

NCRST STEM FULL-TIME POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS CALL GUIDELINES

1. **Scheme:** NCRST Full-time Postgraduate Scholarships in STEM. Masters Stream: Mathematical Modelling and Data Modelling. PhD Stream: STEM
2. **Study Window:** Master's degrees funded for two (2) years, PhD degree funded for three (3) years

1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Namibia seeks a strong pipeline of talent that can apply STEM expertise and data-intensive methods to national challenges in public service delivery, health, water, agriculture, energy, environment, transport, mining, safety and justice. The National Commission on Research, Science and Technology has a statutory role to promote, coordinate and develop research and to fund excellence through competitive instruments. This call creates a standing postgraduate window dedicated to STEM fields aligned with national priorities and global good practice.

PURPOSE AND INTENDED OUTCOMES

Grow master's and PhD graduates in critical STEM fields, who can design, develop and apply STEM solutions and rigorous modelling methods that deliver measurable value for Namibia, with the following outcomes:

- Completion of postgraduate degrees within the stated funding window
- Peer-reviewed articles, open datasets or code repositories, policy briefs and demonstrators
- Placement of graduates in Namibian universities, public research institutes, industry and start-ups
- Participation in regional and global STEM research networks and projects
- Full-time studies
- Structured research-assistantship placement at NCRST during the years of study

SCOPE AND ELIGIBLE FIELDS

- This call supports three (3) scholarship awards, two (2) Master's degree scholarships in the mathematical and data modelling fields, and one (1) PhD degree scholarship in a relevant STEM field, supporting advanced research within national priorities. All proposals must show a precise application to a Namibian priority area.
- Strategic mathematical and data modelling application areas targeted for the Masters programmes include; **Policy and Governance** (Modelling for evidence-based decision-making, public-sector planning and SDG monitoring), **Economic Development and Industry** (Macroeconomic, financial and SME performance modelling to support industrialisation and growth), **Environment and Climate** (Climate change, water, land-use and biodiversity modelling for sustainability and resilience), **Health and Population** (Epidemiology, health systems and demographic modelling for improved service delivery), **Education and Human Capital** (Learning analytics, student performance and educational policy modelling), **Infrastructure and Technology** (Optimisation of transport, energy, Artificial Intelligence, digital networks and smart infrastructure systems), **Agriculture and Food Security** (Crop, livestock and supply chain modelling for climate-resilient agriculture), **Disaster Risk Reduction and Safety** (Predictive modelling for floods, droughts and emergency planning).
- The PhD programme will be awarded in any relevant STEM field that addresses Namibia's socio-economic development needs.

FUNDING PACKAGE AND ANNUAL CEILINGS

The scholarship covers tuition, stipend, research support and mobility within the annual ceiling for each award level. Disbursement schedules and payment modalities will be confirmed in the award agreement, in consultation with the host institution.

Duration

- Masters degree for two years full-time, subject to satisfactory progress

- PhD degree for three years full-time, subject to satisfactory progress

Eligibility

- (1) Namibian citizen or permanent resident
- (2) Full-time provisional admission in a recognised master's programme at a recognised Namibian university. Where specialised expertise is not available locally, NCRST may consider sandwich arrangements that retain a Namibian host institution and include an external partner institution, subject to prior written approval and the applicable annual ceilings.
 - (a) Mathematical Modelling and/or Data Modelling
 - (b) PhD programme in a STEM discipline
- (3) First class or upper second-class equivalent average at the prior level, or clear evidence of research excellence.
- (4) A STEM-focused research plan that addresses a nationally relevant challenge.
- (5) A supervisor's support letter from the host department.
- (6) For PhD, evidence of research readiness and a preliminary feasible three-year work plan.

1.1. Submission requirements

- (1) Research proposal as described in Annexure A
- (2) Supervisor support letter on institutional letterhead
- (3) Academic transcripts and certificates for prior degrees
- (4) Certified copy of Namibian identity document or permanent residence certificate
- (5) Curriculum vitae with publications and code repositories where applicable and indicate volunteer work, if any. Links to online research profiles should be included.
- (6) Two referee reports in the format set out in Annexure D
- (7) Proof of provisional admission or registration for the academic year
- (8) Budget and work plan using Annexure E

1.2. How to apply

Applications must be submitted via the email: grants@ncrst.na

Applications must be received before the deadline. Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered.

NCRST may invite shortlisted candidates to an interview, thereby strengthening due diligence.

KEY DATES

- (1) Call opens Wednesday, 3 February 2026
- (2) Call closes Monday, 16 February 2026 at 17:00 Namibia time

CONTACT

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