
VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT AMSTERDAM-NRF DESMOND TUTU DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2015

1. Background

The Desmond Tutu Training Programme (DTTP) was established in honour of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu's lifetime struggle against inequality and his quest for reconciliation. The National Research Foundation (NRF) and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VUA) entered into a partnership in 2009 to co-fund South African students carrying out doctoral studies in a Joint Degree (split-site) mode.

The rationale of the DTTP is that VUA joins forces with its South African partners, to build human capital in selected research fields that are of mutual interest. The DTTP also aims to strengthen co-operation between VUA and South African partner universities through joint supervision of South African doctoral candidates. At VUA, the supervision is carried out by the Desmond Tutu Chairs as well as other Faculty staff whose research interests are aligned with the objectives and the themes outlined below. In South Africa, an effort will be made to increase the cohort of supervisors by also leveraging on well-established NRF funding instruments such as the DST-NRF Centres of Excellence (CoEs), the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChi) as well as bilateral initiatives that include the Netherlands.

The format of the DTTP is a sandwich programme in which students will:

- Register and obtain their research doctoral degrees in the form of a Joint Degree between VU Amsterdam and a partner South African Higher Education Institution;
- Be jointly supervised by academic researchers at VUA and a South African Higher Education Institution;

- If required, complete required course work for doctoral studies both in South Africa and in the Netherlands;
- Spend between one (1) and two (2) months per year over a period of four (4) years at VU Amsterdam to undertake course and thesis related work, if necessary with an additional stay of six (6) months maximum in Amsterdam in the final year of their studies; and
- Carry out their research in South Africa, with a restricted amount of teaching obligations (where applicable) on the basis of an agreement between the NRF and the employing South African Higher Education Institution.

2. Eligibility criteria

To be eligible in the DTTP candidates must:

- Be in possession of a research Master's degree, or be in the process of completing requirements for such a degree (which must be completed before the DTTP award can be taken up);
- Be South African citizens or permanent residents.
- An applicant may not concurrently hold a DTTP scholarship with another NRF scholarship or any other scholarship from a South African government source.
- The NRF scholarship should be held as the primary funding source in all cases of supplementary funding.

Prior to the award of the scholarship the following must be confirmed by the institution:

- Supervisory capacity both at VUA and the SA partner institution;
- The availability of research running costs for the PhD candidate's project.

3. Fields of study

The DTTP Joint Degree PhD training programme will have '*Bridging Diversities for Academic Advancement*' as its overarching theme.

The aim is to contribute to a more equal world by integral thinking in which diversities are considered enriching rather than threatening. *Bridging diversities* means making connections: the programme stands for dialogue and engaged scholarship. Research undertaken in this programme aims to provide a safe space for thinking through the ambiguities and paradoxes of diversities. The theme is conceptualised with an aspiration to make a difference to society and ‘*academic advancement*’ is understood as relevant to, and serving the improvement of society. Following a transdisciplinary, multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary approach will bring together diverse knowledge partners and beneficiaries.

The following two themes will be key areas for research projects:

- **Prosperous Societies:**

Research themes: food industry; HIV; identities; reconciliation; security; service delivery; development of high potentials; culture and communication; corporate social responsibility.

- **Sustainable Energy:**

Research themes: environment; sustainability; climate change; natural resource management; energy provision.

Priority will be given to the above-mentioned themes or any combination of themes, in such a way that ‘pockets’ of research will emerge.

Applications from candidates intending to pursue doctoral studies in the following specific areas (**linked to the themes outlined above**) will be considered:

- Economics
- Theology
- Human Movement Sciences
- Social Sciences/Sport Sciences
- Medicine

- Earth & Life Sciences
- Health Sciences
- Law

A list of available doctoral projects and their confirmed supervisors appear below. Applicants are encouraged to make contact with the potential supervisors during the development of the project proposal, which is a critical component of this application.

More detailed project synopses are also attached and must be read in conjunction with this call document.

4. Funding Breakdown

The VUA-NRF Desmond Tutu Training Programme provides funding for up to four (4) years of study, depending on satisfactory progress each year. The award will amount to the value of approximately **R240 000** each year toward doctoral study costs in South Africa and Amsterdam. This amount will cover, among other things, flights to and from Amsterdam, accommodation, living costs, and a scholarship. The DST-NRF component of the scholarship is R120 000 and will cover:

- A bursary to the value of R70 000 each year toward living costs (full-time scholars) or sabbatical costs (part-time scholars) in South Africa;
- Required visa and residence permit costs (R38 000);
- Course and tuition fees in South Africa (R12 000);
- Two economy return flights from South Africa to Amsterdam per year;
- A contribution toward doctoral dissertation defense costs.

The VUA component of the scholarship is approximately R120 000 and will cover:

- Accommodation and living allowance in Amsterdam (for two one-month visits each year);
- Course fees at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and;
- A contribution toward doctoral dissertation defense costs.

5. Commencement of studies

Successful applicants in this cycle may commence with their doctoral studies from September 2015, at the start of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam 2015/16 academic year, or later as specified in the conditions of grant document.

6. Dependants

The NRF and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam will not be responsible for costs relating to dependents accompanying a scholarship holder to Amsterdam.

7. Application process

To complete the application:

- Applicants must login to <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za>;
- Register/login using your ID number and password;
- Go to “**My Applications**” – “**Create Application**”
- Select the call for which you are applying: **Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam – NRF Desmond Tutu Doctoral Scholarship** on the list of **open** calls;
- Complete all compulsory sections and the non-compulsory sections applicable to you;
- Attach the required documents in one PDF file (in the following order: certified copy of South African Identity Document; certified copy of academic transcripts; certified copies of all degree certificates; letters of support from both the VUA and South African supervisors);
- Ensure that the application is submitted on completion;
- Upon submission, applications will automatically be directed to the South African host University for verification before being forwarded to the NRF for further processing;
- Incomplete applications will not be considered;
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered;
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- Ensure that the contact details of at least two (2) referees, including at least one (1) who has supervised the applicant, are included in the application.

Please contact the university postgraduate office or research office if you have any queries relating to institutional processes and deadlines. The closing date for applications is **Friday 17 July 2015**.

Please take note of your institutional internal closing dates as these may be set before the actual NRF call closing date.

8. Selection procedure

An independent and external review committee will consider all applications and recommend applications for awards to the NRF.

9. Conditions of award for the DTTP scholarship

The award of the DTTP scholarship will be based on past, current and potential academic performance. Selection criteria will include academic merit, research ability, leadership qualities (as articulated in the applicant's personal profile), previous awards, prizes and honours.

In addition to the above criteria the award will be based on the feasibility and merit of the applicant's research project proposal.

Applications must have the support of both the South African university and VUA supervisor.

A list of successful candidates will be published on the NRF website as soon as the internal NRF approval processes have been finalized.

NRF CONTACT PERSONS

For Funding Instrument related queries:

Ms Gugu Dube, Professional Officer: Human and Infrastructure Capacity Development,
Telephone: 012 481 4169, Email: gugu.dube@nrf.ac.za

For Grant Management Systems and Administration related queries:

Ms Onicca Motsepe, Liaison Officer: Scholarships and Fellowships, Telephone: 012 418
4112, Email: onicca@nrf.ac.za

For Reviews and Evaluation related queries:

Mr Sam Sibiya, Liaison Officer: Reviews and Evaluations, Telephone: 012 481 4307,
Email: sam.sibiya@nrf.ac.za

PhD positions available under the DTTP for 2015

Faculty	Research area/project	VUA partner	SA partner	More information
1 Faculty of Human Movement Science	Interacting networks - how does complexity transfer from one network to another? DTP050515001	Prof. Dr. Andreas Daffertshofer	Dr. T. Kruger, University of Pretoria	Prof. Andreas Daffertshofer Phone number: +31 20 5988468 E-mail: a.daffertshofer@vu.nl Website: http://www.move.vu.nl/nl/over-move/medewerkers/D/a-daffertshofer.asp Dr. Tjaart Kruger Phone number: +27 (0)12 420 2508 E-mail: tjaart.kruger@up.ac.za
2 Faculty of Economics and Business Administration	Township Economics DTP050515002	Prof. Dr. Chris. Elbers	Prof. Dr. S. van der Berg, Stellenbosch University	Prof. Dr. Chris Elbers Phone number: +31 20 5986143 E-mail: c.t.m.elbers@vu.nl Website: personal.vu.nl/c.t.m.elbers/ Prof. Dr. Servaas van der Berg, Department of Economics Phone number: +27 (0) 21 808 2239 E-mail: Svdb@sun.ac.za
3 Faculty of Social Sciences	South Africa's transition from apartheid to democracy: local-level aspects DTP050515003	Prof. Dr. S. Ellis	Prof. Dr. Lungisile Ntsebeza, University of Cape Town	Prof. Dr. Stephen Ellis E-mail: s.ellis@vu.nl ellis@ascleiden.nl Website: www.fsw.vu.nl / www.ascleiden.nl Prof. Dr. Lungisile Ntsebeza E-mail: Lungisile.Ntsebeza@uct.ac.za Phone number: +27(0)21650 3503

Faculty	Research area/project	VUA partner	SA partner	More information
4 Faculty of Social Sciences	Sex on the move: mobile and migrant clients of sex workers in South Africa DTP050515004	Dr. L. Nencel	Dr. J. Vearey, University of Witwatersrand	Dr. Lorraine Nencel Phone number +31 20 598 6879 Email: l.s.nencel@vu.nl Dr. Jo Vearey Phone number: +27(0)117174033 E-mail: Jo.Vearey@wits.ac.za
5 Faculty of Social Sciences	Connecting scholarship to local communities DTP050515005	Prof. Dr. H. Gorashi / Dr. F.H. Kamsteeg	Prof. Dr. A. Keet, UFS, Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice	Prof. Halleh Gorashi/Dr Frans Kamsteeg Phone number +31 20 598 6737 E-mail: h.ghorashi@vu.nl; frans.kamsteeg@vu.nl Prof. Dr. André Keet, UFS E-mail: KeetA@UFS.ac.za
6 Faculty of Medicine	A genetic approach to unravel neurotropism of Mycobacterium tuberculosis: The bacterial side of tuberculosis meningitis DTP050515006	Prof. Dr. M. van Furth / Dr. M. van der Kuip	Prof. Dr. M. Kruger, Stellenbosch University	Dr. Martijn van der Kuip Phone number: +31 (0)20 4444444 pager 6574 E-mail: m.vanderkuip@vumc.nl Prof. Dr. Mariana Kruger Oncology & Haematology/Ethics Phone number: +27 21 9389220 Email: Marianakruger@sun.ac.za
7 Faculty of Medicine	The "Safe Six" Rugby Injury Prevention Programme, effectiveness and acceptance in South African Rugby DTP050515007	Prof. Dr. W. van Mechelen/ Dr. E. Verhagen	Prof. Dr. M. Lambert/ Dr. J. Brown, University of Cape Town	Dr. James Brown Phone number +27 21 650 4572 E-mail: james.brown@gmail.com Website: http://essm.uct.ac.za and www.ssis.com
8 Faculty of Medicine				Prof. Dr. Marceline van Furth

Faculty	Research area/project	VUA partner	SA partner	More information
	Giving children a chance to live DTP050515008	Prof. Dr. M. van Furth	Prof. Dr. L.G. Bekker, University of Cape Town	E-mail: AM.vFurth@vumc.nl Prof. Dr. Linda-Gail Bekker E-mail: linda-gail.bekker@hiv-research.org.za
9 Faculty of Life and Earth Sciences	'The role of PE-PGRS variation in <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> in immune evasion and disease outbreaks DTP050515009	Prof. Dr. W. Bitter	Prof. Dr. S. Sampson, Stellenbosch University	Prof. Dr. Wilbert Bitter Phone number: +31-20 448319 E-mail: w.bitter@vumc.nl Website: http://www.aimms.vu.nl/en/people/b/bitter.asp Prof. Dr. Samantha Sampson (Stellenbosch University) Phone number: +27 21 9389476 E-mail: ssampson@sun.ac.za Website: www.sun.ac.za/hostpathogenmycobactomics
10 Faculty of Life and Earth Sciences	Investigating functional dynamics in individual light-harvesting complexes in realistic environments DTP0505150010	Prof. Dr. R. van Grondelle	Dr. T.P.J. Krüger, University of Pretoria	Prof. Rienk van Grondelle Phone number: +31 (0) 20 598 7930 E-mail: r.van.grondelle@vu.nl Website: www.rienkvangrondelle.nl Dr Tjaart Krüger Phone number: +27 (0)12 420 2508 E-mail: tjaart.kruger@up.ac.za
11 Faculty of Life and Earth Sciences	Energy and charge transfer processes in photosynthesis DTP050515011	Prof. Dr. R. van Grondelle	Prof Dr. F. Petruccione, South African Research Chair in Quantum Information Processing and Communication;	Prof. Dr. Rienk van Grondelle Phone number: +31 (0) 20 598 7930 E-mail: r.van.grondelle@vu.nl Website: www.rienkvangrondelle.nl Prof. Dr. Francesco Petruccione Phone number: +27 (0)31 260 2770 Email: petruccione@ukzn.ac.za

Faculty	Research area/project	VUA partner	SA partner	More information
			University of KwaZulu-Natal	http://quantum.ukzn.ac.za http://about.me/francesco.petrucione
12 Faculty of Theology	Mapping religious health assets in improving treatment adherence among HiV children DTP050515012	Prof. Dr. E. Van der Borgh		Prof. Dr. Eddy Van der Borgh Phone number: +31 (0)20 5986634 E-mail: eajg.vander.borgh@vu.nl
13 Faculty of Psychology and Pedagogics	Parenting relationships and parent-child attachment: children with intellectual disabilities DTP050515013	Prof. Dr. F. Finkenauer / Dr. P. S. Sterkenburg	Prof. Dr. E. van Rensburg, North West University	Dr. Paula S. Sterkenburg Phone number: +31 (0)20 5988890 E-mail: p.s.sterkenburg@vu.nl Website: http://www.psy.vu.nl/en/about-the-faculty/faculty-staff/staff-r-s/sterkenburg-p-s/index.asp Prof. Dr. Esme van Rensburg Phone number: +27 018 2991727 Email: Esme.vanrensborg@nwu.ac.za
14 Faculty of Law	Delivering public services through Corporate Social Responsibility DTP0505150014	Prof. Dr. F. van Ommeren	Prof. Dr. G. Quinot, Stellenbosch University	Prof. Dr. Frank van Ommeren Phone number: +31 20 5986343 Email: f.j.van.ommeren@vu.nl Website: www.rechten.vu.nl/ommeren Prof. Dr. Geo Quinot, SUN Email: gquinot@sun.ac.za