
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 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 already earn a salary and have a post for your sub-specialist training. This award cannot be used as a top-up (you must sign a statement confirming this).
- 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

SUB-SPECIALIST AWARD

This is a highly competitive award category. Please carefully read the criteria below. Not meeting them may lead to disqualification.

We will judge your application based on:

- Partnership arrangements: Explain if the training is part of a partnership between institutions (such as hospitals or universities), especially between historically disadvantaged institutions (HDIs) and better-resourced ones, or between health departments. Include any funding implications.
- Impact on South Africa's healthcare: Show how training more subspecialists in your discipline will improve healthcare across the country and align with national priorities and goals.
- Need for the specialty: Provide data on how well this specialty is currently supplied in South Africa compared to the need. Include information on the number of posts available in the public sector. Strong evidence and motivation here will strengthen your application.
- Commitment to the public sector: While posts cannot be guaranteed, your career path and stated intentions matter. Mention this in your application and, ideally, have your referee confirm it.
- Surgical specialties: The Foundation prioritises surgical disciplines when applicants are competitive on merit.
- Motivation quality: Your motivation must cover all the relevant points and link them to your personal context and experience.
- Applicant quality: We assess your overall career achievements and contribution to society.
- Reference support: Include a letter of support from your research supervisor.
- Institutional confirmation: Provide confirmation from the institution that it is registered for sub-specialist training and willing to accept you.

(CLOSING DATE : 30 OCTOBER 2026)

Full name of applicant:

Title:

Surname:

First names:

Designation:

Track record of project leader (max 300 words):

Contact details of project leader:

Email:

Fax:

Telephone:

Cellphone:

Physical address:

Postal address:

Full name of sub-Specialty candidate:

Title:

Surname:

First names:

Current position:

Gender: Male Female

Race: African Coloured Indian White

ID number:

HPCSA registration number:

Contact details:

Email:

Fax:

Telephone:

Cellphone:

Physical address:

Postal address:

Institution:

Unit/Department:

Sub-specialty:

Details of HPCSA accreditation (max 50 words):

Budget breakdown:

Sub-Specialty candidate (continued)

Details on payment arrangements and institutional cost recovery (if any):

Expected date of completion:

Attach the following documents:

- A copy of the applicant's ID
- A 2 – 3 page CV, Complete budget template
- Details of sub-specialty accreditation by the Health Professions Council of South Africa
- Details of the sub-specialty and motivation (max 300 words)
- Details and track record of the unit (max 300 words)
- Short motivation for application (max 300 words)
- Letter from the Dean of the Academic Institution detailing the total number of applications

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

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