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**National
Research
Foundation**

Application and Funding Guide

NRF-Nuffic Doctoral Scholarships

Directorate: Grants Management and Systems Administration

Date: March 2019

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List of Acronyms

PR	Progress Report
DA	Designated Authority
GMSA	Grants Management and Systems Administration
HEI	Higher Education Institution
HICD	Human and Institutional Capacity Development
RISA	Research and Innovation Support and Advancement
NRF	National Research Foundation

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Application and funding guidelines are explained in this document. Applicants must read this document together with the following document: Framework for NRF-Nuffic Doctoral Scholarships which highlights the eligibility criteria and requirements of each funding instrument.

For technical online enquiries, please contact the NRF Support Desk during office hours from 08:00 to 16:30 Monday to Friday.

Tel: 012 481-4202

E-mail: supportdesk@nrf.ac.za

1. Introduction

This Application and Funding Guide provides an overview of the application process and funding guidelines for the NRF-Nuffic Doctoral Scholarships funding instrument. It should be read in conjunction with the above-mentioned **Framework**, which can be accessed at <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za> and under the *NRF Call Information documents* on the application. The Framework provides detailed information with respect to objectives of the funding instrument, eligibility criteria, etc. This document does not, however, constitute a complete set of the policies, procedures or systems used by the NRF.

2. Conditions of Grant

- The NRF scholarship shall be held as the primary source of funding. The scholarship may not be held concurrently with any other NRF or South African/Netherlands government scholarships.
- The scholarship-holder may hold bursaries, awards, assistantships and receive emoluments from *private institutions* in conjunction with the NRF scholarship.
- The scholarship-holder will be accepted as a full-time student during the tenure of the scholarship. Scholarship-holders may not concurrently hold the scholarship with any full-time salaried employment position.
- The scholarship holder must obtain the degree for which the scholarship was awarded by the contractual date, which is one (1) year after the NRF funding has ceased and notify the NRF (directly if funded under the single site mode, or via the relevant university authority if funded under the Split site mode), unless otherwise approved by the NRF in writing. Should the scholarship holder not complete the degree for which the scholarship was awarded, the funds will have to be paid back to the NRF with interest at the prevailing prime rate charged by the NRF bankers.

3. Application Requirements

3.1 Full-time Doctoral Scholarships in the Netherlands (single site mode)

Modalities for funding full-time doctoral studies in the Netherlands are as follows:

- Applicants must be registered or intend to register for full-time doctoral studies at a higher education institution in the Netherlands;
- The applicant must include a provisional letter of acceptance for doctoral studies from the Dutch Higher Education Institution (HEI). Without such a letter, the application will be rejected;

- A letter of support from the doctoral supervisor at the host institution in the Netherlands confirming the availability of research running costs (i.e. costs that can reasonably be expected to accrue during the course of the research period) and other necessary resources for the completion of the doctoral research project. Without such support, the application will be rejected;
- With respect to travel, the NRF will cover the cost of a single cheapest economy airfare for travel to the Netherlands as well as a single cheapest economy airfare to return to South Africa upon completion of the Doctoral studies;
- The NRF will also provide funding for visa, health insurance and subsistence; and
- The Dutch host institution will waive tuition, provide research running costs and access to research infrastructure. Without such support, the application will be rejected.

3.2 Full-time Doctoral Scholarships for Joint Degrees (split site mode)

Modalities for funding a full-time joint doctoral degree (split site mode) are as follows:

- Applicants must be registered or intend to register for a joint doctoral degree between a Dutch HEI and a partner South African Higher Education Institution.
- The applicant must include a letter of support from both supervisors in the Netherlands and South Africa, including a plan for co-supervision and for proposed mobility visits;
- The letter of support from the doctoral supervisor in the host institution in the Netherlands must also confirm the availability of research running costs and other necessary resources for the completion of the doctoral research project. Without such support, the application will be rejected;
- Applicants must upload signed institutional agreements in the case of joint degrees on acceptance of award;
- Over the four year maximum period of funding, the NRF will provide funding for international visits, visa, health insurance, accommodation and subsistence. The number of visits per annum will depend on the arrangement between the student and the supervisor(s), but should not exceed the capped mobility budget of €21 600;
- The NRF will provide a mobility allowance; and
- The Dutch host institution will waive tuition, provide research running costs and access to research infrastructure during these international visits.

4. Application Process

The NRF issues a call for the NRF-Nuffic Doctoral Scholarship applications that is published on the NRF website and is accessible online at <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za>.

The NRF-Nuffic Doctoral Scholarship funding instrument will not accept more than one (1) application per applicant per year. All Split site mode applications submitted to South African institutions must be duly authorised and approved by the Designated Authority (DA) of the research administration at the institution that submits the application. Applications must be submitted electronically to the institutional DA of the submitting institution for validation at the deadline date determined by individual institutions. **Applicants must enquire with their institutions regarding internal closing dates.** Applications for single site mode, will be routed directly to the NRF for validation. The processing of a successful grant application takes approximately five (5) months from the call closing date until the commencement of funding.

5. How to Submit Applications

Applications may be completed on the NRF Online Submission System at <https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za>. Applicants are advised to complete their applications soon after the call opened to prevent IT system overload nearer the closing date. **All Split site mode applicants must ensure that they adhere to their institution's internal closing date for submission of their application to allow for internal institutional screening and review. The internal closing date will be determined by the respective Research Office or Post Graduate Office.**

Step 1: This is an electronic submission system and applicants must first register, if not already registered on the NRF Online Submission System (<https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za>) in order to create and complete an application. If you experience problems accessing the system with your NRF Online password, use the Reset Password button. If your e-mail address is outdated, please contact the NRF Support Desk at (012) 481-4202 for assistance.

If you are not yet registered on the NRF Online Submission System, you must register to access the application form.

Most application screens have application-specific instructions to help you work through the section. Please read the instructions carefully before completing the section.

The screenshot shows the NRF Online Submission System homepage. At the top, there is a header with the NRF logo (National Research Foundation) and RISA (Research and Innovation Support and Advancement) logo. The main title is "NRF Online Submission System". On the left, there is a navigation menu with the following items: Home, New Registration, and Reset Password. A blue arrow points from the "Home" item in the menu to the "Home" link on the page. Below the navigation menu, there is a "Home" link and a "Feedback Support" link. The main content area is divided into two sections: "Instructions" and "Log In". The "Instructions" section contains the following text: "If you have already registered on the previous systems (NRF Online and Interim), please use your existing login details to access this system. If you have forgotten your password, please click on the Reset Password link on the left-hand menu. For technical online enquiries, please contact the Support Desk (Mondays to Fridays from 08h00 to 16h30) on: Tel: +27 12 481 4202 E-mail: supportdesk@nrf.ac.za To access call related documents, please refer to the Open Calls block below. Click on the icon next to the relevant call to show a list of document(s). To open the document, click on the relevant link." The "Log In" section contains the following text: "ID/Passport/Unique Number: [input field] Password: [input field] Show Password [checkbox] login [button] Reset password. Not registered? Click here to register." The "Open Calls" section contains the following list of items: "Community Engagement 2017", "Competitive Programme for Rated Researchers 2017", "Competitive Support for Unrated Researchers 2017", "DST-NRF Professional Development Programme (PDP) Call for 2016", "Equipment-related Travel and Training Grants 2016", "Infrastructure Funding Instruments in support of the: National Equipment Programme (NEP) and National Nanotechnology Equipment Programme (NNEP) 2016", "Knowledge, Interchange and Collaboration (KIC) 2016 – Round 1", and "Research Development Grants for Y-Rated Researchers 2017". A blue arrow points from the "Log In" section to the "Reset password." link.

Step 2: Once you have logged onto the NRF Online Submission System, you will get to the 'landing page' where you will find a menu at the top left side of your screen (tab indicated with blue arrow). To create a new application, click on My Applications>Create Application.

NRF National Research Foundation | **RISA** Research and Innovation Support and Advancement | **NRF Online Submission System**

My Profile
My Applications
Tools
My Progress Reports
Reports
Logout

Create Application
List of Applications

Welcome Mrs Melissa Govender
Feedback Support

Landing Page

Information

- PLEASE NOTE: The summary below only lists output records that were migrated from the previous NRF Online system. New records that are added on this system will not form part of this summary.
- Applicants must ensure that their CV is updated/completed before creating an application.
- In order for your migrated research outputs to show on the CV or be accessible for selection on applications that require your publication record, you **must** verify (review) the outputs listed in the **Research Outputs Summary** table below. In order to do this, click on the output type that still has outputs to be verified (see the To be Reviewed column). Scroll to the bottom of the screen and a heading saying cleaned-up research output records from NRF Online will be displayed. Click on the little black arrow. This will display the output(s) that needs to be verified. Then click on the View icon, it will open a screen with the data for the output. Please fill in the missing information and save the page. If you have more than one output per output type, click on View for the next output. Do this for all the outputs, the output type on the landing page should now say 0. Move on to the next output type and repeat the process. Should you wish to delete an output, then click on the Feedback box, fill in the **Feedback to the NRF box** (e.g. output duplicated, please delete) and in the **Status** field, please select Delete.
- In some cases, researchers' outputs don't show at all. The reason for this is
 1. The ID/passport number which the cleaned data was linked to when the clean-up exercise was undertaken differs from the ID/passport number you have just used to login to the NRF Online Submission System.
 2. No outputs were added on the old NRF Online system so there was nothing to migrate. If there were outputs on the old NRF Online system but they do not show in the summary below, you need to ensure that the ID/passport numbers used on both the old NRF Online and this system (NRF Online Submission System) are the same. Please contact the NRF should your outputs not show so that this can be rectified.






Step 3: Select the Funding Category **“NRF Postgraduate Scholarships Call”** on the create application screen and a new application will open for you to complete. Please note that this must be selected only once. To continue working on an application, go to My Applications- List of Applications

●

Create Application

Instructions

- Check your intended institution’s internal closing date as it will be prior to the closing date listed for applications, where applicable.
- A timeout will appear when there is no activity on the system for 25 minutes. Click on the refresh button (in the popup box) as this will enable the continuation/completion of the application. When clicking on the close button the system will close.
- Due to potential international review of applications and progress reports, the NRF requires that all applications and progress reports be completed in English.
- Please consult the Funding Framework and Funding & Application Guide for more information to assist you in your choices. These documents can be accessed at <https://www.nrf.ac.za/funding/framework-documents>.
- **Ensure that you complete or update your CV. This is very important as applications without an updated CV will not be considered.**

>	Funding Category	Create
	Concept Notes	
>	Customised Programmes	
>	Institutional Grants	
	NRF Postgraduate Scholarships Call 	
	Postdoctoral Grants	
>	Research Grants: General	
>	Research Grants: International	
>	Research Grants: Without student support	
	Research Grants: Thuthuka	

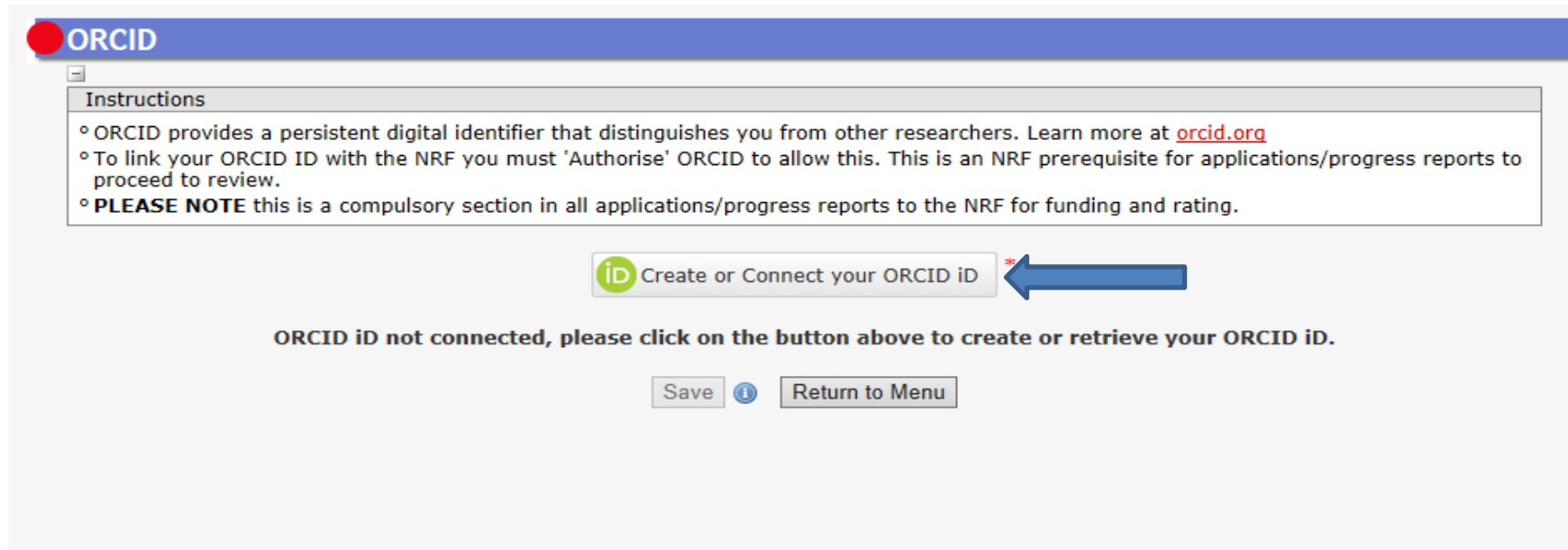
Step 4: All sections marked with red **asterisks** are compulsory. These sections must be completed in order for the final submit button to be activated. Applicants may enter information in the non-compulsory sections only if they have information to fill in, such as research outputs. Completed sections will be indicated by a green tick on the main menu, while incomplete sections will have a yellow cross. **Please ensure that once you complete information in a section, you press the “save” button before returning to the main menu.**

Section	Complete	Date Updated	Edit
NRF Call Information Documents (Please read before starting this application)		29 Mar 2019	
Registration Details *		31 Jan 2019	
Contact Details *		31 Jan 2019	
Qualifications *		06 Jul 2018	
Career Profile		02 Jun 2016	
Research Expertise *		06 Jul 2018	
Student Supervision Record		20 Jul 2018	
Absence from Research		29 Mar 2019	
Personal Profile *		31 Jan 2019	
Books		29 Mar 2019	
Chapters in Books		29 Mar 2019	
Refereed/Peer-reviewed Conference Outputs		22 Apr 2018	
Articles in Refereed/Peer-reviewed Journals		29 Mar 2019	
Patents		29 Mar 2019	
Keynote/Plenary Addresses		29 Mar 2019	
Articles in Non-refereed/Non-peer Reviewed Journals		29 Mar 2019	
Other Significant Conference Outputs		29 Mar 2019	
Technical/Policy Reports		29 Mar 2019	
Products		29 Mar 2019	
Artefacts		29 Mar 2019	
Prototypes		29 Mar 2019	
Other Recognised Research Outputs		29 Mar 2019	
Disability *		06 Jul 2018	
ORCID *		29 Mar 2019	
Application Category *		29 Mar 2019	
Print Preview		29 Mar 2019	

[Final Submit](#)

All compulsory sections will guide applicants with error messages. Please follow these messages to complete the sections correctly.

Step 5: ORCID provides a persistent digital identifier that distinguishes you from other researchers and, through integration in key research workflows such as manuscript and grant submission, supports automated linkages between you and your professional activities ensuring that your work is recognized. Please follow the instructions to complete this section.



ORCID

Instructions

- ORCID provides a persistent digital identifier that distinguishes you from other researchers. Learn more at orcid.org
- To link your ORCID ID with the NRF you must 'Authorise' ORCID to allow this. This is an NRF prerequisite for applications/progress reports to proceed to review.
- **PLEASE NOTE** this is a compulsory section in all applications/progress reports to the NRF for funding and rating.

iD Create or Connect your ORCID iD *

ORCID iD not connected, please click on the button above to create or retrieve your ORCID iD.

Save ⓘ Return to Menu

Step 6: This is a compulsory section. Please select “*Doctoral*” and “*First Time Applicant*” under “*Type of Scholarship*”. For the “Scholarship applying for” section, select “**NRF-Nuffic: Single-site**” if you are applying for fulltime doctoral studies at a Dutch HEI **OR** select “**NRF-Nuffic: Split-site**” if you are applying for full-time doctoral studies jointly developed and implemented by a Dutch HEI and a Partner University in South Africa.

Application Category

Instructions

- **First Time Applicant:** Honours or Masters or Doctoral applicant without NRF funding for the degree you are applying for in this year.
- **Extension Support Applicant:** Masters or Doctoral applicant who holds an NRF scholarship for the current degree who is either on second year of Masters or third year at Doctoral level.
- **TWAS Doctoral Applicant:** Citizens and permanent residents in Africa or developing country outside South Africa at the time of application. (See *list of eligible countries/states in the Framework document*)
- **NRF-Nuffic Doctoral Scholarships:** South African citizens or permanent residents apply for either full-time doctoral studies at a Dutch HEI (Single-site mode) OR full-time doctoral studies jointly developed and implemented by a Dutch HEI and a Partner University in South Africa resulting in a joint degree (Split-site mode).
- **SASAC Applicant:** Masters or Doctoral applicants who will be using systems analysis methodology in their research.
- **Other:** Includes Freestanding, Innovation and Scarce-skills (FISS) and DAAD.
- **FOR DETAILED AND IN-DEPTH INFORMATION, KINDLY REFER TO THE FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT.**

Type of Scholarship ▼ *

Please indicate if you are First Time Applicant

Scholarship applying for Extension Support Applicant *

Doctoral ▼ *

First Time Applicant

Extension Support Applicant *

▼ *

NRF-Nuffic (Split-site)

NRF-Nuffic (Single-site)

SASAC

TWAS

Other

Step 7: The **Degree to be funded** section is a compulsory section. Please complete the section accurately and keep the following in mind: (1) The scholarship may not be held concurrently with any other NRF or South African/Netherlands government scholarships. (2) The Scholarship may not be held concurrently with any full-time salaried employment. Students who are in their fourth year of Doctoral study at the time of application, are not eligible for funding.

Eligible for Sabbatical Grant – please select “No” to this question.

Degree to be Funded

Instructions

- Only Students who will register on a full-time basis in 2020 may apply.
- Please select NO under Eligible for Sabbatical Grant.

Eligible for Sabbatical grant Yes No *

Date of first registration for this degree *

Will Master's registration be upgraded to doctoral status? Yes No

Date of upgrading

Does any financial support received for previous studies bind you to a service contract? Yes No *

Are you currently enrolled for the degree/research for which you are applying for support? Yes No *

Student Number (if currently registered at a university)

Discipline (of degree to be funded) *

Department/School (of degree to be funded)

Faculty (of degree to be funded)

Is this research topic similar to your previous study? Yes No *

Indicate what you are doing presently

250 characters left.

Step 8: The “**Research Project Information**” section requires that you select the proposed institution. Candidates applying for the “**Split-site mode**” should select an institution in South Africa and candidates applying for “**Single-site mode**” must select an institution in the Netherlands.

Research Project Information

Instructions

- All fields are compulsory in this section.
- The Short Title of Research Project field is restricted to 100 characters (including spaces).
- The Descriptive Title of Research Project field is restricted to 2 000 characters (including spaces) and should be a clearer description of what the research is about, therefore expanding on the Short Title.
- You **MUST** consult the attached call documents before completing your application form online.

Applicant's Proposed Institution ⓘ *

Short Title of Research Project *

Research Project Start Year *

Research Project End Year *

Budget Start Year 2020

Required Funding Period *

Budget End Year

Descriptive Title of Research Project *

2000 characters left.

Has this research project previously been funded by the NRF? Yes No *

Step 9: The **Academic Achievements** section is compulsory. Please read the instructions before you complete this section.

Academic Achievements

Instructions

- Average percentage mark for major subjects refers to:
 - Masters:**
Average percentage mark for the honours degree if completed;
OR
Average percentage mark for major subjects in the final-year undergraduate courses for students currently registered for a honours degree;
OR
Average percentage mark for major subjects in the third-year undergraduate courses for students in the final year of a four-year undergraduate degree.
 - Doctoral:**
Percentage mark for the masters degree if completed;
OR
If the masters degree is in progress, average percentage mark for the honours degree;
OR
Average percentage mark for major subjects in the final year of a four-year undergraduate degree.
- Students who received a "Pass" and have not entered a percentage pass mark will be given a default score of 1.
- Minimum prescribed period means the minimum academic years prescribed for the completion of a Designated Qualification.

Average percentage mark for major subjects *

Year in which previous degree was completed *









Completion time for previous degree *

Step 10: The **Details of Research** section is one of the most important sections in the application. The section has specific instructions related to each screen. Follow the instructions to complete the section. Applicants must give a concise overview of the proposed research which is taken into consideration during the assessment of the application. The Scorecard that will be used to assess the application can be viewed in the **Framework Document**.

Details of Research

Instructions

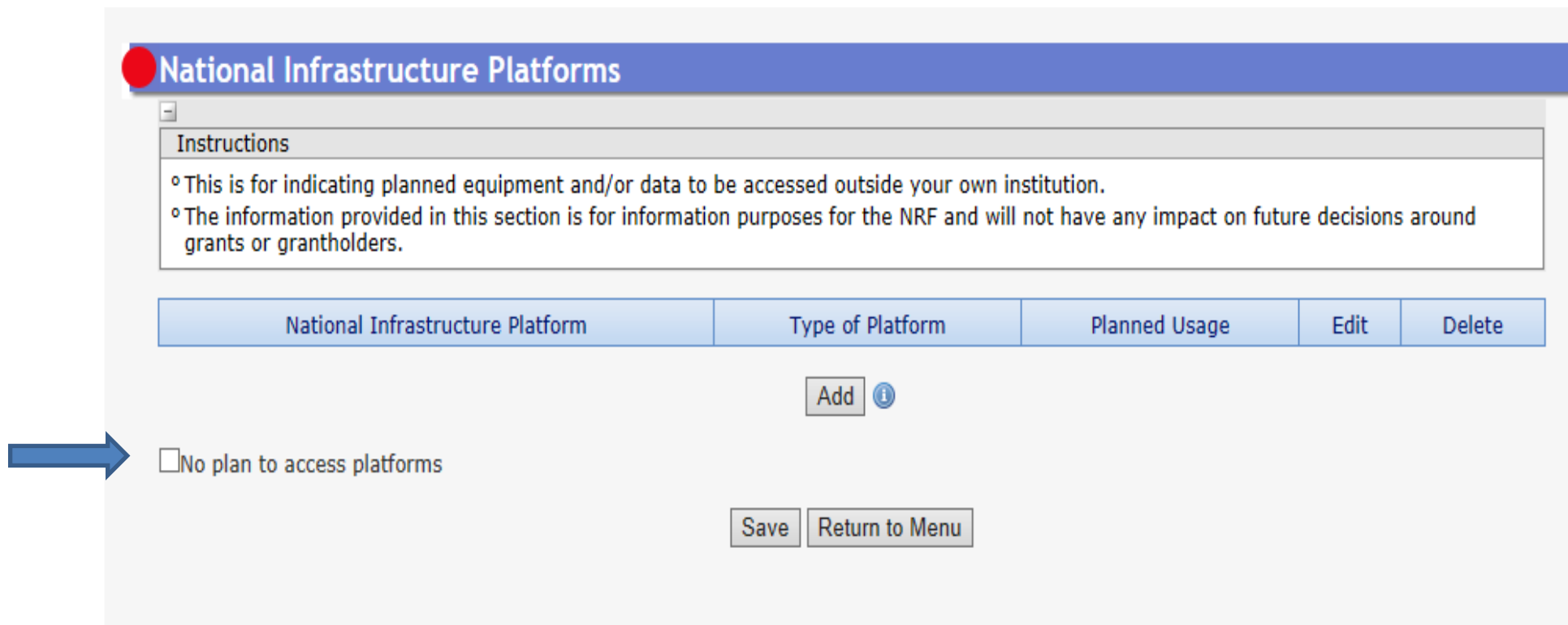
- Please note that all fields in this section are compulsory and unless fully completed your application cannot be submitted.
- **Please refer to the Framework document of the call that you are applying for.**

Section	Complete	Date Updated	Edit
Problem Statement *		29 Mar 2019	
Aims and Objectives *		29 Mar 2019	
Potential Impact *		29 Mar 2019	
Alignment to National Imperatives *		29 Mar 2019	

Migrate from previous application
Return to Menu

*Please note that the Details of Research section will only be marked as complete when all the sub-sections have been completed.

Step 11: The **National Infrastructure Platform** section is not relevant to this call, select “No plan to access platforms” and save.



National Infrastructure Platforms

Instructions

- This is for indicating planned equipment and/or data to be accessed outside your own institution.
- The information provided in this section is for information purposes for the NRF and will not have any impact on future decisions around grants or grantholders.

National Infrastructure Platform	Type of Platform	Planned Usage	Edit	Delete
----------------------------------	------------------	---------------	------	--------

ⓘ

No plan to access platforms

Step 12: The **Science Engagement** section is compulsory for reporting purposes. Outline all activities that constitute Science Engagement in this section. If you will NOT be running any science engagement activities, please select “*No science engagement planned*” and save.

Science Engagement

Instructions

- For the purposes of this application/report, the use of the overarching term science engagement is inclusive of all aspects of public engagement with science, science communication, science literacy as well as science outreach and awareness. It includes all participation by targeted groups of society in a programme aimed at generating mutual understanding and responses to science, including but not limited to awareness, accumulation of knowledge, enjoyment, opinion formulation and scientific literacy.
- It also embraces a broad understanding of "science" and "the sciences", encompassing systematic knowledge spanning natural and physical sciences, engineering sciences, medical sciences, agricultural sciences, mathematics, social sciences and humanities, technology, all aspects of the innovation chain and indigenous knowledge.
- Broader impact considers the impact of the activities/project on the public and/or targeted participants in terms of knowledge and/or awareness, behavioural and/or attitudinal change, skills acquisition etc.
- For more information, [click here](#).

Category	Objectives	Intended Audience	Edit	Delete
No records to display.				

No science engagement planned

Step 13: The **Preferred Panel** section is compulsory. Please read the instructions before you complete this section.

Preferred Panel

Instructions

- Select a panel from the 'primary panel' drop-down list below to indicate the panel in which your application should be assessed.
- Should your project apply to more than one panel, select a secondary panel from the drop-down list.

NB. Please [click here](#) for a list of disciplines included within each panel name.

Primary Panel *

Secondary Panel

Step 14: The **Person History** section is required for statistical purposes by the NRF. It allows the NRF to ascertain who previously received NSFAS (South African National Student Financial Aid Scheme) funding.

Person History

Instructions

- Proof of NSFAS or University financial aid scheme must be attached.
- Please only select the primary funder under "previous studies funded by" or "current degree funding".

Previous studies funded by

- NSFAS funded
- University Financial Aid
- Self funded
- Other Government departments
- International donor funds
- NRF Funded
- Institutional Funding
- Not funded from any other source
- Private Sector Company
- Not applicable *

Current degree funding

- NSFAS funded
- University Financial Aid
- Self funded
- Other Government departments
- International donor funds
- NRF Funded
- Institutional Funding
- Not funded from any other source
- Private Sector Company *

Are you currently a DST-NRF intern

Yes No *

Step 15: The **Reference** section allows applicants to include academic referees who can comment on the applicant's academic abilities. On final submission of the application, emails requesting a referee's response, are sent automatically to the nominated referees to provide a report on the academic and research capabilities of the applicant. Types of references required are listed below:

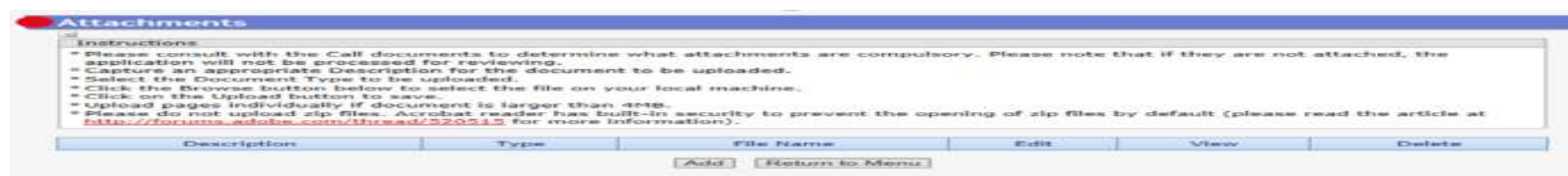
- Doctoral Single Site Mode applicants: Master's supervisor, Doctoral supervisor from the host institution in the Netherlands and an academic referee.
- Doctoral Split Site Mode applicants: Master's supervisor, Doctoral supervisor from the institution in the Netherlands, Doctoral supervisor from the institution in South Africa, and an academic referee.

References						
Instructions						
◦ Please consult with the Call documents to determine the compulsory number of references that need to be added.						
◦ Please note that if an insufficient number of references is submitted, the application will not be processed for reviewing.						
Surname	Initials	Email Address	Faculty	Responded	Edit	Delete
<input type="button" value="Add"/> <input type="button" value="Return to Menu"/>						

NB: The applicant must periodically view the application PDF to ensure that referees have responded to the request.

Step 16: In the **Attachments** section, please print, certify and then scan all the required documents and submit as a single PDF file. The applicant is required to attach the following documents:

- (i) Certified academic record or, in the case of applicants with outstanding fees, attach an official letter (stamped and signed) from the institution, confirming that the transcript is not issued due to outstanding fees owed to the university;
- (ii) Proof of Honours and Masters Qualifications. If your Master's thesis has been submitted for examination and your application is successful, you will have six months to submit the Master's certificate to the NRF. Failure to comply with the stipulated deadline will result in the scholarship being cancelled.
- (iii) Proof of National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) or University Financial Aid funding for applicants that have indicated that they were previously funded by NSFAS or University Financial Aid;
- (iv) Provisional letter of acceptance from the Dutch HEI (single site mode)
- (v) A letter of support from the doctoral supervisor at the host institution in the Netherlands confirming the availability of research running costs and other necessary resources for the completion of the doctoral research project(single site mode)
- (vi) Provisional letter of acceptance from the Dutch HEI and South African HEI (split site mode)
- (vii) A letter of support from the supervisors in the Netherlands and South Africa, including a plan for co-supervision and for proposed mobility visits. The letter of support from the doctoral supervisor in the Netherlands institution must also confirm the availability of research running costs and other necessary resources for the completion of the doctoral research project (split site mode).
- (viii) Applicants with disabilities must upload a medical certificate, in support of the disability.



***Applications without the required attachments will be rejected.**

Step 17: Split site mode applicants must adhere to the local institution's internal closing date for submission of their applications to allow for internal institutional screening and review. The Institution's internal closing date will be determined by the respective Research Office or Postgraduate Office. DAs must ensure that all proposals are screened and approved through the institution's internal processes **before** submitting the applications to the NRF. The NRF assumes that the respective DAs are satisfied with the standard of all proposals validated and submitted, and that the institution approves and supports the proposed research.

Step 18: The final submit button will only be activated when all compulsory sections are complete. If all the compulsory sections are complete and the final submit button does not appear, select any section and resave to refresh the application; you will then see the final submit button. A submitted application is automatically routed to the DA in the Research or Postgraduate Office of the South African institution that was selected, for internal review and validation. **Late applications, additional supporting documentation or information received after the closing date will not be accepted or considered.**

The NRF will not process applications that are incomplete, contain insufficient or incorrect information, or fail to comply with instructions. These applications will be rejected. The application must be completed in sufficient detail to allow for a comprehensive review and evaluation by external reviewers. In addition to the electronic application and required attachments, the NRF may request additional information or documentation to support an application if required. Failure to supply such information or documentation upon request may result in the rejection of the application.

6. Screening and Review Processes

6.1. Overview of the Screening Process

All applications validated by South African institutions and submitted to the NRF, are screened by the NRF for compliance with the eligibility criteria and requirements of the Call for applications. Applications that fail to meet the stipulated requirements will be rejected.

6.2. Overview of the Review Process

The NRF's peer review policy requires that all applications be subjected to a review process. Applications submitted for this funding instrument will go through a panel review process.

6.2.1. Panel Review

Panel members are selected from the NRF database that is updated on a continuous basis, and other sources. In compiling the review panel, the expertise and experience of individuals in application adjudication are taken into account. In assessing the application, agreed assessment criteria are applied in the form of a scorecard (please refer to the **Framework Document**).

The Review Panel provides recommendations to the NRF and the final funding decision is made by the NRF. In awarding grants under this funding instrument, the NRF takes into account the recommendations of the peer review panels, the objectives and equity targets of the funding instrument, and the available funds.

7. Applications Feedback and Disputes

Once the review and assessment processes have been completed and the recommended funding decision has been approved by the NRF, the NRF will publish a list of successful applicants on the NRF website at www.nrf.ac.za/bursaries/calls. The application status online will indicate whether or not the application has been approved for funding. If your name does not appear on the published list of successful applications, your application was unsuccessful.

Unsuccessful applicants who wish to appeal the funding decision taken by the NRF must follow the appropriate Appeals Process of the NRF. Appeals for this funding instrument will only be considered two to three (2-3) months after the official publication date of the results on the NRF website.

8. Awardee Responsibilities

8.1. Reporting

Continued funding beyond the first year is dependent on the submission of a Progress Report (PR) when the official process has opened on the NRF Online Submission Systems. Continued funding will be considered based on satisfactory progress.

A PR must be submitted by the awardee / grant-holder in a format provided by the NRF, documenting progress made against set objectives and research outputs. The NRF may, in consultation with the Research Office, request interim progress reports for the purpose of implementing corrective measures timeously to ensure that stated objectives are met within stipulated timeframes.

8.2. Managing changes during the project life cycle

Changes may occur during the project life cycle due to unforeseen and extenuating circumstances. Please note the following on how to manage the award and subsequent changes (planned or unanticipated) should they arise during the project life cycle.

8.2.1. Change Requests

8.2.1.1. Prior Approval Requests

Applicants must submit all change requests in writing to the NRF for approval before effecting any changes. The request must have institutional DA endorsement and be submitted to the NRF *via* the South African institution's Research Office / Postgraduate Office for approval prior to the change.

8.2.1.2. Changes in Project Scope, Supervisor or Institution

Changes may occur where a project scope, supervisor or institution needs to be changed from the original research proposal, supervisor or institution respectively. The request must have institutional DA endorsement and be submitted to the NRF *via* the Research / Postgraduate Office. Such requests must be forwarded to the NRF 30 days before the change is intended to take place.

9. Scientific Compliance

9.1. Methodology

The student takes scientific responsibility for the research to be undertaken, including its objectives and the methodology outlined in the project proposal. The student is required to devote the necessary time to the research project in compliance with the work-plan for the research proposal approved by the NRF so as to achieve the project's stated aims and objectives.

9.2. Intellectual Property Rights

The intellectual capital generated by NRF funded research must be appropriately protected and exploited for the benefit of South Africa. This condition should not interfere with the Intellectual Property Rights arrangements already made, on condition that the majority of the benefits arising from the intellectual capital accrue to South Africa and its citizens. This condition is aligned with the *Intellectual Property Rights Act*,¹ which will override the condition of grant.

9.3. Ethics

The student is required to maintain the highest ethical and safety standards in conducting the research, particularly when human and animal subjects are involved. It remains the responsibility of the project

¹ RSA (2008). Intellectual Property Rights from Publicly Financed Research and Development Act 51 of 2008. *Government Gazette*, 22 Dec 2008. Vol 522, No 3174

leader to comply with all relevant regulations in this regard, including those of the institution at which the research is carried out. An ethical clearance certificate (where applicable) must be submitted to the NRF in respect of successful applications before funding can be released.