



Bursaries for Honours, Masters and PhD Students INSETA-UCT Research Chair

The INSETA-UCT Research Chair is seeking applications from Honours, Masters and Doctoral students in any field whose research is of relevance and interest to South Africa's Insurance Sector

Call for Applications

In line with its mandate to facilitate skills development in the insurance sector, the Insurance Sector Education and Training Authority (INSETA) has made funding available through the INSETA-UCT Research Chair for bursaries for postgraduate qualifications at the University of Cape Town. The INSETA-UCT Research Chair therefore seeks applications from current and prospective postgraduate students who are conducting or who propose to conduct research in any field that is of relevance to the South African insurance sector during the 2021 academic year.

Background

The Insurance Sector Education Training Authority (INSETA's) purpose is to grow the pool and quality of scarce and critical skills in the insurance and related services sector, enhancing the sector and supporting the country's transformation. Credible research based on robust evidence is essential to support decision-making by employers, insurance sector stakeholders, INSETA, and the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). To this end, the INSETA-UCT Research Chair at the Development Policy Research Unit (DPRU) has embarked on a formal research programme in partnership with INSETA that aims to address key policy-relevant research questions.

INSETA, through the INSETA-UCT Research Chair, aims to directly support the production of new graduates through the provision of bursaries for postgraduate studies. This will include funding Honours, Masters, and PhD students working in areas relevant to the sector. These bursaries are open to students pursuing a postgraduate degree in any field at the University of Cape Town, as long as their research question is of relevance to South Africa's insurance sector. Applicants will be required to demonstrate this relevance as part of the application process.

The DPRU is a university-accredited research unit within the School of Economics at the University of Cape Town, and engages in research covering a wide variety of issues within the broad areas of labour markets, poverty and inequality.

General Conditions

- Applicants must be South African Citizens.
- Applicants may not previously have completed a degree to the level at which they are currently enrolled.
- The bursary is only available to students who register for HONOURS, MASTER'S OR DOCTORAL DEGREES at the University of Cape Town.
- Applicants will need to be graduating by the end of the period of funding, and by no later than 31 December 2022. Note: The bursary is only available for the 2021 academic year.
- Unemployed and employed students receiving NSFAS or any other bursary/scholarship from another organization besides INSETA are NOT eligible for a bursary.¹
- Applicants who are currently employed must be part-time students working for a skills-levy paying company within the Insurance sector (there are no age restrictions to this bursary).
- Applicants who are currently unemployed must be enrolled to study full-time (though students may hold part time jobs), and must be between the age of 18 and 35 years.

Specific Conditions

- A key component of the research partnership is sharing the research with the sector: therefore, successful applicants will be required to contribute a completed paper to the INSETA-UCT Research Chair at the culmination of their funding.
- Completed dissertations will be fed into the system and published as programme outputs²: the student must therefore agree to have their work made openly available on platform/s including: <http://www.openaccess.lib.uct.ac.za/> and <http://www.dpru.uct.ac.za/>.

Desirable

- Preference will be given to historically disadvantaged students, people with disabilities, and females.

Value and Tenure of Award

- The bursary will cover only university fees and required books for the academic year.
- One full year of funding is available for Honours, Masters and PhD students, applicable to the 2021 academic year.
- The bursary does not include any travel allowances, accommodation or other additional benefits, but is tax free. (The application for tax exemption will be made by the University.)

¹ Students are encouraged to consult the UCT postgraduate funding office if they are unsure of the rules surrounding their awards.

² Students need to disclose any Intellectual Property for protection to the Intellectual Property office before publications are placed in the public domain.

Application Checklist

- Email to Ms Mira Blumberg Pahad at insetabursary@vula.uct.ac.za with the subject line: "INSETA Bursary Application: <<insert HONOURS, MASTERS or PhD>> - <<NAME & SURNAME>>" by Friday 11 June 2021.

Attached to the email, a single PDF file including:

- A letter of application (max. 3 pages) summarising the applicant's research interests, experience and proposed research plan. In your letter, please outline what topic you will commit to, detail how you plan to undertake the research, and explain how it is relevant and motivate for why you feel it would be useful to the insurance sector.
- Curriculum Vitae.
- Certified copies of academic transcripts/certificates or result sheet (per semester).
- An example of written work (max. 5 pages).
- A brief letter of support from your (proposed) supervisor that includes an assessment of the relevance of the topic for the insurance sector.
- For Honours applicants:* supply one name and contact details (email address) for a referee who has been directly involved in the applicant's undergraduate degree/studies.
For Masters and PhD applicants: supply two names and contact details (email addresses) for referees who have been directly involved in the applicant's current or previous academic research.

The deadline for applications is **Friday 11 June 2021**.

Requests for further information about the INSETA Bursary should be sent to: insetabursary@vula.uct.ac.za.

Selection Process

- Only eligible and complete applications will be considered for selection by the DPRU.
- We will communicate with short-listed applicants: If you have not heard from us within two months of the deadline, please assume your application has been unsuccessful.
- Applications received before 26 May 2021 are guaranteed to be considered. Applications received thereafter may be considered only if the bursaries have not been awarded.

DISCLAIMER: INSETA and the DPRU reserve the right to:

- Disqualify ineligible, incomplete and/or inappropriate applications;
- Change the conditions of the bursary award or to make no awards at all.