

General Guidelines on Eligibility for Support: DSI-CSIR Inter-programme Bursary Scheme

The Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) established the Inter-programme Bursary Scheme (IBS) for postgraduate studies to support capacity development in key strategic and priority areas identified in key departmental strategies. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is supporting the DSI in the development of skills in these areas.

1. Eligibility

- All students who have been accepted or registered for **fulltime** studies at any South African public university.
- All students who intend to register or are registered for the following:
 - **Honours/fourth year engineering/postgraduate Diploma**
 - **Masters'**
 - **Doctorate**

DSI-CSIR IBS applications are restricted to students **whose degrees are aligned with the thematic research areas and research themes/technology streams indicated below.** Supervisor endorsement and motivation will be required with each bursary application for Masters' and doctoral applications.

Preference will be given to applicants from previously disadvantaged backgrounds and people living with disabilities.

2. Funding amount

Level of study	Funding amount	Once-off laptop allowance
Honours	R100 000	R10 000
Masters'	R120 000	R10 000
Doctorate	R140 000	R10 000

3. Payment process and conditions of the bursary

- **The full bursary amount will be deposited into the student's university account to cover registration and tuition fees. The balance will be allocated to the student monthly or quarterly by the university.**



- This funding cannot supplement existing bursaries from other government sources (e.g., National Research Foundation (NRF) or other government-derived bursaries). If the student applies for more than one government-derived bursary and becomes successful in all of them, s/he should choose **only one** before accepting this award. Once the funds have been legally paid into the student's university account, **reversal of the funds is not allowed later during the academic year.**
- Funding allocated for each bursary is for the specific academic year in which it was awarded. For first time registration, an Honours/fourth year engineering/postgraduate Diploma award will be limited to one year, Master's award to two years and doctoral award to three years.
- Funding is only guaranteed for one year. Continuation of funding is dependent on a student's performance and the availability of funds from the sponsor.
- The period of the award is calculated from the first year of registration of the study or research, regardless of the IBS funding. **For example, a Master's student who obtains support in their second year of registration will only be funded for 1 year.**

4. Feedback

- Once an application has been made, applicants will be able to check their application status using the login details supplied to them during the initial application process.
- Communication will be sent to all the applicants within two months of the closing date of the applications to notify students of their application status.

5. Reporting requirements

Honours/fourth year engineering/postgraduate Diploma

- Students are expected to submit the results at the end of each semester.

Masters' and doctoral students

- Students are required to submit mid-year progress reports, which are to be signed off by the supervisor. At the end of the academic year, students must submit an annual progress report (APR).
- An official template for the APR will be provided. The purpose is to ensure that the stated objectives are met within the stipulated timeframes.

6. Work back requirements

Students are **NOT** subject to any work back agreement with the CSIR upon completion of their studies.

7. Thematic research focus areas

Preference will be given to projects within the areas mentioned below.

Honours/fourth year engineering/postgraduate Diploma level students should state clearly which thematic research focus area they are applying for, so that it is clear that they can form part of the future pipeline development. It will be an added advantage to show whether their final year project is aligned with the research focus area.

The thematic research areas of interest for bursary support are outlined below.



Thematic area	Research focus areas	
Biotechnology	Biopharming	
	Bioprocessing	
	Bio-catalysis	
Health	Pharmaceutical Sciences	Pathology
	Biomedical Sciences	Forensic Medicine
	Health Sciences (excluding Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science)	Nutrition
	Biochemistry	Biokinetics, Recreation and Sport Science
	Pharmacology	Synthetic Biology
	Microbiology	Precision Medicine
	Physiology	Molecular Biology
Information and Communications Technology	Information Systems	Statistics
	Computer Science	Data Science
	Information Technology	Mathematical Statistics
	Electrical and Computer Engineering	Applied Mathematics
	Electronic Engineering	Epidemiology and Biostatistics
	Information Systems Management	Artificial Intelligence
Indigenous Knowledge Systems	Bio-economy (food security, health, technology, nutraceuticals and cosmeceuticals)	Agriculture (indigenous agricultural practices)
	Climate Change (Environmental Management)	Engineering (product and process development)
	Technology Innovations	Ethnobotany and Ethnopharmacology
	Energy (alternative and clean sources)	Community Engagement and Scientific Research
Microsystems technology (areas relating to microfluidics and micro electro-mechanical systems (MEMS), broadly referred to as microsystems technology)	Microfluidics	
	MEMS	
	Printed functionality	
	Sensors	



Mining (areas to support the People-centred Mine Modernisation drive)	Mining Engineering	Energy and Renewable Energy
	Rock Engineering	Civil Engineering/ Geotechnical
	Engineering Geology	Data Modelling and Machine Learning
	Systems Engineering	Environmental Engineering/ Environmental Science
	Software Engineering	Software Engineering (Software Design and Integration)
	Mechatronics Engineering	Electrical and Electronics Engineering (Sensor Design Engineering)
Modelling and digital sciences	Bioinformatics	
	Token-based authentication (including, but not limited to smart card systems)	
	Cybersecurity	
	Data Science	
Photonics	Free-space and Fibre Optics	Quantum Control with Photonic Systems
	Optical Tweezing	Laser-cooled Atomic Systems Research
	Bio-photonics	Laser Welding
	Quantum Optics	Free-space and Fibre Optical Communication Systems
	Laser Research	
Titanium (manufacturing elements): priority will be given to focus areas that are in support of the Titanium Centre of Competence (TiCoC)	Primary Metal (titanium) Production	High-performance Machining
	Titanium Powder Consolidation	Friction Welding
	High Speed Additive Manufacturing	Sheet Forming
	Investment Casting	Cross-cutting aspects such as Physical Metallurgy and Characterisation, Design, Simulation and Modelling will also be considered

Please note that students who are already funded under TiCoC will not be considered for funding in this programme.

8. Continuation of funding

The award is for the 2024 academic year and continuation for Masters' and doctoral students will be dependent on the availability of funds and the academic progress of the student (as captured in the APR with input from the supervisor of the proposed research). Students will be notified about the outcome of their renewal via direct correspondence.

The applicant and supervisor must indicate when they submit their APR whether continuation support is required.

9. Successful completion of the online application form

Applicants are required to complete their online application forms in full. **Incomplete application forms will not be considered.**

All applications must be accompanied by the following supporting documents:

- Proof of South African identity document or passport (for international students) and permanent residency;
- Official and certified university degree certificates;
- Transcript of academic record indicating a minimum accumulative academic achievement in the previous degree;
- Recommendation letter by supervisor (compulsory for Masters' and doctoral applicants);
- Admission letter indicating fulltime registration (if available) – this will be required if the application is successful; and
- Reference letters (if available) – these will be required if application is successful.

It is the responsibility of the student to find a suitable supervisor and ensure that the supervisor supports the application.

Contact details

For enquiries, the CSIR may be contacted by email at HCD-Interbursary@csir.co.za