General guidelines on eligibility for the CSIR Bursary Programme

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Bursary Programme assists the organisation in building a strong pipeline of suitably qualified Scientists, Engineers and Technologists (SET). This ensures the sustainability of the organisation while providing critical skills for the country.

1. **Eligibility**
    - Must be an unemployed South African;
    - Registered or intend to register at any traditional university for the following: Honours, master's and doctoral degrees;
    - **Excellent academic performance**: an average of 65% and above from an undergraduate till the current level and never failed any module(s);
    - Preference will be given to applicants from previously disadvantaged backgrounds/NSFAS holders; and
    - Age restriction (must be below the age of 35 years).

2. **Financial support provided:**
    - **For an Honours degree:**
        - Registration fees
        - Tuition fees
        - Accommodation and meals
        - Living allowances
        - Book allowance
        - Once-off laptop allowance

    - **For master's and doctoral degrees:**
        - Registration fees
        - Tuition fees
        - Once-off laptop allowance
        - Living allowance

3. **Non-financial support provided**

    - Psychosocial support

    - Mentorship programme

    - Onboarding programme

    - Personal and academic skills training

4. **Value-adding funding**

- CSIR-funded students may also apply for additional funding when they are accepted to present their work at a conference, when they want to print and publish their thesis, or when they want access to an instrument which is not offered by his/her university (applicable to master's and doctoral students)

5. Payment process and conditions of the bursary
- For registration, tuition fees (the amount will be paid directly to the university);
- Laptop, books and living allowances are paid into a student's bank account; and
- Honours is covered for a year, master's for two (2) years and doctoral for three (3) years (depending on performance).

6. Feedback
- Once an application has been submitted, applicants will be able to check their application status using the login details supplied to them during the initial application process; and
- Communication will be sent to all the applicants within two months of the deadline to notify them of their application status; and
- All shortlisted applicants will be required to attend a virtual interview session.

7. Requirements for successful applicants:
- **Reporting requirements for bursary programme participants**
  - Honours students are expected to submit the results at the end of each semester:
  - Master's and doctoral students are expected to submit mid-year progress reports, which are to be signed off by the supervisor. At the end of the academic year, students are required to submit an annual progress report (APR), and an official reporting template will be shared.

- **Work back requirements**
  - Students are required to offer their service at the CSIR upon completion of their studies for a period equal to the number of years they were funded.

- **Vacation work**
  - Students will have the opportunity to work and gain exposure on CSIR projects during the university holidays, for a maximum of six weeks each year, depending on the availability of supervisors.

8. Research topics
- Preference will be given to students willing to be co-supervised by the CSIR and open to aligning their projects with the CSIR initiative, if applicable or required.

9. Successful completion of the online application form

- Applicants are required to complete their online application forms in full. Incomplete application forms will not be considered.
- All applications must be accompanied by the following supporting documents:
- Proof of a South African identity document, Matric, full academic record, motivational letter supported by a supervisor (master's and doctoral) and updated CV

10. Contact details

- For enquiries, the CSIR may be contacted by email at bursaryprogramme@csir.co.za.