

The Oppenheimer Memorial Trust

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Scholarships for Postgraduate Local Study

The Oppenheimer Memorial Trust (OMT) awards a limited number of scholarships annually for postgraduate study at public Higher Education Institutions in South Africa at Master's, Doctoral and Postdoctoral level. Preference may be given to Doctoral and Postdoctoral programmes in the interests of building the local academy.

South African nationals who are high achievers with proven records of academic excellence are eligible to apply. Foreign nationals may only apply for 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
- 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 and study plans and well-placed to attest to the candidate's academic achievements
- 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 and subsistence costs (as applicable) (direct research or project-related costs and any corresponding funding must be disclosed in a separate schedule but these expenses will not be covered by the OMT)
- 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:

1.1 Applications must be submitted according to the following start dates:

- Start Date: January to March – applications due 30th September of the previous year
- Start Date: April to June – applications due 31st January in the same year
- Start Date: July to September – applications due by the 31st March in the same year

1.2 Applications must be submitted electronically (refer Note 7.) 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, offer of admission and /or proof of registration) should be submitted as pdfs under separate cover. Please use the budget template to be downloaded from the site [click here](#)

1.3 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.

2. **Studies in Progress:** The OMT may consider applications from Doctoral or Postdoctoral 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.

3. **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. Exceptions may be made for Master's scholarship holders upgrading to PhD level.

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.

4. **Value of Awards:** Awards will not be granted on a full cost basis and may vary in value depending on circumstances Candidates are encouraged to actively seek out co-funding from other sources including their host institutions and must declare all applications made to other funders to the OMT.

5. Awards are determined on a merit basis at the discretion of the Trustees.

6. 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.

7. All correspondence to email: localpostgrad@omt.org.za