

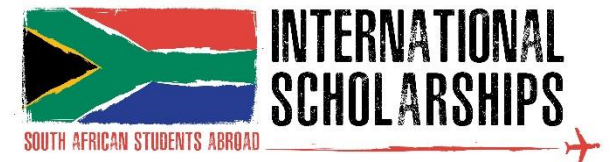
Briefing to PC on Higher Education, Science and Innovation on International Scholarships

25 February 2022



higher education
& training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



The Department of Higher Education and Training promotes and implements a number of international scholarships offered by partner countries.

Most of these are offered at Master's level, with a few undergraduate and doctoral opportunities also being offered.

There are increasingly a number of mobility and short term research opportunities that would be suitable for postgraduate students and academics at South African institutions to gain international experience and exposure to different learning and research environment.



higher education
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS ABOARD

INTERNATIONAL
SCHOLARSHIPS



DIRECTORATE: INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Different roles in scholarship programmes: depending on what is being offered, what support is required to ensure that the offer is made available and taken up, and on the bilateral relationship with the host country.

- Advertising / promoting scholarships
- Serving on Steering or Advisory Committees
- Serving on selection panels / committees
- Receiving and processing applications and making nominations
- Co-funding
- Student support, administration and logistics
- Intergovernmental coordination

PRIORITIES

Postgraduate
studies

Academics &
future
academics

Scarce skills
areas

Strengths of
host country

TYPES OF SCHOLARSHIPS

1. Bilateral relations, jointly administered: **China, Russia, Hungary**
2. Bilateral relations, agency administered: **Ireland, Sweden, Japan, France**
3. Through diplomatic channels, nominations: **Commonwealth, Mauritius, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Romania, Italy, Serbia**
4. Independently managed: **Chevening (UK), Fulbright (US), ICCR (India), Nelson Mandela (Chile), Australia Awards, MEXT (Japan), DAAD (Germany)**
5. National departments and provinces

SCHOLARSHIPS UPTAKE AND SUCCESS TO FEB 2021 (China, Hungary, Russia)

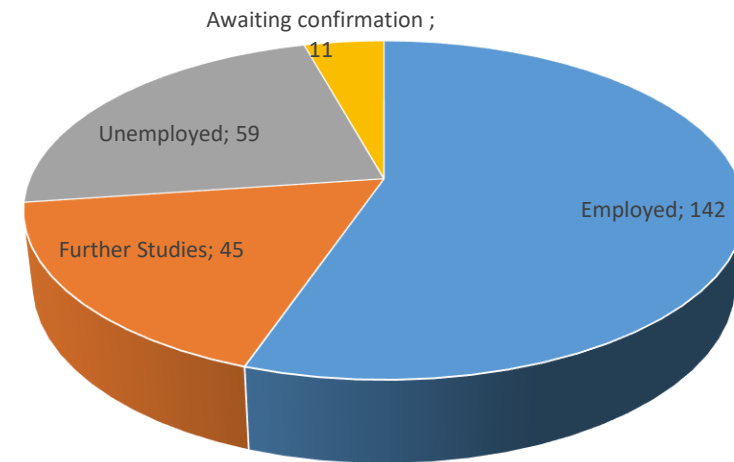
Country	Taken up	Graduates	Current	Drop outs
China (since 2013)	211	119	57	35
Hungary (since 2017)	304	115	177	12
Russia (since 2012)*	83	23	37	23
Total	598	257	271	70

** Participation in the Russian scholarship has been put on hold since 2020 for reasons including the high cost and the low success rate, amongst others.*

ALUMNI (MARCH 2021)

Country	Number of Alumni
China	104
Hungary	86
Russia	18
Total	267

Employment Status of Alumni as of March 2021



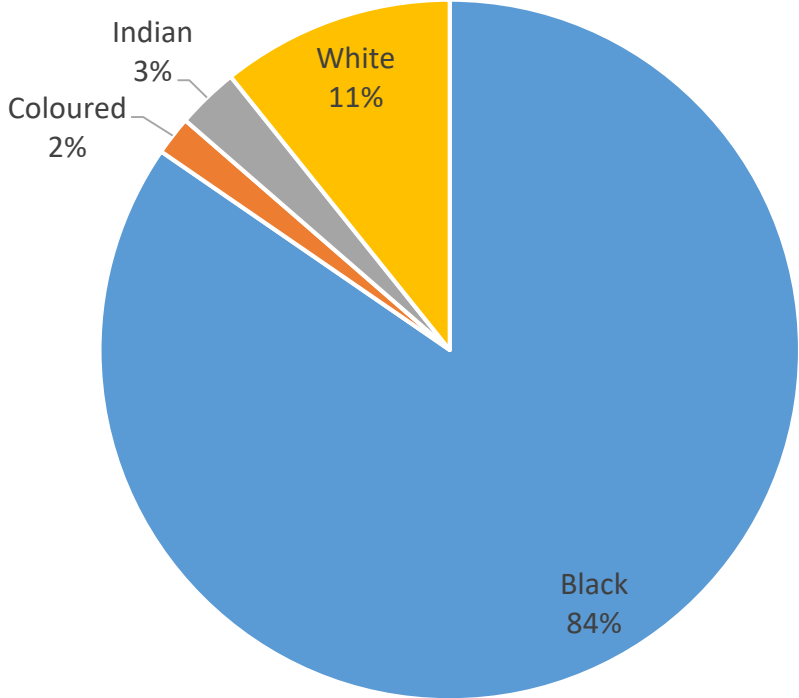
■ Employed ■ Further Studies ■ Unemployed ■ Awaiting confirmation

Alumni survey conducted annually in February / March

RACE AND GENDER OF CURRENTLY CO-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

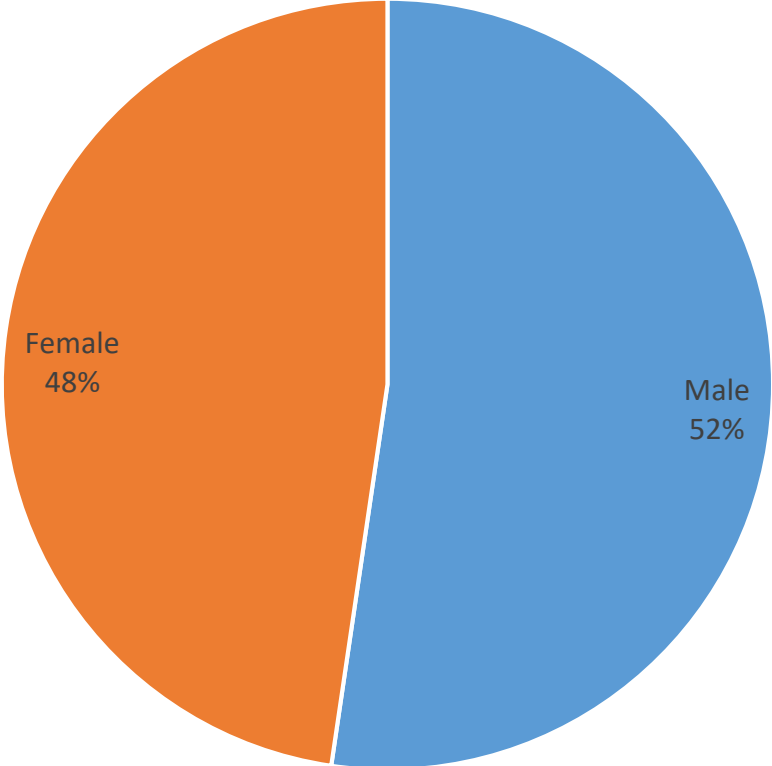
China, Hungary and Russia scholarships

Race



■ Black ■ Coloured ■ Indian ■ White

Gender



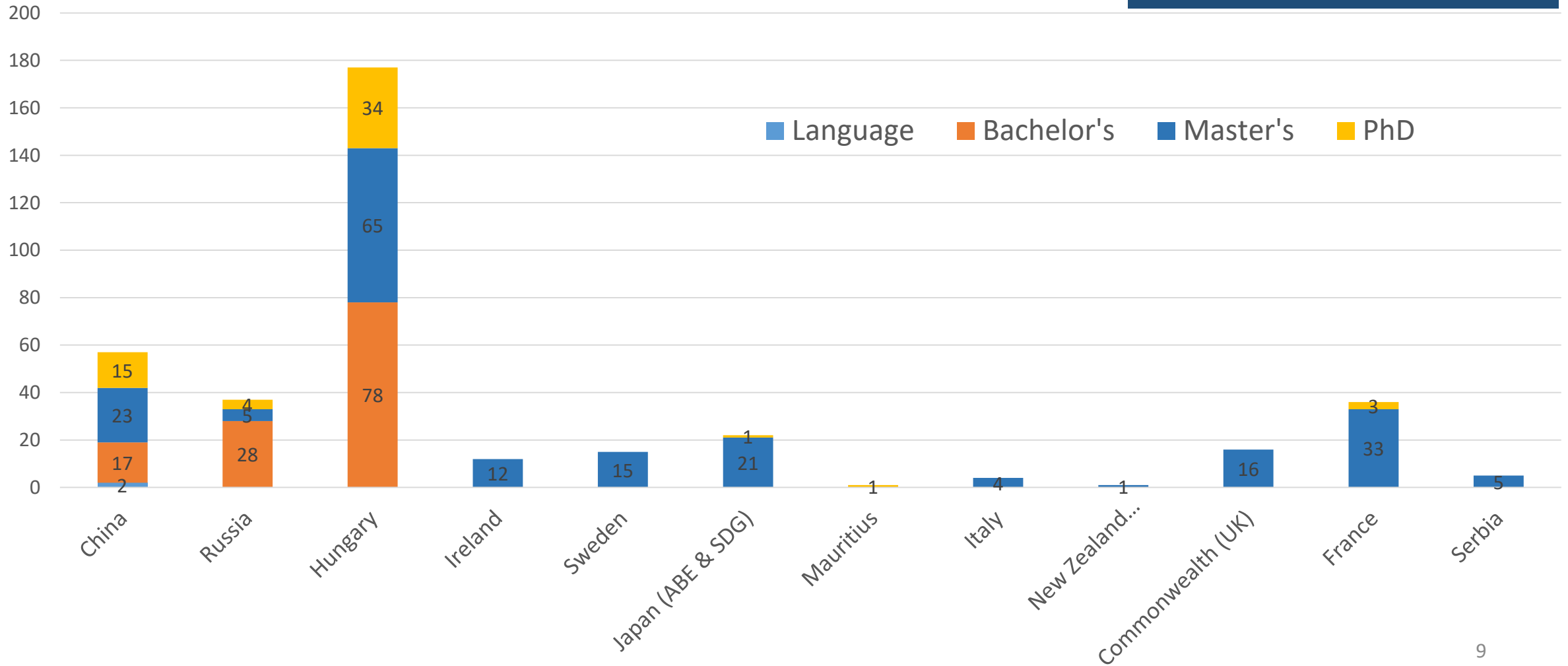
■ Male ■ Female

CURRENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS BY LEVEL OF STUDY, FEB 2021

Scholarship Types 1, 2 and 3

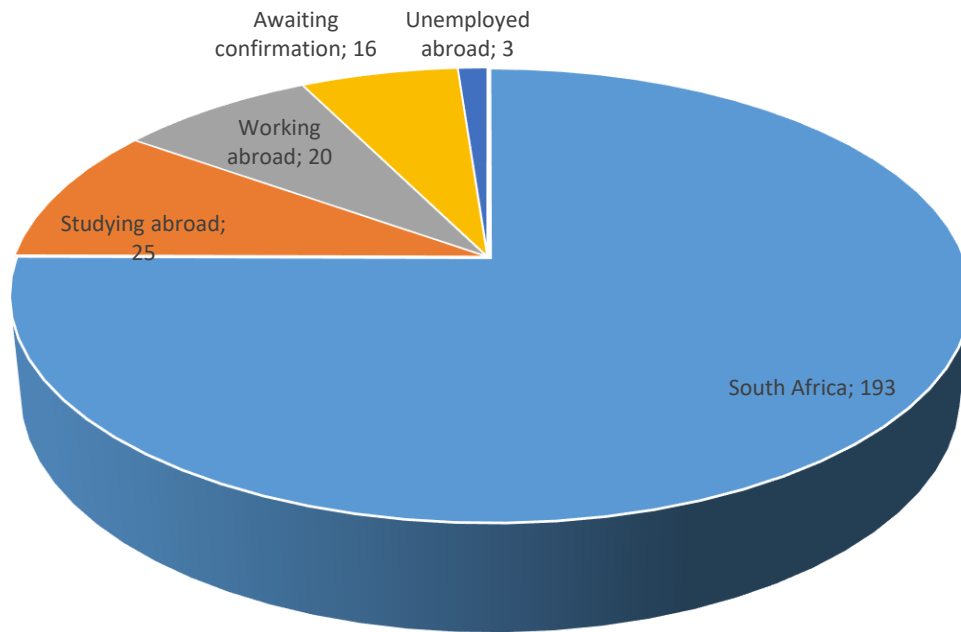
Total: 383

China, Russia, Hungary: 271



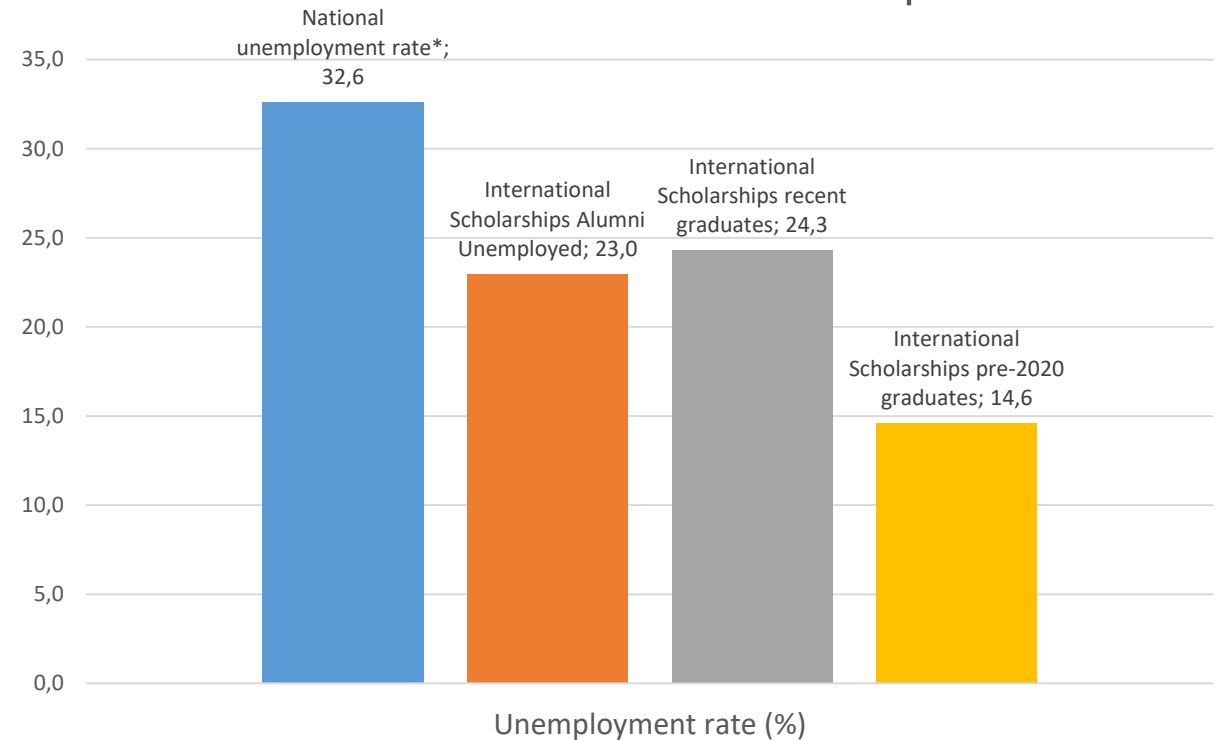
ALUMNI (MARCH 2021)

Location of alumni



- South Africa
- Studying abroad
- Working abroad
- Awaiting confirmation
- Unemployed abroad

National unemployment rate compared to International Scholarship Graduates



- National unemployment rate*
- International Scholarships Alumni Unemployed
- International Scholarships recent graduates
- International Scholarships pre-2020 graduates

* StatsSA Quarterly Labour Force Survey: Quarter 1 2021

SCHOLARSHIPS (Types 2 and 3) UPTAKE AND SUCCESS SINCE 2016

Country	Taken up	Graduates	Current
Sweden*	~50	~40	~10
Ireland	86	73	12
Japan	85	63	22
France (since 2020)	>40	>15	>45
Italy (since 2018)	10	7	3
Mauritius (since 2019)*	2	1	1
Commonwealth (since 2019)	~32	~18	~14
Algeria *	2	2	0
New Zealand (since 2019)	1	0	1
Serbia (since 2019)*	5	0	5
Total	>313	>219	>118

* These scholarships have had withdrawals by nominees or concerns raised by recipients due to costs not included in the scholarships such as international flights or cost of living or reimbursements only made once the candidate is in the host country

SELECTION PROCESS

The *minimum* criteria included:

- A 60-65% average for previous studies;
- Meeting the entry requirements for a similar field of study at a South African university;
- Alignment with all criteria outlined in the specific call for applications, including field of study or theme, age limits and language proficiency requirements of the host country (if any); and
- Meeting deadlines for submission of application, completing the application form correctly and submission of all documents identified in the call for applications.

SELECTION PROCESS

1. Screen for meeting minimum criteria
2. Shortlist according to academic results (if required)
3. Interviews with representatives of host country's embassy or agency, South African academics and Department officials
4. PhD applicants sent to two South African academics (in a field related to the applicant) for review
5. Interview scores (and academic review scores for PhD applicants) determine the ranking of applicants
6. The required number nominees are submitted to the host country

Transformation quota based on the NRF criteria: 80% black African, 55% female

STUDENT SUPPORT (CHINA, HUNGARY, RUSSIA)

1. Contract and Code of Conduct signed by each scholarship recipient
2. Guidelines outline the terms and processes required
3. Quarterly reports from all scholarship recipients
4. Monthly stipend payments made to eligible scholarship recipients
5. Data provided for students studying in SA (since COVID)
6. International flight bookings
7. Pre-departure briefing / orientation
8. Administrative support when engaging scholarship agency
9. Approvals for changes, advice and support
10. Payment of SAQA verification (post studies)

Support provided by a Student Support Officer (SSO) at Snr Admin Officer level

FUNDING

- Funding received from NSF since 2013 for **Chinese, Russian and Hungarian** scholarships
- New funding not available from 2021
- All students currently funded by DHET are **budgeted for until their completion**
- However, future of programme uncertain at present
- Scholarships will continue to be offered, but it will have to be clear that any recipients will have to cover additional costs themselves (eg flights, additional cost of living).

Chinese Government covers: tuition, university accommodation, monthly stipends, access to public healthcare

DHET covers: International flights, augments the stipend, SAQA evaluation, pre-departure briefing, ongoing student support and engagement

DHET's oldest scholarship programme

DHET responsible for promotions and nominations



CHINA

Chinese Government Scholarship

LANGUAGE, BACHELORS, MASTER'S, PHD, GENERAL AND SENIOR SCHOLARS PROGRAMMES, SEMESTER PROGRAMMES

All fields available (DHET prioritises scarce skills)

English and Chinese taught programmes

Closure of Chinese borders had a significant impact



Hungarian Government covers: tuition, university accommodation or contribution towards private accommodation, monthly stipends, access to public healthcare

DHET covers: International flights, augments the stipend, SAQA evaluation, pre-departure briefing, ongoing student support and engagement

DHET's BIGGEST scholarship programme
DHET responsible for promotions and nominations

BACHELOR'S · ONE TIER MASTER'S · MASTER'S · PhD
New semester scholarships from 2023

Range of fields of study including: agriculture · engineering · IT · natural sciences

HUNGARY

Stipendium Hungaricum

Taught in English

New agreement signed in February 2022



Prioritises women in STEM, and HDI / UoT graduates

DHET: Advisory
Board and
Interview Panel

IRELAND

Kader Asmal Fellowship

ONE-YEAR MASTER'S

Business management, economics and finance
Agriculture and food science, environment and rural development, gender and human rights, engineering, sustainable technology and resource management, information systems and communications technology, Tourism

Agreement on financial contribution to increase number of scholarships available from 2016-2020

SWEDEN

Swedish Institute Scholarship
for Global Professionals

MASTER'S

Various fields of study including:
Environmental Studies, Sustainability, Design, Gender
Studies, Nanotechnology, Public Health, Engineering

DHET supports 15
applications with university
application fee, services on
selection committee with
Swedish Embassy

Work experience required for applicants
Programmes taught in English

DHET: Advisory Board and Interview Panel
DSI, NRF, USAf, French business on advisory board

FRANCE

France-South Africa Scholarship Programme

MASTER'S AND DOCTORAL

Joint PhDs with South African university through co-supervision / cotutelle agreements

All fields · French public institutions · English courses available

DHET works closely with French Embassy since 2019



CALENDAR OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Papua New Guinea

Poland

Serbia

Korea

Chile

Sri Lanka

Brazil

Azerbaijan

Germany

Ireland

Algeria

Russia

Brunei Darussalem

Mauritius

Japan

Spain



CALENDAR OF INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS

The Department of Higher Education and Training (the Department) has developed the below calendar of scholarship application dates to assist interested candidates in estimating when international scholarship calls for applications are likely to be opened. The dates indicated below are based on previous calls and should be used primarily for planning purposes, although dates may change from year-to-year.

The Department does not have control over the scheduling of the calls for applications but will endeavor to update the calendar periodically to ensure it remains current and as accurate as possible.

Interested individuals should continue to visit the [International Scholarships Website](http://www.internationalscholarships.dhet.gov.za/) on <http://www.internationalscholarships.dhet.gov.za/> to explore available opportunities as well as to register on the website to receive e-mail alerts when new opportunities become available.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES						
Month	Country	Scholarship Programme	Open dates	Fields of study	Levels of study	Type of Scholarship
JANUARY	Russia	Russian State Scholarship	Opens: January Closes: February	Open to all fields	Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees	Partial
	United States	Fulbright Scholarship	Opens: January Closes: May	Open to all fields	Master's and Doctoral degrees	Full
	Serbia	The World in Serbia Project Scholarship	Opens: January Closes: end	Open to a variety of fields	Bachelor's, Master's and	Full

www.internationalscholarships.dhet.gov.za

Available on the website to help the public navigate the vast range of different deadlines and offerings

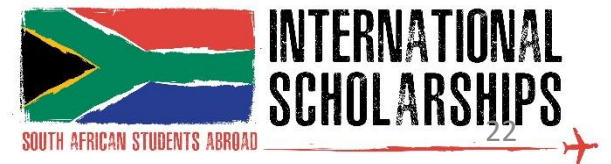
PROMOTIONS

- Dedicated website www.Internationalscholarships.dhet.gov.za
- Bulk emailer (public can subscribe – more than 10 000 subscribers)
- Social media
- Presentations at university study abroad fairs
- Alumni Ambassadors Programme launched in 2021
- Intergovernmental International Scholarships Forum
- Monthly online information sessions
- University international offices



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INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM ON INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

- Established to try and bring coordination to international scholarships across government
- Guidelines have been developed and approved by the Minister
 - These will be developed into a policy during 2022
- Provinces continue to have problematic international scholarship programmes (*particular related to non-payment of fees and stipends, and recognition of qualifications*)
- Biannual reporting required from all provinces and departments (compliance an issue)

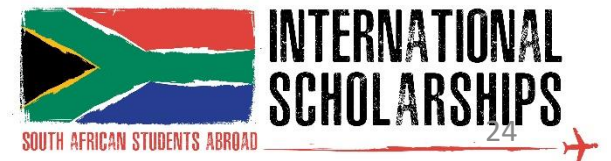
SCHOLARSHIP IMPLEMENTED ACROSS GOVERNMENT

- Critical issues brought to the Department's attention regarding international scholarships initiated and implemented by provinces in particular.
- Department has requested feedback from provinces on their programmes and can provide advice / support to assist in resolving issues but does not have mandate to intervene without their cooperation.
- Reporting through the intergovernmental forum: compliance improving but not yet 100%
 - Close to 1000 students supported by government to study abroad
 - Over R100 million spent across government



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COORDINATION WITH DSI AND NRF

- MOU between DHET, NRF and DSI drafted and finalized in 2021 and currently proceeding for signature.
- Avoid overlap, better use of resources and partnerships
- Provides a high-level framework for effective coordination of international partnerships in support of the skills development agenda.
- Outlines responsibilities of each party.
- The specific procedures, requirements and roles of each party to be set out in separate frameworks, to be developed once agreement is signed.



www.internationalscholarships.dhet.gov.za



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Email subscription list (via website)



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