

The Oppenheimer Memorial Trust

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Scholarships for Postgraduate International Study

The Oppenheimer Memorial Trust (OMT) awards a limited number of scholarships annually for postgraduate study at international Higher Education Institutions at Master's, Doctoral and Postdoctoral level.

South African nationals with a proven record of academic excellence who intend to pursue careers in academia, research, development or related fields in South Africa are eligible to apply. Only exceptional candidates who present specific and purposeful plans to undertake programmes in unique or highly specialised disciplines in which advanced studies are not readily available in South Africa or who are able to demonstrate that they have advanced to a level where international tuition under the direction of global leaders in their particular discipline is appropriate to proceed meaningfully in their chosen fields, will be considered. Preference may be given to Doctoral and Postdoctoral programmes.

Written submissions 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

- **Intended Study**

- An outline of the intended degree, programme of study, choice of institution, period of study
- Brief descriptions of the proposed course work, fieldwork, dissertation topic (as applicable), including a synopsis of the "intellectual problem or idea" that merits the inquiry you intend to pursue
- Relevance and anticipated significance of the study and how the work will extend current knowledge on the topic
- Compelling reasons for undertaking the programme of study abroad including commentary on the unique or highly specialised character of the programme (as indicated in the criteria)
- The perceived benefits to you personally, to the South African academy and to the broader community
- Supervisor's name and current designation (where known)
- Proof of registration or offer and terms of admission (as applicable)

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

- An up to date CV (not more than three pages)
- A recent photograph (3x4 cm)
- Complete academic transcript/s 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, achievements and study plans and well-placed to motivate the case for the candidate's decision to pursue international study
- Applicants must request their nominated referees to submit their signed letters or reports under separate and confidential cover directly to the Trust

- **Budget/s**

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 tuition fees, books, subsistence costs, travel and insurance (as applicable)
- Income from all sources including 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 (attach supporting documentation) and funding applied for but not yet approved or confirmed)

- Please use the budget template to be downloaded from the site [click here](#)

Notes:

- 1) **Time-lines for Submissions & Procedures:** Applications must be submitted according to the following start dates:
 1. Start Date: January to March – applications due 30th September of the previous year
 2. Start Date: April to June – applications due 31st January in the same year
 3. Start Date: July to September – applications due by the 31st March in the same year
- 2) Applications must be submitted electronically (refer Note 8.) in word format (not as pdfs) in four discrete parts comprising 1) a motivation, 2) CV, 3) intended study programme, and 4) budget estimates. Other supporting documentation required by the Trust and indicated in the guidelines (e.g. transcripts, degree certificates, proof of registration and/or offer of admission) should be submitted as pdfs under separate cover. Please use the budget template to be downloaded from the site [click here](#)
- 3) Applicants must update the Trust on the outcomes of their requests to other potential funders listed in the budget estimates that formed part of their submission to the OMT.
- 4) **Studies in Progress:** The OMT may consider applications from Doctoral students who are part way through their studies. Such applications will be dealt with by exception on an ad hoc basis and applicants should position themselves accurately within the framework of the guidelines.
- 5) **Eligibility and Tenure:** Students who intend to undertake a second degree at the same level as one they already hold are not eligible for funding. Scholarships are limited to one degree or programme of study and are subject to limited tenure – up to two years in the case of Master's study, a maximum of three years in the case of the PhD and two years at Postdoctoral level.
- 6) Awards are granted on an annual basis and renewals are not automatic; where made, these are contingent on satisfactory progress and performance and compliance with the Trust's reporting requirements and re-application procedures.
- 7) **Value of Awards:** Awards are generous and may vary in value, depending on circumstances. Candidates are encouraged to actively seek out co-funding from other sources including international funders and their proposed host and / or visiting institutions and must declare all applications made to other funders to the OMT.
- 8) Acceptance of an offer of a scholarship from the Trust indicates agreement to the undertakings set out in the Regulations to the 9th Schedule to the Income Tax Act which prescribe conditions for the provision of scholarships and awards for overseas study or research. Applicants should familiarise themselves with the requirements of the Regulations, specifically the provisions of clause 3 (d).
- 9) Applications are adjudicated on a competitive basis and awards are determined at the discretion of the Trustees.
- 10) Failure to comply with the Trust's requirements and procedures – including the requirement to submit updates on any and all developments – will result in disqualification and late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.
- 11) All correspondence to email: intlpostgrad@omt.org.za