

The DSI and NRF are pleased to announce a call of **new applications** for NRF Postgraduate Student Funding for the 2023 academic year.

Postgraduate Opportunities on the CPRR NRF Marbibi-SA project: DNA Barcoding Networks and Biodiversity of South Africa's Marine Benthic Invertebrate fauna

The Marbibi-SA: DNA project is looking for postgraduate students to join our DNA Barcoding and Marine Natural Products Chemistry network in order to lay the scientific foundation for major advances in molecular biodiversity research and the identification of potential invertebrate species for drug discovery.

Sponges, bryozoans, octocorals, hard corals, Ascidians and polychaetes are among the taxa to be targeted. The programme, however, is not limited to only these taxa and we encourage students with experience or expertise in other benthic marine invertebrates (particularly understudied taxa) to apply.

The project is a collaboration of four universities, the DFFE, SAEON, SAIAB and the Iziko Museums of Cape Town. Interested students can approach any of the following project leaders for details on projects (affiliation and area of expertise in brackets):

- Dr Toufiek Samaai (DFFE: sponges and various taxa, biosystematics) - tsamaai@DFFE.gov.za or Toufiek.samaai@gmail.com
- Dr Angus Macdonald (University of KwaZulu-Natal: corals, genetics): macdonalda@ukzn.ac.za
- Dr Shirley Parker-Nance (SAEON: Ascidians, biosystematics) s.parkernance@saeon.nrf.ac.za
- Prof. Peter Teske (University of Johannesburg: DNA barcoding, ascidians [sea squirts], in collaboration with Dr Shirley Parker-Nance; students can choose to be based either at UJ or NMU) – pteske101@gmail.com
- Dr Jyothi Kara (Iziko Museums of Cape Town: polychaetes and various taxa, biosystematics, population genetics) - jkara@iziko.org.za
- Prof. Denzil Beukes (University of the Western Cape: Marine Natural products Chemistry & networks, various taxa) - dbeukes@uwc.ac.za
- Dr Sven Kerwath (DFFE Fisheries Research: Fish ecology and biodiversity in collaboration with Prof. Peter Teske [DNA barcoding]; students can choose to be based at either UJ, UCT, SU or Iziko Museums of Cape Town). If you are interested in **fish genetics**: Dr Sven Kerwath - skerwath@dffe.gov.za or svenkerwath@gmail.com

Please note that the NRF bursary application deadlines for the various University are as follows:

- University of Cape Town is **8 July 2022** for Doctoral and Master's Scholarships
- University of Johannesburg is **8 July 2022** for Doctoral and Master's Scholarships
- University of KwaZulu-Natal is **8 July 2022** for Doctoral and Master's Scholarships
- University of the Western Cape is **1 July 2022** for Doctoral and Master's Scholarships

Depending on the institutions' internal closing dates, registration is not limited to these universities.

The deadlines for BSc (Hons) applications at various universities are in November.

Please see the NRF website for details: <https://www.nrf.ac.za/funding/call-documents/nrf-call-for-proposals-for-funding-in-2022-and-2023/>

The NRF **minimum academic requirement** for postgraduate funding is **65%**. The entry age requirement is 28, 30 and 32 years or younger for honours, master's and doctoral studies respectively, in the year of application, regardless of first year of registration.

Applicants must apply on the NRF Connect website at: <https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za>.

Register with your ORCID credentials. Should you not have any, please register on ORCID to gain access.

Remember to 'Sync' your CV with the NRF Online Submission CV, should you have one first.
Click Apply to create an application and start completing your application. For more instructions you may like to use the Application Guide attached on this email.

**For manuals and tutorials on how to use the system is available on the NRF website at: [NRF Connect Documents](#)
[– National Research Foundation](#).**