



UCT POSTGRADUATE FUNDING OFFICE

An intro to our team, services & scholarships

**We're here to help
postgraduates at UCT
navigate funding opportunities**

Last updated: July 2024



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

"Starting postgrad studies is not an overnight decision – lots of thinking goes into it! Finding and applying for funding is a key part. Every year, my team assists thousands of students kickstart their individual postgraduate journeys. For assistance, all you need to do is knock on our door"

Chantal Swartz | Senior Manager,
Postgraduate Funding Office

Web

bit.ly/UCTPGfunding

Visit us

Level 3, Otto Beit building,
University Avenue North,
Upper Campus, UCT



@UCTpostgrads

Contact us

If you are a UCT student:

- **Log a service request online:** bit.ly/ServReqGuide
- **Book a consultation:** bit.ly/PGFOHelpDesk

If you are NOT yet a UCT student:

- **Phone:** +27 21 650 3622
- **Email:** pgfunding@uct.ac.za

Meet the PGFO leadership team

Three teams make up the PGFO.
Two teams support postgraduate
students, and one team supports the
Postdoctoral Research fellows



Chantal Swartz
SENIOR MANAGER

We are responsible for the management and administration of postgraduate and postdoctoral awards, as well as for monitoring the postgraduate and postdoctoral sectors and for the development of policies and procedures for financial and other types of support.



Stacey-Lee Harrison
MANAGER



Chantel Reed
MANAGER



UCT & DONOR FUNDING

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

- Financial Aid/GAP for South African and permanent residents
- Vice Chancellor Scholarship
- International Students Scholarships
- Refugee Students Scholarships

- JW Jagger Centenary Scholarships
- JW Jagger Trust Scholarship

- John Davidson Educational Trust
- Margaret McNamara Memorial Fund
- Women Scientist Fellowship
- Commonwealth
- Lestrade
- Garden Cities
- Dr J Graaf & Dr A Strebel
- IBM Bursary
- RAPCAN

These awards & grants are covered in detail online.
Refer to Handbook 14: bit.ly/UCThandbooks



UCT & DONOR FUNDING

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

Travel Grants

By independent application form

- Doctoral Conference Travel Grants
- International Travel Scholarships
- Scarbrow Bursary

Prestigious Fellowships

By independent application form

- The Harry Crossley Research Fellowships
- The Annette-Campbell White Scholarship

Awards by nominations

- The Mamokgethi Phakeng Scholarship Fund
- The Mamokgethi Phakeng Prize
- The Max Price and Deborah Posel Postgraduate Scholarship
- Graduation awards, 3-Year Bachelor and Senior Scholarships

These awards & grants are covered in detail online.
Refer to Handbook 14: bit.ly/UCThandbooks



STATE FUNDING & DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

National Research Foundation (NRF) Scholarships

- Innovation, Scarce Skills, Freestanding, DAAD
- Nuffic (Single/Split Site)
- TWAS Doctoral
- Grant Holder/SARChI Bursaries
- SARAO
- Extension
- Full Cost of Study (FCS)
- Partial Cost of Study (PCS)
- Other funding is available on the NRF's website:
www.nrf.ac.za/funding/

NRF Travel Grants

Respective Departments

- Departmental Scholarships
- Consult the Departments/Faculties

These awards & grants are covered in detail online.
Refer to Handbook 14: bit.ly/UCThandbooks



Book your
FREE
consultation
with us

We are here to help you
navigate funding applications

Don't leave it until the eleventh hour to reach out for support from the PGFO. If you need help, contact the PGFO at least a few weeks before the deadline to submit the funding application.

Does the thought of submitting an application for funding feel overwhelming and intimidating?

The PGFO is available for one-on-one sessions to help you navigate the application process. All you have to do, is book a consultation with us.

Book here: bit.ly/PGFOHelpDesk

FINDING FUNDING

7 KEY THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT FUNDING YOUR POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

1. Be flexible
2. Keep those marks up
3. Plan ahead
4. Follow @UCTpostgrads
5. Gather as much info as possible
6. Prepare for a balancing act
7. Ask for help

IMPORTANT POINTS TO CONSIDER REGARDING FUNDING ELIGIBILITY

Postgraduate funding is not automatically granted based on admission to UCT or as a follow-on to the undergraduate funding you may have had. There are many awards, each with specific criteria and rules that must be fulfilled/matched. Hence there is an application process for all awards, including deadlines for submission dates, which must be adhered to.

Read the Postgrad Studies brochure
for more details: bit.ly/UCTFindPGFunding

Our go-to-places for funding opportunities

Take note!
Funding opportunities
are announced
throughout the year,
so make sure you keep
an eye on these
platforms!

Our electronic
funding noticeboard
bit.ly/PGFundingListUCT

Handbook 14
Financial
Assistance for
Postgraduate Study
and Postdoctoral
Research
bit.ly/UCThandbooks

Follow us on X



[@UCTpostgrads](https://twitter.com/UCTpostgrads)

Our prestigious
suite of awards
bit.ly/PrestigeUCT



Scholars
Program

www.mcfsp.uct.ac.za

Main areas of support/sources of funds

UCT (GOB) - University of Cape Town - General Operating Budget
Funds provided by UCT Council to the General Operating Budget

DEPT - Departmental Scholarships

Departmental funds are derived from those raised by individual academics, academic departments and/or units

DON - Donated Funds

Donated funds are received from sponsors

INV - Invested Funds

Part of the annual income from specific investments that are held by the university are used for scholarship support

NRF - National Research Foundation

NRF is a government-funded agency that provides funds to support research at universities

The PGFO is the guardian of all these funds. We are responsible for managing these funds and ensuring that the recipients of each scholarship are paid.

In 2023,
the PGFO allocated

R390.1
MILLION*

to postgraduate students
to fund their studies

* unaudited figure

Funding tenure & income limits

FIRST THREE YEARS of doctoral study

R315 000 funding limit

FIRST TWO YEARS of master's study

R254 000 funding limit

ONE YEAR of honours study

R190 000 funding limit

Annual funding limitations

Apply to the scholarships and bursaries managed by the PGFO. Students can accept more than one scholarship as long as the total amount doesn't exceed these figures each year.

Please note that financial-need* applicants will only be awarded funding up to their cost of attendance which is calculated as follows:

- tuition
- once-off book allowance
- res/rental or live-at-home allowance
- food allowance
- travel allowance

Eligibility criteria

- **TYPES OF DEGREES:**
Honours, master's & doctoral
- **STUDENT STATUS:**
Most funding opportunities are only available for full-time studies, but there are a few options available to students studying part-time
- **NATIONALITY:**
Most of the scholarships are only available to South African citizens or permanent residents. However, there are a few scholarships for students located elsewhere in the world

Ineligible categories

- These degrees do not qualify for funding from the PGFO because they do not have a research focus: diplomas, certificates, BArch & LLB.
- Any fourth year linked to an undergraduate degree
- In addition, a second degree at the same level as one they already hold e.g. a second honour's degree

*UCT allocates a variety of postgraduate funding awards for South Africans and permanent residents based on merit, financial need or both.

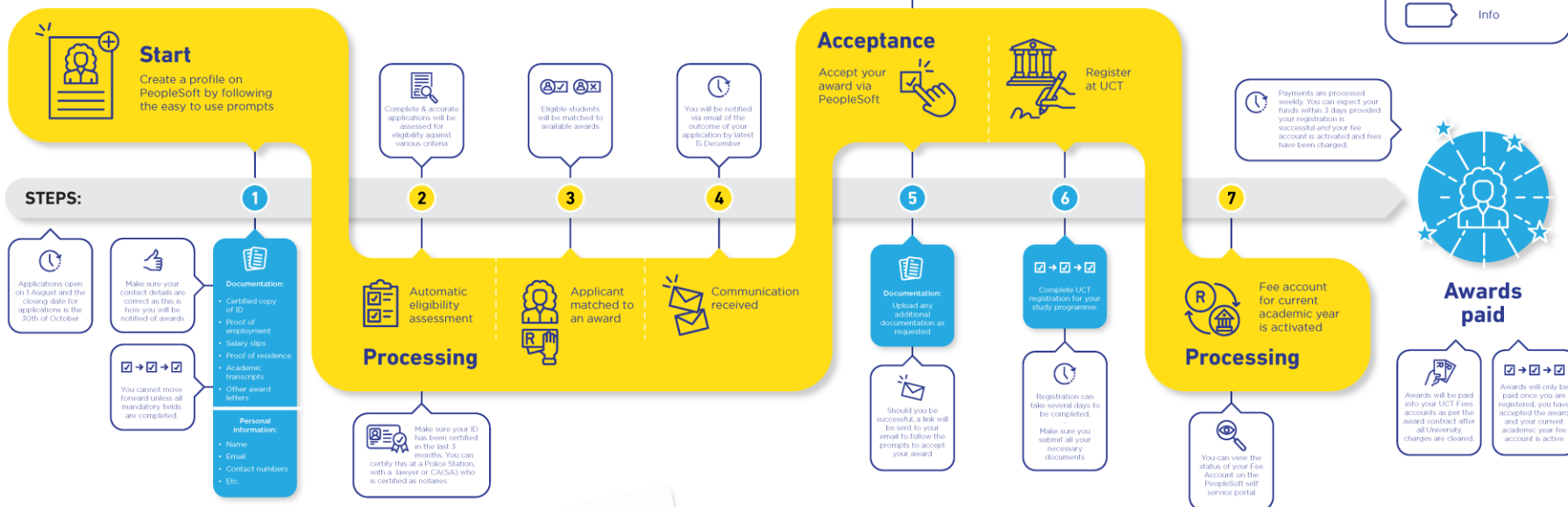
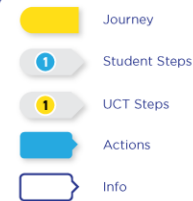


Postgraduate Financial Aid

A step-by-step guide of the process

UCT allocates a variety of postgraduate funding awards for South Africans and permanent residents through the Postgraduate Online Funding Application. These awards are allocated based on merit, financial need, or both. This document will guide you through how to apply.

Key



Do you want to apply for financial aid from UCT?

Download the full step-by-step guide here:
bit.ly/FinAidGuideUCT

Postgraduate Financial Aid



How do I know what I am eligible for?

UCT manages many awards and funds within the financial aid process. The eligibility for these awards differ depending on the information you upload, the system will determine your eligibility for various awards and match which financial aid awards you are eligible for, the system does this for you.

Why is my document not being accepted?

Make sure you are uploading an accepted file type. These are listed on the portal. There is no size limit but large files may cause system or browser timeout. You can compress your documents to reduce the file size.

Which documents do I need to upload?

The online application page will list the required documents that need to be uploaded. Please note that if documents require certification, the certification needs to be no older than 3 months. You can get documents certified at a police station or by a notary (e.g. lawyer or registered CA(SA)).

How long does the Postgraduate Financial Aid application process take?

The application process opens annually on the 1st of August and the application portal closes on 31 October. You will be notified of the outcome of your application by 15 January. Successful applicants will receive their award within 3 days of successful acceptance.

Where will my award be paid?

Your award will be paid into your UCT Fee Account in line with the contract. The amount paid will be after all University charges are cleared.

Where can I get help on how to apply for financial aid?

There are a number of useful tools to assist you in completing your online application. These include an online tutorial and in-person training sessions.

Can I appeal the Financial Aid decision?

Postgraduate students can submit an appeal based on legitimate reasons, as agreed by the Postgraduate Studies Funding Committee, which include:

- Request reassessment of the online funding application for changed financial circumstances
- Exemption from rule to hold awards concurrently
- Extension of funding tenure
- Request to hold funds that exceed maximum award limit
- Deferral of award, and
- Change to programme of study.

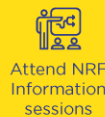
The appeals form is available on the website (see link below). Completed appeals forms should be submitted to the Postgraduate Funding Office on PGAppels@uct.ac.za. No appeals based on missed deadlines or late applications will be considered.

Appeals Form

[PGAppels@uct.ac.za](https://pgappels@uct.ac.za)

Please note: the decision on your appeal is final, please do not appeal the decision.

Aid support is available



Create a profile on NRF Connect

Select the applicable application category

Complete the application process on NRF Connect

Upload the required supporting documents

Submit your application via NRF Connect

Application
NOTE: Students apply for funding in the year preceding study

STEPS:
● = Applicant
● = NRF
● = PGFO

1

2

3

4

5

6

Assessments

10

Recommended - scored & submitted to NRF for final consideration



Ineligible and Not recommended applicants are rejected via NRF Connect System and are notified

9

PGFO consolidate and action all assessment and review outcomes

8

UCT's Internal Review panel reviews eligible applications and recommends applicants*

7

PGFO assesses applications (by the closing date)

* Excluding Honours, SARAO Honours, SARAO Masters and SARAO Doctoral applications

Allocation

NRF selects applicants from the recommended list and confirms final outcomes. These include successful and unsuccessful applications.



Monitor your emails for correspondence from NRF and PGFO

11

12

Acceptance



Register at UCT



Log on to NRF Connect to accept award

Log on to PeopleSoft to accept your award and upload required documentation

13

14

15

16



PGFO (DA) accept students award on NRF Connect



NRF releases funds to UCT



PGFO processes awards



17

18

19



NRF Funding Applications

A step-by-step guide to the process

The National Research Foundation (NRF) provides postgraduate funding aimed at promoting research and innovation in South Africa. This funding scheme is designed to support postgraduate students in their pursuit of an Honours, Masters, Doctoral and Postdoctoral study/research. The NRF provides these grants based on both merit and potential for the research to contribute to the knowledge economy of South Africa. The funding covers a range of costs associated with postgraduate study including tuition fees, living expenses, research costs and travel grants for conference or research visits. This document is intended to serve as a guide to assist (1) New Honours, (2) First time Masters and Doctoral, (3) Extension Masters and Doctoral and (4) SARAO Honours, Masters and Doctoral applicants in applying for funding from the NRF.



Do you want to apply for funding from the NRF?
Download the full step-by-step guide here:
bit.ly/UCTGuideNRF



NEW SERVICE!
FOR POSTGRADS & POSTDOCS

**NEED
FUNDING
ASSISTANCE?**
+27 21 650 3622

- **Press 1** for general information on postgraduate (PG) funding opportunities
- **Press 2** for PG Financial Aid scholarships and donor funding
- **Press 3** for NRF scholarships and Departmental scholarships
- **Press 4** for postdoctoral administration support

To book a face-to-face or virtual consultation: bit.ly/pgfohelpdesk

Good luck!
If you need help,
we look forward
to hearing from you!



UCT POSTGRADUATE
FUNDING OFFICE



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD



NEW SERVICE!
FOR POSTGRADS & POSTDOCS

NEED FUNDING ASSISTANCE?



Don't waste
time sending
an email



Login to Peoplesoft &
submit a service request
within minutes

Check out the guide on how to use this new service: bit.ly/ServReqGuide