



RISA

Research and Innovation
Support and Advancement

VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT AMSTERDAM - NATIONAL RESEARCH
FOUNDATION DESMOND TUTU DOCTORAL TRAINING
PROGRAMME

IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

Directorate:

**Human and Infrastructure Capacity
Development**

Date:

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1. Background and Rationale

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 University Amsterdam (VUA) entered into a partnership on 07 September 2009 to co-fund South African students carrying out doctoral studies in a split-site mode. The official launch of the DTTP took place in the presence of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu on 4 December 2008. The initial agreement, signed in 2009 enabled the training of eighteen doctoral candidates. The agreement was extended on 07 October 2013 and will see a further hundred (100) PhD students being trained, at a rate of twenty (20) new enrolments per annum in the period 2015 – 2019. A mid-term review of this funding initiative will be conducted after the enrolment of 60 South African doctoral students.

Seven faculties at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam host a Desmond Tutu Chair:

Faculty	Chair
Social Sciences	Prof. Dr. Stephen Ellis
Faculty of Economics and Business Administration	Prof. Dr. Chris Elbers
Faculty of Human Movement Sciences	Prof. Dr. Geert Savelsbergh
Faculty of Theology	Prof. Dr. Eddy van der Borght
Faculty of Medicine	Prof. Dr. Marceline van Furth
Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences	Prof. Dr. Wilbert Bitter
Faculty of Sciences	Prof. Dr. Rienk van Grondelle Prof. Dr. André Ran

The nature of the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) is that NRF and VUA will each contribute 50% of the costs for each South African student in the Programme. The overall financial value entails the following:

- EURO 92 880/R 1 352 890 per student including dissertation defense costs ¹
- EURO 1 857 595/R27 046 583 for 20 students over 5 years.

At VUA, the supervision will be carried out by the Desmond Tutu Chairs as well as other Faculty staff members 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 leveraging on well-established NRF programmes such as the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChi) as well as bilateral programmes which include the Netherlands.

The DTTP will have '*Bridging Diversities for Academic Advancement*' as its overarching theme, with the intention 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.

VUA and the NRF are in agreement that following a transdisciplinary, multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary approach will bring together diverse knowledge partners and beneficiaries. Research undertaken within this framework (i.e. '*bridging science and society*') strives for high quality in a context of equitable opportunities, access and outcomes for a broad and diverse range of beneficiaries. The following two themes will be key areas for research projects:

- Prosperous Societies:

¹ Exchange rate per May 2, 2014: EURO 1 = R 14.56

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 and Life Sciences
- Health Sciences
- Law

A list of available PhD positions within the DTTP will be advertised with each call for applications.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the DTTP are to:

- To support the Department of Science and Technology and the South African PhD Project in reaching their strategic goal of producing 6000 doctoral graduates per annum by 2030;
- Enable VUA to join forces with its South African partners, to build human capacity at the participating Higher Education Institutions (HEIs); and

- Strengthen cooperation between VUA and partner South African institutions through joint supervision of South African doctoral candidates.

3. Principles for the awarding of the scholarships

The format is a Joint Degree programme in which students will:

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

4. Eligibility

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); and
- Be South African citizens or permanent residents.

5. Institutional Requirements

The DTTP scholarships will be awarded in the disciplines that are outlined in Section 1 above.

The host institutions for the DTTP scholars must ensure that:

- Supervisory capacity is available at both VUA and the SA partner institution;
- Research running costs for the PhD project are available;
- A framework and agreement for the award of a Joint PhD degree by VUA and the SA partner institution is in place in time for graduation of students in the programme; DTTP scholars will be granted a minimum of two months sabbatical leave per annum (where scholars are employees of SA HEIs), to concentrate on their PhD research;
- Release the bursary component of the scholarship to the DTTP scholar upon proof that a sabbatical has been granted by the relevant department or employer; and
- Return to the NRF, the funds made available to the institution in the case that the requirement above is not met.

6. Application process

6.1 Call for applications

The NRF will invite applications to support PhD candidates whose research interests fall within the focus areas of the DTTP. Both full-time and part-time scholars will be supported under the programme. Employing institutions will be required to commit to granting awarded scholars time off to focus on their studies. Applicants will be required to complete an application form, on the NRF Online Submission System at <https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za>. All applications must be supported by both the VUA and South African supervisor.

7. Funding

7.1. Funding principle

The scholarship is awarded through an annual grant from the Department of Science and Technology (DST) of South Africa. The Minister of Science and Technology has outlined the demographic targets for the allocation of all scholarships (funded through DST). Every attempt will be made to allocate funding in order to meet the target of 80% Black students and at least 50% female students.

In selecting applicants for consideration for funding, the following general criteria will apply:

- An applicant may not concurrently hold funding from another NRF scholarship, postdoctoral fellowship or any other fellowship from a South African Government source.
- Priority will be given to applicants that intend to register on a full-time basis.
- If a DTTP scholar is in full-time employment, the bursary component of the scholarship will only be released once the scholar has provided proof of being granted a sabbatical by the employing institution.

Successful applicants will be required to sign conditions of grant with the NRF.

7.2. Value of the scholarship

This programme is structured as a Joint Degree doctoral study programme and is jointly funded by the DST-NRF, and VUA. The total scholarship value is R240 000 per annum. The DST-NRF component of the scholarship is R120 000 per annum.

The scholarship provides funding for up to four (4) years of study, subject to satisfactory progress each year and covers the following:

- Two economy return flights from South Africa to Amsterdam per year and required visa and residence permit costs (if applicable);
- Registration and supervision costs at VUA;
- Course fees at VUA (if applicable);
- A scholarship to cover the doctoral study costs in South Africa in the case of full-time candidates, or sabbatical leave in the case of candidates who are in employment;
- A contribution by VUA of an amount equivalent to R27 500.00 (Twenty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Rand) for accommodation and living allowance in

- Amsterdam (for two (one-) month visits each year to spend time with the supervisor at VUA); and

A contribution by the NRF and VUA in equal parts towards the doctoral dissertation defence costs in the final year of study. The NRF-DST contribution is in the form of a scholarship which consists of the following:

Type of award:	VUA– NRF Desmond Tutu Doctoral Scholarship
Sabbatical or living expenses:	R70 000.00 per annum
Travel grant including Visa costs and residence permits	R38 000.00 per annum
Course and tuition fees:	R12 000.00 per annum
Total scholarship amount:	R120 000.00 per annum
Period of support:	Four (4) years. Annual payments will be subject to satisfactory progress

The financial administration of the scholarship is performed through the NRF's Grants Management and System Administration (GMSA) division and the scholarships will be paid into the SA partner institutions where the successful candidates will be registered. The payment to the students will be the responsibility of the relevant University Postgraduate Funding office.

8. Reporting

An Annual Progress Report (APR) must be submitted by the grant-holder (DTTP scholar) in a format provided by the NRF, documenting progress made against the set objectives and research outputs. The NRF may in consultation with the grant holder's research

office, request interim progress report for the purpose of implementing corrective measures timeously to ensure that stated objectives are met within the stipulated timeframes.

9. Timelines

Call for applications	01 June – 17 July 2015
Review process	01 August – 31 August 2015
Awarding	September 2015

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