

# Master's and Doctoral bursary

## 2025 bursary application period

The 2025 UNISA Postgraduate Bursary Application open 1 October 2024 to 31 December 2024

**N.B:** Only online applications submitted via myUnisa link app will be considered. No hard copy, email or hand delivered, late or incomplete applications will be considered.

**N.B:** Students need to be temporarily registered by 31 January 2024 for registration to be activated once application is successful. Due to limited funds, students not registered during awarding will not be funded. Additionally, no additional coursework modules will be funded after award has been allocated and registration has been activated.

**N.B** Returning bursary beneficiaries are required to re-apply for the bursary for each academic year registered for the same previously funded qualification subject to bursary guidelines, terms, and conditions.

**N.B** Ensure you remind your supervisor to support your bursary application on the M&D activities platform over and above recording your M&D activities that you have done in academic year 2024 by 31 January 2025. Applications that are not support on time will not be considered.

### About the bursary

The master's and doctoral bursary aim to assist returning master's and doctoral students with their research activities and tuition fees, enabling them to register for and complete their degrees.

The bursary is intended to provide financial support to Unisa South African and international master's and doctoral students, subject to eligibility, academic performance, and the availability of funds.

### Important Notices:

- The 2025 Q&A session will be taking place in October. In this Q&A session you will learn more about the Unisa Masters and Doctoral Bursary application, awarding and refunds process.

#### **2025 Academic Year, Master's and Doctoral Q&A session Direct Link:**

Live event will take place on Friday, 11 October 2024 at 10am (South African time) on Microsoft Teams, click below link:

[2025 Masters & Doctoral Bursaries Q&A Session](#)

- **To all 2024 Approved & Awarded students:**
  - Kindly note that the processing of refunds and allowance is still in progress, please ensure that all the required documents have been submitted.
  - It is important to note that no student's account will be settled, and no bursary refunds/allowances will be processed until the Bursary contracts have been submitted/received and processed.

## M&D Bursary guidelines, terms, and conditions

### Who can apply?

Only master's returning students who registered first time not more than 3 years ago from academic year of bursary application (e.g. for 2025 only students who registered first time between 2022 and 2024 are eligible). Students with previously approved deferments can be considered for each academic year(s) of deferment.

Only doctoral returning students who registered first time not more than 6 years ago from academic year of bursary application (e.g. for 2025 only students who registered first time between 2019 and 2024 are eligible). Students with previously approved deferments can be considered for each academic year(s) of deferment.

- **Returning Bursary Beneficiaries – previously funded by UNISA PG Bursary.**
  - UNISA Master's and Doctoral South African and international students continuing with their research study in their previously funded NQF level 9/10 qualifications, subject to academic performance, eligibility, and availability of funds.
- **New Bursary applicants – never been funded by UNISA PG Bursary.**
  - UNISA Master's and Doctoral South African and international research students who have passed their Research Proposal (by 31 January 2025) previously submitted by November 2024.
  - Master's by Coursework:
    - Master's by coursework students who have passed 2 coursework modules in the same previously registered qualification (by 31 January 2025).
- **Please note the vetting committee will be reviewing M&D activities recorded by your supervisors.**

Masters and Doctoral students whose qualifications are (not counting the year of application e.g., 2025):

- 3 or more years old since, first year of registration (with approved deferments considered) – are required to have a minimum of 3 or more chapters submitted to supervisor.
- 2 years old since, first year of registration (with approved deferments considered) – are required to have a minimum of 2 chapters submitted to supervisor.

### Who can NOT apply?

- UNISA permanent staff members.
- First-year Master's and Doctoral students.
- Graduate School of Business Leadership students registered for:
  - Master's of Business Administration
  - Master's of business Leadership
- Students registered for special study programmes, including certificates (e.g., PGCE) and non-degree purpose programmes are not eligible for this bursary.
- Students who already hold a postgraduate degree at the same or a higher NQF level to the qualification registered for are not eligible for this bursary.

### What does the bursary fund?

- The bursary covers **Tuition Fees** and **Research Essentials** (visit [Frequently asked questions \(unisa.ac.za\)](https://www.unisa.ac.za) for more information on research essentials/ activities):
  - **Master's degree by research and experimental research allowance** limited to **R55 000** over the **first three** consecutive years of funding (subject to an approved re/application).

- **Master's degree by coursework research allowance** limited to **R25 000** over the **first three** consecutive years of funding (subject to an approved re/application).
  - **Doctoral degree by research allowance** limited to **R80 000** over the **first four** consecutive years of funding (subject to an approved re/application).
  - **Doctoral degree by experimental research allowance** limited to **R120 000** over the **first four** consecutive years of funding (subject to an approved re/application).
- Subject to the availability of funds, academic performance and eligibility Master's and Doctoral students with no ethical clearance certificate are only eligible for a once off laptop allowance from the above allocated research allowance subject to an approved application and a passed research proposal.
  - Master's and Doctoral students will be eligible to the remaining balance of the research allowance subject to confirmed ethical clearance certificate by 31 January each academic year and an approved re-application based on academic performance, eligibility, and availability of funds. Final ethical clearance application (post corrections) should have been submitted in the previous year.
  - The bursary does NOT fund additional years beyond the above-mentioned number of years.
  - The bursary does NOT cover failed/ repeating modules in the case of Master's by Coursework students.
  - The bursary does NOT fund additional or different NQF level 9/10 qualification from the one previously funded.
  - The bursary does NOT cover historic debt.
  - Note that priority will be given to South African (citizens) students according to an 80/20 per cent ratio over international students for funding.

**Outcome will be communicated to student's mylife email account:**

- Unsuccessful students who paid for their own registration should deregister before cancellation closing date (through their nearest regional centre / myUnisa) if they cannot find alternative funding.
- Students who paid for their own registration should retain/ keep their registration proof of payment (ATM receipt/ speed point receipt etc) which will be required should they be awarded and are eligible for a refund.
- Master's and Doctoral students may submit an appeal between 1 May – 7 May, supported by their supervisor:
  - Appeals should be submitted as a formal email to [CGS-pgb@unisa.ac.za](mailto:CGS-pgb@unisa.ac.za) with information/ evidence proving that the rejection reason(s) provided contradicts student's status quo.
- Students who can NOT appeal
  - Students who have been fully funded for the full bursary period.
  - Students who are unsuccessful due to insufficient funds
  - Students who have adequate external/ alternative funding (double dipping)
  - Students who were rejected by the college vetting process due to unsatisfactory academic performance.
  - Students who are NOT eligible for the bursary as per bursary guidelines, terms, and conditions

**What should awarded students do?**

- **Send the signed bursary contract** to the designated bursary officer as per email instructions before closing date thereof.

- **South African students (South African citizen)**

1. **Students who paid their registration fees from their own pocket and or have been award research allowance:**

- Submit their banking details through the provided link as per email instructions from the award section, student can NOT use a third-party bank account (bank account should be the student's account)

If your banking details verification is rejected you will be resent a new link to resubmit correct details, should the attempt fail you'll be emailed a claim/ refund form to submit instead.

Include in your email submission:

1. certified ID copy not older than 6 months from request email date along
2. with proof of payment (bank statement/ bank payment confirmation/ receipt) that reflects the exact payment(s) made. – if paid your own fees. **And or**

2. **Student whose registration fees were paid by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party (e.g., company, another person/ organisation):**

- Only in the case where company is loaning the tuition fees to the student, a refund of the awarded tuition can be refunded back to the company. (Documentation from the company will be required as proof the loan)
- Refund will only be paid to individual 3<sup>rd</sup> parties that paid for student's tuition fee on your behalf as a student.
- The company/ organisation/ 3<sup>rd</sup> party bank account confirmation letter from the bank will be required and completed Claim/ Refund form with the 3<sup>rd</sup> party bank account details along with 3<sup>rd</sup> party ID copy not older than 6 months, as per email instructions from the award section.

Include in your email submission:

1. Student certified ID copy not older than 6 months along
2. with proof of payment (bank statement/ bank payment confirmation/ receipt) that reflects the payment(s)
3. and 3<sup>rd</sup> party bank account confirmation letter
4. 3<sup>rd</sup> party certified ID copy not older than 6 months

The period of processing the claim will take 15-21 working days after receiving the correct refund documents.

- **International students (foreign citizen)**

1. **Students who paid their registration fees from their own pocket and or have been award research allowance:**

- A. International students with South African Bank accounts**

- Your bank account confirmation letter from your bank will be required and completed Claim/ Refund form with South African bank account details, as per email instructions from the award section.

Student can NOT use a third-party bank account (bank account should be the student's account)

Include in your email submission:

- Certified Passport not older than 6 months,
- Bank account confirmation letter,
- with **proof of payment** (bank statement/ bank payment confirmation/ receipt) that reflects the payment(s). – if paid your own fees.

**Or**

**B. International students with International (foreign) Bank accounts**

- Completed **international bank Claim/ Refund** form reflecting international banking details is required.
- Include in your email submission:
  - Certified Passport not older than 6 months,
  - with **proof of payment** (bank statement/ bank payment confirmation/ receipt) that reflects the payment(s). – if paid your own fees.

**And or**

**2. International students whose registration fees were paid by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party (e.g., company, another person/ organisation):**

- Only in the case where company is loaning the tuition fees to the student, a refund of the awarded tuition can be refunded back to the company. (Documentation from the company will be required to proof the loan)
- Refund will only be paid to individual 3<sup>rd</sup> parties that paid for student's tuition fee on your behalf as a student.
- The company/ organisation/ 3<sup>rd</sup> party bank account confirmation letter from the bank will be required and completed Claim/ Refund form with the 3<sup>rd</sup> party bank account details, as per email instructions from the award section.

Include in your email submission:

1. **certified ID copy** not older than 6 months along
2. with **proof of payment** (bank statement/ bank payment confirmation/ receipt) that reflects the payment(s)
3. and **3<sup>rd</sup> party bank account confirmation letter**
4. If 3<sup>rd</sup> party bank account is an international (foreign) bank account, use the **international bank Claim/ Refund** form using their banking details.

The period of processing international claims is 21-30 working days after receiving the correct refund documents.

**Please note:**

- Unisa gives no guarantee that the bursary will be awarded to all eligible students, as the bursary is subject to the availability of funds.
- If a student:
  - fails to comply with any of the terms and conditions of the award, and/or
  - terminates their studies, their Unisa postgraduate bursary will be cancelled, and the current year's Unisa postgraduate bursary amount awarded will be charged to the student's account, which will be handed over to the Unisa legal and finance department to affect the collection process.
- Student who wishes to cancel their registration/ modules will have to deregister before cancellation closing date (through their colleges/ myUnisa) and once cancellation is

confirmed, communicate an award withdrawal to DSF PGB Award Section at [DSF-POSTGRD@unisa.ac.za](mailto:DSF-POSTGRD@unisa.ac.za) and cc the to the designated officer whom you submit bursary contract to.

- Note that Division of Student Funding DOES NOT administer deregistration/module cancellations.
- It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they cancel before cancellation closing date and note that student may forfeit any amounts paid by the student and or may remain liable to pay the full outstanding fees.
- For Master's and Doctoral cancellations, visit: [After you register](#)

**2025 PG Bursary application app guide for M&D students is now available, [Click here](#) to download**

[Click here](#) to apply.