



**South African Square Kilometre Array Project
Undergraduate and Honours Bursary Programme
Call for applications for 2018**

Application Guide

Read this guide carefully before completing an application form

Closing date for application is 31 July 2017

1. Eligibility for an SKA SA undergraduate or honours bursary

1.1. South African citizens (ONLY).

1.2. Students who wish to study, or are studying, one of the following degrees:

- Bachelor of Electronic Engineering
- Bachelor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering
- Bachelor of Mechatronic Engineering
- Bachelor of Computer Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Mathematics / Applied Mathematics AND Physics
- Bachelor of Science in Physics and Electronics
- Bachelor of Science in Astronomy / Astrophysics and Physics
- Bachelor of Computer Science, with co-major in Mathematics / Applied Mathematics
- Bachelor of Science - Honours - Physics and Electronics / Astrophysics / Astronomy / Computer Science
- Bachelor of Science – Honours – NASSP (National Astrophysics and Space Science Programme)

- 1.3. Students who have achieved a minimum of 70% in Mathematics and Physical Science in Grade 12, or a minimum average (grade-point average) of 60% at an undergraduate level.

2. Structure of an SKA SA undergraduate or honours bursary

- 2.1. The duration of an SKA SA bursary is one year for honours or fourth year students, two years for third year students, three years for second year students and four years for first year students.
- 2.2. The current level for an SKA SA undergraduate / honours bursary is R121,000 per annum. (Note: the bursary level may be adjusted to take into account changes in university fees and inflation.)

3. Conditions of award of an SKA SA undergraduate or honours bursary

- 3.1. Students are required to submit proof of registration at their university, to the SKA SA. No funds for a bursary will be released until the SKA SA has received the proof of registration.
- 3.2. A bursary from the SKA SA is renewable each year, for the duration of the bursary, at the sole discretion of the SKA SA, subject to satisfactory academic performance. Students must achieve a minimum of 60% average, in their mid-year and year-end results. Students are required to submit their mid-year and year-end university transcripts for evaluation to the SKA SA. Students who do not obtain a minimum of 60% average may not receive further funding from the SKA SA.
- 3.3. Students who do not obtain the degree for which the bursary was awarded, relinquish their studies, or leave the tertiary institution during the period for which the bursary was awarded, will have to refund all payments of the bursary already paid to them.
- 3.4. Students are allowed to hold supplementary grants with this bursary, to a maximum of 50% of the SKA SA bursary, but the student must inform the SKA SA, via his/her university, of such awards.
- 3.5. If a student wishes to change his / her field of study, or the university, for which the bursary was offered, he / she must provide a motivation to the SKA SA for approval, prior to any changes. The SKA SA is under no obligation to continue support if the changes do not align with the original criteria on which the bursary offer was made.
- 3.6. On completion of the studies supported by means of the bursary, students are required to submit a copy of their degree to the SKA SA.
- 3.7. All SKA SA-supported honours and fourth year students are required to attend an annual field trip / vacation school. The field trips / vacation schools are designed to create an awareness

of radio astronomy, as well as the developments and opportunities in radio astronomy in South Africa. Field trips / vacation schools are organised and paid for by SKA SA, and take place during the mid-year university holidays.

- 3.8. Third year and honours / fourth year students who achieve two or more distinctions in their mid-year exams, may be invited to the postgraduate bursary conference. Attendance at the conference will provide students with the opportunity to get to know the general radio astronomy community, meet potential postgraduate supervisors, and understand the postgraduate research environment.

4. Application for an SKA SA undergraduate / honours bursary

- 4.1. Application forms can be found online at <https://skagrants.nrf.ac.za>.
- 4.2. Only one application per student may be submitted.
- 4.3. Enquiries may be directed to SKA SA: amashemola@ska.ac.za
- 4.4. In completing an application form for a bursary from SKA SA, you accept the conditions listed above.
- 4.5. No late or incomplete applications will be accepted.
- 4.6. Successful applicants will be notified by 10 November 2017. If you have not heard from SKA SA by 1 November 2017, please assume that your application was NOT successful.
- 4.7. SKA SA reserves the right not to accept any application in part or in whole. The decision of SKA SA will be final and no correspondence will be entered into after the decision.
- 4.8. As a business unit of the National Research Foundation, SKA SA is committed to employment equity and redress.