

## **Doctoral and Postdoctoral PDP Nominations for 2020 academic year**

The National Research Foundation (NRF) and the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) are pleased to invite Science Councils, National Facilities and Public research-performing institutions to nominate doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows for the Professional Development Programme (PDP). For the past three years the PDP programme has showed underperformance in attaining the targets as per ministerial guidelines on equity and redress of 80% blacks and 55% women for doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows. Nominations that will be approved for the 2020 academic year will be in line with the ministerial guidelines on equity and redress. Due to awards not taken up in 2019, the current budget made available **16 doctoral scholarships** to the value of **R180 000.00 per annum** over a three year period, tax free and **40 postdoctoral fellowships** to the value of **R350 000.00 per annum** over a three year period, however, this amount will be taxable.

**A successful PDP doctoral student will be expected to complete and submit to the NRF:**

1. *An Agreement for Grantholder-linked PDP Student Support;*
2. *Student-Supervisor Agreement that specifies amongst other matters, the expectations, deliverables and responsibilities of both parties with respect to the student-supervisor relationship;*
3. *Copy of identity document; and*
4. *Submit proof of registration.*

**While successful Postdoctoral fellows will be expected to complete and submit to the NRF:**

1. *An Agreement for Grantholder-linked PDP Fellow Support;*
2. *A signed three-year fixed term employment non-renewable contract with the host institution;*
3. *Copy of identity document; and*
4. *Proof of completion of the Doctoral degree.*

Host institutions and principal investigators will be expected to contribute towards training costs, travel costs, running expenses, infrastructure and mentorship of the PDP candidate. **Deadline for take up is 30 April 2020.** No extensions will be granted, including nominated Post-Doctoral candidates that do not complete their Doctoral degree by the deadline.

**The eligibility criteria for the **Doctoral supervisors and Postdoctoral mentors** is as follows:**

- He/she must hold a doctoral degree and have postgraduate supervision experience to host and supervise postgraduate students;
- He/she must hold a full-time permanent position as a researcher at the host institution, or a contract position as a researcher for the full duration of the Block Grant; and
- He/she should ideally hold an honorary or part/time academic position at a South African public university for the full duration of the awarded grant.

**The eligibility criteria for **PDP Doctoral students and Postdoctoral fellows** is as follows:**

- Only *bona-fide* South African citizens or permanent residents may receive a PDP Doctoral Scholarship or Postdoctoral Fellowship;
- To be awarded a PDP Doctoral Scholarship, the individual must have obtained his/her Master's degree no more than five (5) years before commencement of Doctoral studies. In the case of female candidates that are returning to postgraduate studies after a period of absence from research due to family responsibilities, this criterion may be waived.
- To be appointed as a PDP Postdoctoral Fellow, the individual must have obtained his/her Doctoral degree no more than five (5) years before commencement of the PDP Postdoctoral Fellowship. In the case of female candidates that are returning after a period of absence from research due to family responsibilities, this criterion may be waived.
- Full-time employees of public Research Institutions, Science Councils, Museums or National Facilities may not hold a PDP scholarship or fellowship.

**Kindly note that this cohort of Doctoral students will not be affected by the new Postgraduate Policy.**