

### Frequently Asked Questions about the 2022 Postgraduate Research Scholarships (PGRS) Call

#### APPLICATION PROCESS

**1. How do I apply for the Postgraduate Research Scholarship?**

*Applications for funding in 2022 must be submitted by accessing the link <http://researchscholarship.mandela.ac.za>. The closing date for first-time applicants and extension support applicants is **Friday, 19 November**. This deadline is not applicable to progress reports.*

**2. How can masters and doctoral students who reached the maximum period of funding in 2021 apply for extension of funding support?**

*PGRS provides extension support for full- and part-time masters and doctoral students only. These students must submit an application using the link provided above by the deadline. To be eligible, extension support applicants must have received PGRS funding in 2021. Extension will only be granted under exceptional circumstances such as ill-health or bereavement leave and will be for either six (6) or twelve (12) months as Nelson Mandela University expects all postgraduate students to complete their qualifications within the funding period.*

**3. Do students who hold full- and part-time PGRS funding, which will still be active in 2022 need to submit an application?**

*No, they do not. These continuing students must submit a Progress Report **through their supervisors on the PGRS Online System**. The link for progress reports was sent to supervisors only on Tuesday 16 November 2021 and they have been kindly requested to submit the report within seven days.*

**4. Is it possible for students who started a masters or doctoral degree without PGRS funding to then apply for the funding from their second year onwards?**

*Yes. students who have commenced their masters or doctoral studies without PGRS funding may apply for funding for completion of their masters or doctoral degree provided that all other eligibility criteria have been met. Full- and part-time masters students will not be funded beyond their second and third year of registration respectively. Doctoral students registered for full- and part-time studies will not be funded beyond their third and fifth year of registration respectively. It is worth mentioning that the initial date for registration of the degree will be considered.*

**5. I have a disability, can I apply and receive the necessary support?**

*Yes, students with disabilities are encouraged to apply however they must attach a medical certificate in support of the disability. All Scholarship-holders with disabilities may apply for additional funding for an assistive technology device or human support of up to R20 000. This is the maximum amount permitted during the tenure of the scholarship.*

**6. Why did I not receive email confirmation after submitting my application?**

*The email address provided may be incorrect.*

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### 7. When will outcomes be published?

*The Office of Research Development will start communicating application outcomes from 15 December 2021. Communication of outcomes will be staggered based on when final marks become available.*

### 8. Does the PGRS online system allow applications from both registered and unregistered students?

*Yes. Students who are currently active on the Mandela University system may apply as registered students by clicking on the registered student section and following the prompts to complete the application.*

*Unregistered students who are no longer active on the Mandela University system or students who are new to the institution may click on the unregistered option and create a profile on the PGRS online submission system.*

### 9. What documents need to be uploaded for an application to be complete?

*First time and extension support applicants must attach the documents listed below. All the required documents should be scanned and submitted as a **single PDF file**.*

- *Certified ID/passport*
- *An official academic record on the University letterhead.*
- *Applicants with outstanding fees are required to attach their University account statement reflecting outstanding fees.*
- *First-time applicants who NSFAS previously supported must attach a letter from NSFAS or proof in the form of an official University financial statement clearly showing that the funds originated from NSFAS.*
- *Extension support applicants must attach a letter of motivation detailing reasons why the degree was not completed during the funding period. The letter must include a **detailed work plan with timelines of six (6) or twelve (12) months** for the outstanding activities and must be **signed by both the student and supervisor**.*
- *Applicants with disabilities must attach a medical certificate in support of the disability.*
- *Proof of income for applicants in full-time salaried employment, working part-time or receiving other sources of funding.*
- *Applicants for whom PGRS will be their only source of funding must attach a letter (dated and signed) confirming that they have no other source of income.*
- *Applicants admitted for postgraduate studies at Nelson Mandela University in 2022 should provide proof of admission. Applicants who are awaiting confirmation of admission should provide proof that they have applied for admission.*

***IMPORTANT: Applications that do not have the required attachments, are incomplete, contain insufficient or incorrect information or fail to comply with instructions will be rejected.***

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**10. Will applications from students who were unable to provide final marks for the 2021 academic year be considered incomplete?**

*No. The applications that have outstanding marks, will be classified as pending. Applicants with pending marks will receive the outcome of their application after the marks become available.*

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

**11. Which postgraduate degrees will be funded?**

*PGRS funding is open to South African citizens, permanent residents and international candidates who intend to undertake honours, masters and doctoral studies at Nelson Mandela University in the 2022 academic year.*

**12. What is the academic minimum requirement for PGRS funding?**

*Applicants must meet the following minimum academic requirements:*

- **For first-time honours funding** - A minimum average of 60% for the undergraduate degree.
- **For first-time masters funding** - A minimum average of 60% for the honours degree or postgraduate diploma.
- **For first-time doctoral funding** - A minimum average of 65% for the masters degree.

**13. Does PGRS provide funding for all part-time Honours degrees?**

*No. PGRS funds full-time Honours studies, however an exception is made only for students who register part-time for the Bachelor of Education Honours degree.*

**14. Are students who require funding for Postgraduate Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas eligible to apply for PGRS?**

*No. Students who intend to study towards a Postgraduate Diploma, Advance Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate, BTech or Postgraduate Certificate in Education should contact the Financial Aid Office ([FinancialAid@mandela.ac.za](mailto:FinancialAid@mandela.ac.za)).*

**15. If I only need to register for a research module in 2022 to complete my degree, am I eligible for PGRS funding?**

*No. Students need to register for a full degree to be considered for funding.*

## FUNDING PRINCIPLES

### 16. What is the scholarship value and maximum period of support?

<b>Level of study</b>	<b>Full-Time Value (ZAR)</b>	<b>Full-Time Funding Period</b>	<b>Part-Time Value (ZAR)</b>	<b>Part -Time Funding Period</b>
<i>Honours</i>	<i>R35 000</i>	<i>1 year</i>	<i>R19 250</i>	<i>2 years</i>
<i>Masters (Course Work)</i>	<i>R46 500</i>	<i>2 years</i>	<i>R25 575</i>	<i>3 years</i>
<i>Masters (Research)</i>	<i>R55 000</i>	<i>2 years</i>	<i>R30 250</i>	<i>3 years</i>
<i>Doctoral</i>	<i>R75 000</i>	<i>3 years</i>	<i>R41 250</i>	<i>5 years</i>

### 17. Is it permitted to hold other scholarships simultaneously with PGRS?

*Yes. Students may hold other scholarships simultaneously with PGRS, but the combined value of the scholarships may not exceed R140 000, R180 000 and R250 000 for Honours, Masters and Doctoral students respectively.*

### 18. If I applied for PGRS but the outcome is pending, will the Office of Research Development be able to pay my registration fee?

*No. The Office of Research Development will request lifting of the registration block for successful applicants only.*

### 19. If successful, will I be able to use the PGRS to settle outstanding debt?

*No. The PGRS award will only be released once the outstanding debt has been settled.*

### 20. If I have already paid for registration and my PGRS application is successful, can I request a refund?

*Yes, if your student account reflects a credit balance.*