

Awards for Postgraduate Study

The Oppenheimer Memorial Trust (OMT) awards scholarships for postgraduate study at Master's, Doctoral and Postdoctoral level.

South African nationals are eligible to apply and preference is given to candidates with a proven record of academic excellence, coupled with financial need, who intend to pursue careers in academia, research or related fields. Applications for study abroad may be considered where the field of specialisation cannot be undertaken locally or in cases where candidates have advanced to a level where international tuition is appropriate to proceed meaningfully in their chosen fields. Preference may be given to candidates undertaking local and/or split-site graduate programmes.

Applications will be treated confidentially and must be supported by the following information and documentation:

- **Motivation**

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

- Background, schooling, general interests and personal philosophy
- Short to medium term plans and priorities
- Career aspirations

The following points should also be addressed:

- Relevance of the study to the South African context and the anticipated outcomes
- The perceived benefits personally and to the local academy and the broader community
- Reasons that the course of study cannot be undertaken in South Africa (where applicable)

- **Intended Study**

- Intended degree, programme of study, institution, period of study
- Course work, fieldwork and the essence of the dissertation proposal (as applicable)
- Supervisor's name, current designation and abridged (one-page) CV
- Offer and terms of admission

- **Personal Information, Qualifications and Academic Record**

- An up to date *curriculum vitae* (not more than three pages)
- A recent photograph (3x4 cm)
- A complete academic transcript as well as certified copies of degree certificates
- The names and designations of three referees

- **Letters of Recommendation / Referees' Reports**

- Referees must be familiar with the applicant's current work and study plans and must submit signed letters or reports under separate and confidential cover directly to the Trust

- **Financial Position**

Applicants must disclose their personal financial position and submit a one page income and expenditure budget indicating:

- Annual estimates of costs for the duration of the period of study including i.a. travel, tuition fees, books, subsistence costs, insurance and incidentals (as applicable, but excluding the costs of support for any dependants)
- Income from all sources including access to savings, family contributions, loans, offers of scholarships and bursaries or other awards as well as estimates of income from part-time work or assistantships (distinguish clearly between funds that have already been secured and funding that may be raised pending the outcome of approaches to third parties)

Failure to comply with the Trust's requirements will result in disqualification and the provision of the information outlined above does not guarantee a positive outcome. Awards are determined at the discretion of the Trust and may be granted on a co-funding, annual basis (i.e. partial contributions towards the overall costs) but not for more than two or three years of study towards any one degree, subject to performance and compliance with the Trust's reporting and re-application procedures.

Notes:

1. Time-lines for Submissions
 - **Local Study:** Applications must be submitted a minimum of four months ahead of the intended date of registration at university. These will be reviewed and adjudicated on a rolling basis throughout the year.
 - **Split-site Study:** Applications must be submitted a minimum of four months ahead of the intended date of registration at university. These will be reviewed and adjudicated on a rolling basis throughout the year.
 - **International Study:** The deadlines for submissions are 15 April for programmes of study commencing in August, 15 May for programmes of study commencing in September / October and 15 September for programmes of study commencing in January of the following year.
2. Intended Study – Applicants who are already part way through their studies should position themselves accurately within the framework of the guidelines.
3. Applications may be submitted by hand, post or email.
4. In the normal course of events applications will be adjudicated within three to four months of the date of submission.
5. Late or incomplete applications may not be accepted.

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