
GENERAL CRITERIA

The Foundation is committed to Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BEE). At least 75% of individual award beneficiaries must be from historically disadvantaged groups.

We especially encourage applications from:

- Women
- People with disabilities
- Doctors registered at, or working for, historically disadvantaged institutions

However, these awards are open to everyone. The process is highly competitive, and all submissions are judged against the same criteria.

DISQUALIFICATION CRITERIA

We will not consider your application if:

- You do not send us a detailed budget (for award categories where this is required)
- You leave out a copy of your ID or any other documents requested on the application form
- You are not currently registered on the HPCSA website as a medical specialist (for Academic and Sub-specialist Awards)
- You are living outside South Africa when you apply
- You work full-time in the private sector when you apply
- You are not a South African citizen or permanent resident with a South African ID

SPECIFIC CRITERIA

PhD ACADEMIC AWARDS

We will judge your application based on:

- Surgical specialty: The Foundation gives priority to surgical disciplines where applicants are competitive on merit.
- Impact on population: Show how your research will improve healthcare for the wider population and support national priorities and goals.
- The Foundation gets applicants from a broad range of disciplines. Your motivation should help the trustees understand "why you" given multiple significant needs in the country.
- Clarity of your research proposal: Ensure your proposal is well-structured, focused, and easy to understand.
- Quality of motivation: Explain why your research matters, linking it to the points above and to your personal experience.
- Commitment to the public sector: While posts cannot be guaranteed, your career path and intentions are important. Include this in your application, and ideally have your referee confirm it.
- Applicant quality: We assess your achievements in your career and your contributions to society.
- Budget quality: Provide a detailed and realistic budget. Show how the Award will be used, disclose any other funding sources, and make sure the budget makes sense for the full PhD project.
- Reference support: Include a letter from your research supervisor confirming their support for your application.

(CLOSING DATE: 30 OCTOBER 2026)

Full name of applicant

Title:

Surname:

First names:

Current position:

Gender: Male Female

Race: African Coloured Indian White

ID number:

HPCSA registration number:

Institution:

Unit/Department:

Contact details:

Email:

Fax:

Telephone:

Cellphone:

Physical address:

Postal address:

If research is proposed, provide details of supervisor

Position held by supervisor:

Title:

Surname:

First name:

Contact details of supervisor:

Email:

Fax:

Telephone:

Cellphone:

Physical address:

Postal address:

Award applying for

Doctoral Research:

If research is proposed, provide title of research topic:

Institution:

Unit/Department:

Budget template for PHD category

Important notice: Please complete the application form in full. An incomplete application form may result in disqualification. Failure to adhere to the page word count may also result in disqualification. Anything other than the requested documents will not be considered.

Category	Cost per unit	No. of units	Total cost	Motivation	Additional funding amounts	Source of funding	Comments
1. Personal							
Salary – PHD candidate or locum							
Research assistant							
Biostatistician							
2. Travel and accommodation							
Flights							
Car hire							
Accommodation							
3. Research and academic support							
Research assistant							
Data analysis							
Transcription/translation							
Editing							
4. Administrative equipment and consumables							
Software							
Hardware							
Printing							
Stationery							
Data/airtime							
5. Clinical/laboratory/Pharmaceutical equipment and consumables							
Clinical equipment							
Lab equipment							
6. Dissemination of research							
Conference attendance*							
Publishing **							
7. Other specify							
TOTAL							

Limitations of budget:

*Conference attendance to be directly related to research; motivation is required, together with the details of the conference to be attended ** Any publishing should be motivated

The following will not be covered by this Award:

1. PHD tuition fees
2. Duplication of salary expenses
3. Overtime salary

All other sources of funding must be declared in the template

Expected date of completion:

Supporting documents required

1. Sabbatical – evidence of approval of sabbatical time or stopping overtime for a period of time
2. Locum – if a locum will be hired, indicate the process
3. If the candidate is going abroad, proof of invitation
4. Registration with the university for overtime
5. Proof of additional funding

Attach the following documents

A copy of the applicant's ID

A 2 – 3 page CV; longer CVs will not be accepted

A letter of support from the associated academic institution (for sabbatical leave applications)

Two reference letters from recent or current seniors familiar with the applicant's work

Research outline (introduction; objectives; method – max 300 words)

Short motivation for application (max 300 words)

Details on any planned study overseas (max 300 words)

Letter of acceptance from the overseas institution (if the award includes overseas study)

Ethics approval for research involving human subjects

Proof of co-funding if the budget is more than the amount available for the award

Letter from the Dean of the Academic Institution detailing the 5 – 8 applications submitted

Email completed application forms and supporting documents to discoveryfoundation@tshikululu.org.za