

Instructions and Checklist – SACEMA PhD Bursary applications for 2020

NOTE: These instructions are for applicants intending to be based at SACEMA and registered for PhD at Stellenbosch University, and for applicants who have been invited to apply for an external PhD bursary. Internal bursary holders are expected to participate fully in the activities of SACEMA, including attendance at seminars and following training programmes recommended by SACEMA in consultation with supervisor(s).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

Please submit the completed Application Form online by 1 July 2019, together with uploads of all documents described below and listed in the CHECKLIST. The letter of recommendation must be submitted directly by your referee, by the same deadline. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

1. **Personal statement.** Please submit a statement of not more than 1000 words, outlining your research interests, your motivation for undertaking doctoral work, and your reasons for wanting to study at SACEMA (or, for external bursary applicants, to undertake studies in line with SACEMA core research areas).
2. **Writing task.** PhD bursary applicants are requested to submit a short piece of writing (500-1000 words) in direct response to the following:

The world is currently experiencing an unusually high incidence of measles cases. Do some reading on basic aspects of measles (such as biology, history, perceptions, public health responses, the current 'outbreaks,' etc.) and then write a brief article summarising some of your insights, perspectives, or advice. Choose a particular format, which will imply a particular readership and purpose – for example:

- A leaflet for parents of children of school going age
- An article for a weekly newspaper
- A background statement to frame an imaginary measles-related project which you are proposing to pursue

Explicitly state what kind of article you are writing, and what your purpose is.

Try to address any small number of points of interest about measles – especially if they relate meaningfully to the current situation of increased incidence of measles. For example, you might:

- Give an overview of the seriousness, or lack of seriousness, of the threat of measles to the health of the world's population
- Describe factors which influence the spread of measles
- Outline key (and relevant) attitudes/beliefs about measles and measles vaccination

3. **Letter of recommendation**, commissioned by you from your academic referee, but submitted **separately and directly by the referee by 1 July** to SACEMA Training Coordinator, Masimba Paradza, at mwparadza@sun.ac.za. This letter must include an assessment of your research capacities and potential, and a statement of willingness to engage further with us in evaluating your suitability for working at SACEMA. Note that it is **your responsibility** to commission this letter and to brief your referee fully about your intentions and the requirements of the letter, which will be an important component of your application. Letters received directly from applicants will not be accepted.
4. **Copies of the following:** CV (PDF only), Passport/Identity Document (PDF, JPG, or PNG), Transcripts of all your previous degree results (PDF only).

CHECKLIST OF DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION FORM:

1. Personal statement (PDF only)
2. Writing assignment (PDF only)
3. A copy of your CV (PDF only)
4. Transcripts of all previous degree results (as a single PDF)
5. A copy of your identity document/passport (PDF, JPG, or PNG)

NOTE: More details will follow, after applications have been processed, on the timeline for selection and notification, and longer-term procedures to be followed by selected students.