa	R118 125 pa	R175 795 pa	R118 795 pa	R182 318 pa	R107 318 pa
Electronic study device allowance (Rand)²	10 000	n/a	10 000	n/a	10 000	n/a
Maximum Assistive Technology Device (Rand)³	20 000	n/a	20 000	n/a	20 000	n/a

¹ The scholarship amounts will be reviewed on an annual basis subject to the agreed CPI-linked sector-wide increases and alignment with the *Guidelines for the Department of Higher Education and Training Bursary Scheme for Students at Public Universities*.

² The electronic study device allowance will be provided as a once-off allowance for the duration of the postgraduate studies.

³ The Assistive Technology Device allowance will only be for students living with a disability.

- Payments based on proof of registration; semester/full-year.

Periods of Support

Period of Support is based on date of initial registration for the degree:

Level of study	Maximum period of support
Honours	One (1) year
Master's	Two (2) years
Doctoral	Three (3) years
Master's upgrade to doctoral	Four (4) years
Extension Support for master's and doctoral	Six (6) or twelve (12) months

Honours Funding Review Scorecard: New Applications

Review Criteria and Weighting	Description
1. Academic merit (40%)	Average percentage mark for major subjects in the final-year undergraduate courses.
2. Completion time for undergraduate degree (40%)	Time taken to complete the undergraduate degree.
3. Priority Research Area (20%)	Research aligned with one of the national research priority areas.



Masters Funding Review Scorecard: New Applications

Review Criteria and Weighting	Description
1. Academic merit (35%)	<p>Average percentage mark for the honours degree if completed;</p> <p>or</p> <p>Average percentage mark for major subjects in the final-year undergraduate courses for students currently registered for a honours degree;</p> <p>or</p> <p>Average percentage mark for major subjects in the third-year undergraduate courses for students in the final year of a four-year undergraduate degree.</p>
2. Completion time for previous degree (15%)	<p>Time taken to complete the honours degree if completed;</p> <p>or</p> <p>Time taken to complete the undergraduate degree if the honours degree is in progress;</p> <p>or</p> <p>Time taken to complete third-year undergraduate courses for students in the final year of a four-year undergraduate degree.</p>
3. Priority Research Area (20%)	<p>Research aligned with one of the national research priority areas.</p>
4. Project Outline (30%)	<p>Provide an overview of your research concept and your proposed aim.</p>



Doctoral Funding Merit Review Scorecard: New Applications

Review Criteria and Weighting	Description
1. Academic merit (30%)	Percentage mark for the master's degree if completed; or If the master's degree is in progress, average percentage mark for the honours degree; or Average percentage mark for major subjects in the final year of a four-year undergraduate degree.
2. Completion time for previous degree (15%)	Time taken for completion of the master's degree if completed; or If the master's degree is in progress, time taken to complete the honours degree or four-year undergraduate degree.
3. Track record or Research Outputs (15%)	Evidence of research outputs in accredited peer-reviewed publications and, presentations at conferences/symposiums.
4. Priority Research Area (10%)	Research aligned with one of the national research priority areas.
5. Originality of the Doctoral study (20%)	Problem statement, Identified knowledge gaps relating to the problem statement, Aim and Objectives of the study.
6. Potential Impact of the research (10%)	Potential to contribute to national research strategies and the strategic goals of the knowledge economy.



Masters and Doctoral Extension Support Review Scorecard

Review Criteria and Weighting	Description
1. Progress to date (25%)	Report on research work completed in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree.
2. Reasons why the study could not be completed in the NRF maximum funding period (25%)	Explanation of why the study could not be completed within the NRF funding period.
3. Work plan to complete the degree within the indicated timeframes (50%)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work plan for six (6) or twelve (12) months, indicating activities for completion of master's or doctoral degree, indicating the start and completion date of each activity; 2. Proposed date for submission of the dissertation for examination; 3. Timelines for corrections to dissertation from reviewers; 4. Details of manuscripts to be drafted and submission timelines; and 5. Proposed graduation date.



NRF Postgraduate Funding Opportunities for 2023



Thashni Pillay

Grants Management and Systems Administration (GMSA) May 2022

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Postgraduate Call Documents

- Framework
- Funding Guides (incl. SARAO)
- FAQ
- ISFAP Consent Form
- Statement of Expectations
- List of HEIs

<https://www.nrf.ac.za/nrf-call-for-proposals-for-funding-in-2023-and-2024/>

NRF Connect with ORCID profile

<https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za>



NRF Connect with ORCID profile

Applicants already registered on ORCID, must sign in using one of the following options:

- ORCID iD
- Email address linked with your ORCID profile
- GMAIL account linked with your ORCID
- Facebook account linked with ORCID

ORCID ID – unique identifier as a researcher

Sign in

Email or 16-digit ORCID iD

example@email.com or 0000-0001-2345-6789

Password

SIGN IN

[Forgot your password or ORCID ID?](#)

Don't have an ORCID iD yet? [Register now](#)

or



Access through your institution



Sign in with Google



Sign in with Facebook

NRF Connect with NRF profile

- Applicants who are currently registered on the NRF Online Submission System, will be automatically logged in to NRF Connect with the ORCID profile.
- If you're not registered on NRF Online Submission system, click '**Register**' to register and create a profile on the new NRF Connect system.

Register a new account

Already have an account? [Login now](#)

Personal details

Unique Registration

- Kindly note that this registration process should be completed only once.
- You need to complete all the required fields (indicated with *) before you will be able to submit your registration.
- After you have registered, you will need receive an email with a link and instructions on how to set your password.

LOGIN REGISTER

Contact details

Email Address *


Mobile Number

Primary email address

Please include Country Code +27 962 123 1234

CANCEL REGISTER

NRF Connect with NRF profile



Register a new account

Already have an account? [Login now](#)

Personal details

ID <https://sandbox.orcid.org/0000-0002-8226-4581>

First Name *	Surname *
<input type="text" value="Maserufe"/>	<input type="text"/>
<small>As per your birth certificate</small>	<small>As per your birth certificate</small>

Birth Date *

Contact details

Email Address *	Mobile Number
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<small>Primary email address</small>	<small>Please include Country Code +27 082 123 1234</small>

[CANCEL](#) [REGISTER](#)

Before starting an application, update:

- My profile (upload certified copy of ID)
- My CV

NRF Connect

Applications

MY CV

Career History

Qualifications/Certifications

Research Expertise

Research Outputs


Student Supervision

CV Preview

Sync Your CV
Migrate your CV from the previous system

NOT NOW **SYNC NOW**

My Applications


National Research Foundation | Research and Innovation Support and Advancement

Extension Support for Masters and Doctoral Scholarships
PMDS2205046342
[NRF Postgraduate Scholarships](#)
Applied 04/05/2022
Application in Progress

EDIT

Funding Opportunities

DISCLAIMERS & POLICIES

Funding Opportunities



NRF/Swiss Bilateral Research Chair
in Blockchain Technology

Institutional Grants

APPLY



Honours
NRF Postgraduate Scholarships

APPLY



Doctoral
NRF Postgraduate Scholarships

APPLY



Extension Support for Masters and
Doctoral Scholarships
NRF Postgraduate Scholarships

APPLY



SA / France (PROTEA) Call for Joint
Proposals

Research Grants

APPLY



Italy/South Africa Joint Research
Programme (ISARP) Call for
Proposals

Research Grants

APPLY



Thuthuka
Research Grants

APPLY



Equipment-related Travel and
Training Grants

Travel, Training and Conference Grants

APPLY



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Funding opportunity: Masters
Reference: PMDS2204294284

When logging a query, please send your application reference number and ORCID ID.
Supportdesk@nrf.ac.za

PMDS2204294284		Complete	Updated	Edit
Personal Profile *	*Compulsory section	×		
Qualifications/Certifications *		✓	29/04/2022	
Research Expertise *		✓	29/04/2022	
Student Supervision	Non-compulsory section	×		
Career History		×		
Research Outputs		×		
Patents		×		
Application Category - Masters *		×		

Financial Need Sections

Financial Need - Proof Of NSFAS/ISFAP Funding *	x	
Financial Need *	x	

NSFAS/ISFAP funding

Have you previously received or are you currently receiving NSFAS/ISFAP funding?



 Upload proof of NSFAS/ISFAP funding

EDIT FILE

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Applicants who were previously or currently funded by NSFAS or ISFAP, must upload proof of funding in a form of an **official university stamped financial statement** clearly showing that the funds are coming from these funders, a **statement from the funder** or a **letter from NSFAS, ISFAP or the university stating that the applicant received funding from them.**

- Less than or equal to R350 000 pa
- More than R350 000 pa
- Not applicable

Financial Need

Combined gross family income *

Do you give consent for a Financial Means Test to be done?

 Upload completed consent form *

EDIT FILE

Has a Financial Means Test been done?



If you were previously funded by NSFAS/ISFAP, a financial means test has already been done.

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Application Category Section

Application Category - Honours

Are you/will you be registered as a full-time student? *

Scholarship applying for * ▼

Type of NRF-SARAO Schol... ▼

NRF-funded researcher's applica... Funding Opportunity ▼

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Application Category - Masters UNSAVED

Are you/will you be registered as a full-time student? *

Scholarship applying for *
General NRF Scholarship

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Application Category - Doctoral UNSAVED

Are you/will you be registered as a full-time student? *

Scholarship applying for *
Scholarship linked to NRF-funded research

NRF-funded researcher's application/grant re...
91486

Funding Opportunity
CoE: Mathematical and Statistical
Science

CoE-MaSS UID

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Honours Application



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Final Year Major Subjects and Examination Marks

CREATE NEW

Subject

Mark(s) Obtained

 No data available

Application's proposed institution *



Funding Period *



Type part of the institution name to search

Discipline (of degree to be funded) *



Department/School (of degree to be funded) *



Are you currently registered for the degree for which you are applying for funding? *



Start date for the degree you're applying for



Anticipated date of completion for the degree you're applying for



Completion time for undergraduate degree *



Indicate what you are doing currently *



Are you willing to resign in order to take up the scholarship? *



Average mark(s) obtained

Average marks obtained were calculated from 'Major Subject and Final Result'

Details of Degree Section



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Masters and Doctoral Applications



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Applications with no research project titles will be rejected

Basic Information

Institution *

Type part of the institution name to search

Descriptive title/abstract *

Maximum 450

Select max funding years *

Title *

Maximum 100

Funding start year
2023

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Degree To Be Funded

Are you currently registered for the degree for which funding is being applied for? *

Has your Master's degree been upgraded to a Doctorate? *

Does your degree include a pre-proposal year? *

Does any financial support received for previous studies bind you to a service contract? *

Discipline *

Department/School (of degree to be funded)

Are you willing to resign in order to take up the scholarship? *

Date of first registration for the degree for which funding is being applied for *

Date of upgrade *

Indicate the year in which your pre-proposal year was/will be taken *

Student number (if currently registered at a university)

Faculty (of degree to be funded)

Indicate what you are doing currently *

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Academic Achievements

Name of previous degree *

Average percentage mark for major subjects or completed degree e.g. 65% o...

Year in which previous degree was completed *



Completion time for previous degree *






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Example: Masters applicant, still busy with honours = list info related to your final year undergrad





Note: GPA for the previous degree is confirmed upon take-up of award. If <65% obtained, scholarship will be cancelled.

Details of Research – Masters

Details of Research *			
Section	Complete	Updated	Edit
Project Outline *	x		
Alignment to National Imperatives *	x		
Potential Impact (Societal and/or Knowledge) of the Research	x		

- Details of research section differs between the masters and doctoral applications.
- Refer to slide 15 above for rubric

Details of Research – Doctoral

Section	Complete	Updated	Edit
Alignment to National Imperatives *	x		
Potential Impact (Societal and/or Knowledge) of the Research *	x		
Problem Statement *	x		
Aims and Objectives *	x		

- Applicants must give a concise overview of the proposed research in this section as the input is taken into consideration during the review of the application. Appropriate literature references must also be included in this section.
- Refer to slide 16 above for rubric

Application Support Input

BACK TO APPLICATION

Application Support Input CREATE NEW

Role	Surname	First Name	Institution	Email	Delete
⚠ No data available					

Types of references required are listed below:

Applicants must ensure that the contact details for the referee are correct.

Master's applicants

- Master's supervisor (Reference role = Proposed master's supervisor or Current master's supervisor)
- HoD if a supervisor has not been allocated (Reference role = Head of Department)

Doctoral applicants

- Doctoral supervisor (Reference role = Proposed doctoral supervisor or Current doctoral supervisor)

Application Support Input

[BACK TO APPLICATION](#)

Role *

Master's Supervisor

Head of Department

Reference/Supervisor/Host

Note: If the required referee does not respond, the application will not be considered for funding.

Once you have submitted your application, please alert your referee to expect an NRF email



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Search for the email address or part of the name of the support input
Zodwa




SEARCH FOR
'ZODWA'

Search Results

Surname

First Name

Institution

Email address

 No data available



User Not Found

Title *



Surname

Initials

First name

Email Address

Institution *



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Attachments

PMDS2204294284

Instructions



Please read the framework documents before attaching any documents.

BACK TO APPLICATION

Documents

Supporting Documents

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Extension Support Application



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Application Category - Extension Support

Are you/will you be registered as a full-time student? *

Masters or Doctoral

Type of scholarship * ▼

6 or 12 months

Extension requested for * ▼

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Application Support Input

[BACK TO APPLICATION](#)

Application Support Input

[CREATE NEW](#)

Role	Surname	First Name	Institution	Email	Delete
------	---------	------------	-------------	-------	--------

 No data available

Extension support:

- Supervisor must respond AND recommend the extension

Information pulls from the NRF system

Details of Extension UNSAVED

Application/grant reference number

Value of grant

Application's proposed institution *



Application's proposed institution is required

Student number (if currently registered at a university)

Date of first registration for the degree



Date of first registration for the degree is Required

Discipline



Discipline is Required

Faculty (of degree to be funded)



Department/School (of degree to be funded)



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Original Problem Statement *	×	✎
Original Research Plan *	×	✎
Progress to Date *	×	✎
Reason why the study not be completed in the NRF max funding period *	×	✎
Work plan to complete the degree within the indicated timeframes *	×	✎

- All free text boxes
- All compulsory

Applicant Closing Dates

Students' Applications Closing Dates:

Level of study	Closing dates
Honours	24 November 2023
First-time Master's	11 July 2023
First-time Doctoral	11 July 2023
Master's and Doctoral Extension Support	18 August 2023

Please note that these are the NRF's closing dates

Your institution will have an earlier closing date. Please check with your institution



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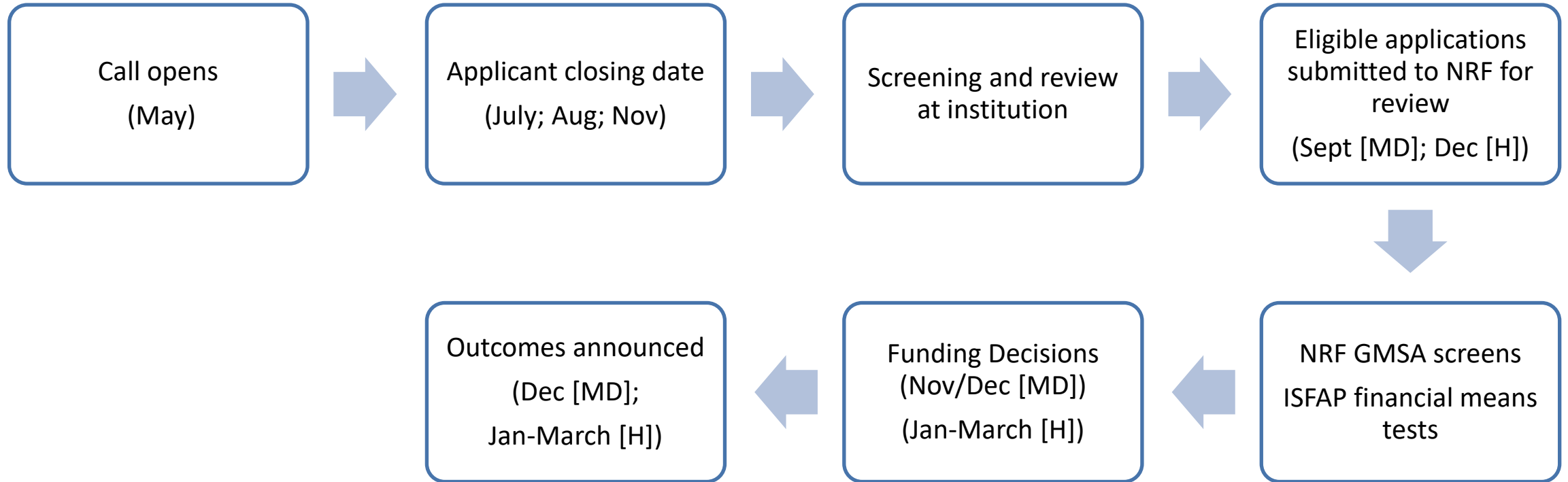
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Processes



Who to Contact at your 2024 institution: Internal

What is an NRF Designated Authority (NRF DA)

- [NRF DA](#)'s are the link between researchers/students/applicants at an institution, and the funder (NRF). **Application queries should start at your DA as your first port of call.**
- The DA's are usually located in your Research/Postgraduate/Student Support Office at your 2024 host institution. You can ask your 2024 Supervisor who this person is at your 2024 institution if you are unsure.
- They review for eligibility, completeness and correctness before submitting to NRF.
- Ensure that all required attachments are correct and uploaded.
- The DA can reopen your application for editing, if/when required

Make sure to **include your application reference number** when querying your application.

Who to contact at the NRF: External

- Your 2024 institutional DA should always be your first port of call re your application, however, you may also need to contact the NRF with additional queries. You can contact the below listed people at the NRF but be sure to **ALWAYS CC** supportdesk@nrf.ac.za to obtain a ticket reference number for your query.
- Make sure to **include your application reference number** when querying your application.
- For First-time **CoEs honours, master's and doctoral** related enquiries, please contact: Ms Malekgotla Finger: Professional Officer – RCCE. Telephone: 012 481 4003. Email Address: MD.Finger@risa.nrf.ac.za
- For master's and doctoral **Extension Support**, related enquiries, please contact: Ms Nontokozo Kunene: Professional Officer – HICD. Telephone: 012 481 4105 Email Address: NS.Kunene@risa.nrf.ac.za



Thank you, Enkosi, Re a leboga, Siyabonga, Dankie



QUESTIONS???



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