

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR POSTDOCTORAL STUDY

The Oppenheimer Memorial Trust (OMT) awards a limited number of scholarships annually for postdoctoral study at local and international Higher Education Institutions. South African citizens, permanent residents and foreign national may apply.

Scholarships are given to candidates with a proven record of academic excellence who intend to pursue careers in academia, research, development or related fields in South Africa.

For international study: Only exceptional candidates who present specific and purposeful plans to undertake programmes in unique or highly specialised disciplines in which advanced studies are not readily available in South Africa or who are able to demonstrate that they have advanced to a level where international tuition under the direction of global leaders in their particular discipline is appropriate to proceed meaningfully in their chosen fields, will be considered.

Your application must be submitted on our applications portal, and no emailed documents will be accepted by the Trust. Please contact applicationqueries@omt.org.za if you have any queries.

INFORMATION NEEDED TO COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION

1. Intended study

An outline of the intended degree, programme of study, choice of institution, period of study detailing:

1. Please clearly indicate the topic, institution, start date and duration of the programme
2. **Significance of intended study:** Please describe the relevance and anticipated significance (for South Africa and Africa) of the study, how the work will extend current knowledge on the topic, and its perceived benefits to the South African and academy
3. **A brief synopsis of the work programme or research plan:** Please articulate the problem statement, key objectives, intended outputs, research methodology and time frames
4. **The names and locations of host institutions, locally and/or abroad:** Please comment on the reputation or academic standing of the host institution, research team to be joined or collaborator and include names and designations; any applicable access to the host institution's resources (laboratories, technology/equipment, libraries, etc)
5. Please indicate in your application if you are still awaiting formal acceptance into the programme and please inform us when this is received.
6. Please note, where more than one institution has been applied to, please enter another record in the study choice table (you are allowed a maximum of 3 choices) and identify which institution is your preferred first choice. Applicants are required to submit **one application** in this case

2. Budget/s

Applicants must disclose their personal financial position and submit a budget indicating:

1. Annual estimates of costs for the duration of the period of study including:
 - Living costs
 - Travel (including flights, visas, health surcharges, etc)
 - Books and subsistence
 - Other relevant costs

2. Income from all sources including:
 - Savings
 - Family contributions
 - Loans
 - Secured scholarships / bursaries / other awards
 - Estimates of income from part-time work or assistantships
3. Please distinguish clearly between funds that have already been secured (upload supporting documentation) and funding applied for but not yet approved or confirmed
4. Candidates are encouraged to be realistic with their costs as budget amendments are not permitted after an award has been granted
5. Direct research or project-related costs and any corresponding funding must be disclosed in a separate schedule but these expenses will not be covered by OMT
6. When applying to an international institution, please enter the budget in the local currency. The budget table will automatically translate into ZAR when the "save draft" button is clicked

3. Motivation

A statement (not more than 500 words) that describes:

1. Brief background, including your academic history
2. What motivated you to follow a career in your field of research
3. The perceived benefits to you personally, and to the broader community
4. Your career development and personal aspirations

4. Personal information

Navigate to the "Personal Information" tab in the main grant section. We request that you fill out all personal information contained in that section to ensure our records are up to date.

Please upload the following documents

1. An up-to-date CV (not more than three pages)
2. A copy of your South African ID or permanent residence permit or passport
3. A recent professional photograph

5. Academic history

1. Applicants to upload **all** academic transcripts for **all** degrees and programmes completed or in progress. If transcripts are outstanding, please send these as they become available
2. Applicants to upload copies of all degrees and programmes. If certificates are outstanding, please send these as they become available
3. Awards & scholarship history: Please detail any previous scholarships, awards, postdoctoral fellowships, or research grants won
4. Research activity: please summarise your research activity, including publication record, conference presentations, supervision of students (including those in progress) and any keynote lectures delivered

6. Letters of recommendation

Three (3) reference letters to be uploaded directly on the application portal by your referees.

Referees must be familiar with the applicant's current work and study plans and well-placed to attest to the candidate's academic achievements.

Please note, your application cannot be considered until at least 2 referees have completed their reference forms. Please follow up with your referees directly before the submission closing date

NOTES

1. Applications must be submitted according to the following **start dates**:
 - Start Date: January to June – applications due 30th September of the previous year (**please note the 2025 closing date is 28th August 2025, not 30th September**)
 - Start Date: July to December – applications due by the 31st March in the same year
2. Applicants must update the Trust on the outcomes of their requests to other potential funders listed in the budget estimates that formed part of their submission to OMT.
3. If other funding applications are successful, this will result in the value of the OMT award to be reduced by the value of the applicable co-funding
4. Scholarships are limited to one degree or programme of study at a maximum of two years at the Postdoctoral level.
5. Awards are granted on an annual basis and renewals are contingent on satisfactory progress and performance as stipulated in the award letter and in compliance with the Trust's reporting requirements
6. OMT **does not fund** programmes that have a narrow and commercial focus. The definition of this is decided on at the discretion of the Trustees. Applicants are encouraged to confirm the validity of their application with the Trust before submitting a formal application.
7. **Value of Awards**: Awards will not be granted on a full cost basis and may vary in value depending on circumstances. Candidates are encouraged **to actively seek out co-funding from other sources** including their host institutions and must declare all applications made to other funders to OMT
8. Awards are determined on a merit basis at the discretion of the Trustees
9. Failure to comply with the Trust's requirements and procedures – including the requirement to submit updates on any and all developments – will result in disqualification. Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.