

Struggling with your thesis?

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## Centre for Graduate Support

newsletter

Your guide to navigate through postgraduate studies

July 2023



### Struggling with your thesis?

Are you a postgraduate student currently busy with writing your thesis or dissertation, but struggling with the following:

- Reading complex texts;
- Articulating ideas;
- Paragraph structure;
- Using transitional phrases; and
- Referencing?

Contact the Write Space now to get your writing needs met!

Book your appointment with a writing consultant [here](#).

### 2024 DSI-NRF Postgraduate Student Funding

The NRF has announced a call for new applications for DSI-NRF Postgraduate Student Funding for the academic year 2024.

The NRF **minimum academic requirement** for postgraduate funding is **65%**. The entry age requirement is 28, 30 and 32 years or younger for honours, master's and doctoral studies respectively, in the year of application, regardless of first year of registration. The scholarships are intended to support honours, master's and doctoral candidates to pursue studies in all areas of **Science, Engineering, Technology, Social Sciences, and Humanities**.

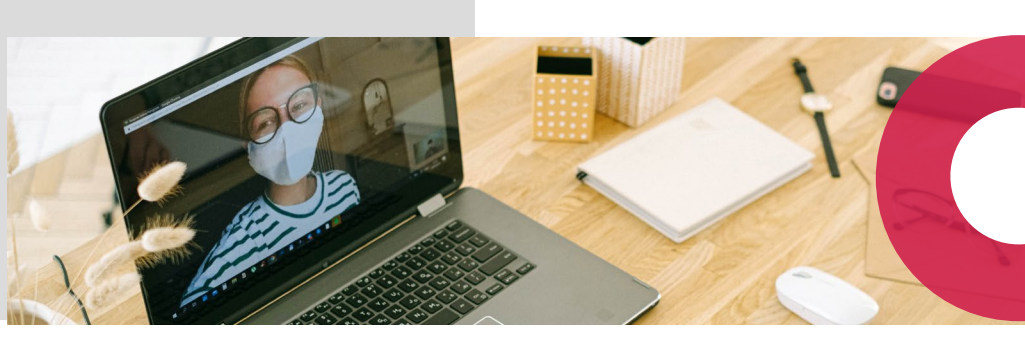
All the postgraduate students must apply on the [NRF Connect System](#).

Manual applications will not be accepted.

#### Applications 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: 11 July 2023.

Click [here](#) for more information on the application process:



### Postgraduate Konnect: unlocking success opportunities



"You are the future of this country. It is encouraging to see that we have this pool of talent. Pursuing a postgraduate qualification gives you an opportunity to become more of an expert in your chosen field," said **Dr Nthabeleng Rammile**, Senior Officer: Company Relations in [Career Services](#), at the 2023 Postgraduate Konnect.

Hosting the Postgraduate Konnect event, the [Centre for Graduate Support](#) provides an opportunity for new and returning postgraduate students 'to connect with the University of the Free State (UFS), as well as to the resources, and to assist them in successfully navigating their postgraduate studies journey.'

#### Foundation laid for students to thrive

Speaking at the 2023 event held virtually and face to face in the Equitas Auditorium on the Bloemfontein Campus on Friday 2 June 2023, Dr Rammile said: "I know people say that experience is a teacher; this is true to a certain extent. However, relying on experience alone is a limitation.

But your intellect sharpens in a way that you cannot on any other platform, except when you get your qualification. With your qualification, you become attractive to industries."

**Dr Karen Booysen**, Former Acting Director: Centre for Graduate Support, reminded students to 'keep in mind that they are part of a larger community.' "Many have faced adversities and emerged stronger and wiser. The UFS has developed a network of support structures designed to provide assistance and resources to encourage you to thrive academically and professionally," added Dr Booysen.

The UFS currently has two sources of funding for students pursuing postgraduate studies – The [National Research Foundation \(NRF\)](#) and the University of the Free State Tuition Bursary. To qualify for NRF funding, students must have 65% average for the honours degree to pursue a master's degree. For the UFS Tuition Bursary, students applying for honours degrees must have 65% for all modules completed at undergraduate level.

#### Remembering the roots to building a strong future

**Prof Vasu Reddy**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Internationalisation, said embarking on postgraduate studies is a "journey to be inspired by many who came before you and those who will come after you". Prof Reddy said: "We must remember our heritage, our roots, and the people who put us there – the families, mothers, and grandmothers."

[Read full article](#)

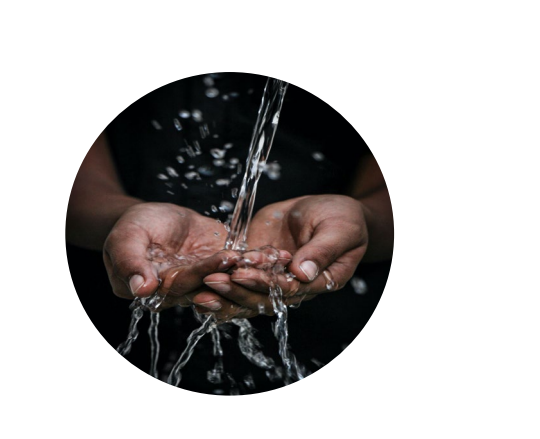
### UFS Staff Study Support Grant

If you are busy with your master's or doctoral degree and need financial assistance to complete your degree, the Centre for Graduate Support (CGS) would like to extend an invitation to you to apply for the 2023 UFS Staff Study Support Grant. The Grant provides financial assistance to UFS staff registered for their master's and doctoral degrees at the UFS or other South African universities to complete their studies.

#### The Grant covers the following:

- Teaching assistance (only for academic staff busy with their doctoral degree).
- Final editing costs.
- Fieldwork costs.
- Supervision visits (other South African universities except for UFS and CUT).
- Other costs at the discretion of the Funding Allocation Committee (motivation is required).

For more information and to apply click [here](#)

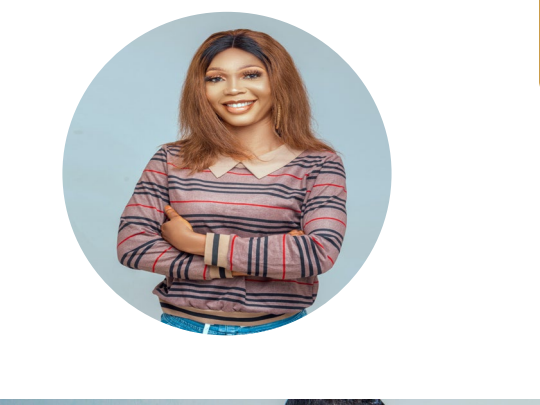


### Cholera could become the new normal, warns UFS ecotoxicology expert

South Africa's water challenges and dilapidating infrastructure could mean that cholera is here to stay. The recent [cholera outbreaks](#) in Gauteng and the Free State were a warning sign that the quality of the country's water is questionable.

Dr Otomo said that cholera is one of the most vicious threats to public health and an indicator of inequality, because bacteria may continue to thrive if the current conditions remain unchanged. "All it takes to get cholera is a drop of contaminated water in your system to fall sick or even die.

[read more](#)



### Gender equality in NRENs: a foundation for sustainability

African women are still a minority in the field of research and science. However, there has been significant progress in the field in comparison to other world regions. Sub-Saharan Africa counts a 33% share of female researchers in all subject areas, while in North Africa, Tunisia is the first country in Africa with a 55% share of female researchers.

[read more](#)

