



# THE MAIZE TRUST

Reg no. IT8214/98

## Master by Dissertation and Doctoral study Bursary Application Form - 2024

Applications open from 1 September 2023 to 30 September 2023

### APPLICATIONS TO BE SUBMITTED ANNUALLY

#### **BRIEF BACKGROUND TO THE MAIZE TRUST**

The Maize Trust was founded in August 1998, after the closure of the Maize Board, to promote the South African maize industry. The Trust serves the industry through financial support for institutions and organisations with programmes aimed at market and production-related research. The secondary objective of the Trust is to fund the assimilation and dissemination of market information and to broaden market access for the benefit of the maize industry.

The mission of The Maize Trust is to facilitate the continuous improvement of the entire maize industry in South Africa, to ensure that the industry becomes the leader in the region and that it is internationally competitive.

The Trust comprises six Trustees who are appointed for a term of two years. Three of these Trustees are appointed by specific maize industry sectors, while the other three Trustees are selected by the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries.

Since its establishment, The Maize Trust has granted a large amount of money to a variety of organisations and institutions involved in research, development, and information programmes in the South African maize industry. The Maize Trust currently funds most of its transformation projects through the Maize Trust Bursary Scheme, the Farmer Development Programme of Grain SA, and using the Grain Farmer Development Association (GFADA).

For further details about The Maize Trust bursary scheme, kindly contact Marna Booyens at Agri Manage Solutions (the Administrators of The Maize Trust) electronically via [marna@agrimange.co.za](mailto:marna@agrimange.co.za)

<http://www.maizetrust.co.za/>

<http://www.agrimange.co.za/>



### i) BASIC REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants are invited to apply for postgraduate bursaries with The Maize Trust to further their studies within the maize industry.

The basic requirements for the application of a bursary with The Maize Trust are:

- Applicants must be South African citizens.
- Applicants must be admitted to study full-time with the institution of their choice.
- The Maize Trust bursaries are only awarded to Masters and Doctoral studies.
- The field of study must be relevant to the South African maize industry.
- Successful applicants may not receive alternative funding from alternate sources except with the explicit prior permission of the Trust.
- The proposal for the dissertation/thesis must be approved by The Maize Trust before the commencement of the studies.
- Upon application, the Maize Trust requires:
 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A completed application form,</li> <li>b) A certified copy of a South African identity document/passport,</li> <li>c) Updated curriculum vitae,</li> <li>d) The latest academic transcript/record on official letterhead,</li> <li>e) Proof of registration and a fee statement.</li> </ul>
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- A formal bursary agreement is to be concluded with The Maize Trust should a bursary be awarded.
- A supervisor for the study programme must be designated by the University where the study will be undertaken and must be approved by The Maize Trust.
- Applicants will be expected to work in the South African maize industry for the same period for which a bursary was awarded.
- Annual bursary amounts will be determined by The Maize Trust each year.
- Closing date for bursary application submissions is 30 September of every year.

### ii) BURSARY CONDITIONS:

- This bursary will **ONLY** fund Applicants registered for Master by Dissertation or Doctoral qualifications.
- Only Applicants who apply by the specified date, have completed the application form, and submitted all necessary supporting documents will be considered.
- Applications will not be processed unless the Legal Undertaking (Section I) on this Application form has been completed and signed by the applicant concerned.

<sup>1</sup> All correspondence will primarily be made via the bursary holder's email account.

- Application for a bursary does not obligate the Maize Trust to award a student a bursary, nor does it guarantee that any bursaries will be awarded.
- Telephonic interviews with shortlisted applicants will be conducted.
- Applicants will be notified of a successful outcome within 8 weeks of the closing date. Should applicants not receive correspondence from the Maize Trust within 8 weeks from the closing date, please accept that your application has been unsuccessful.
- The Initial instalment of the bursary is payable in January 2024.
- All bursary awards are conditional upon receipt of a positive report from the student's supervisor.
- Continued receipt of the bursary is dependent on a favourable supervisor's progress report/s and the acceptance of the bursary holder's progress report by the Maize Trust indicating how the recipient is progressing with his/her studies.
- Applicants will be expected to submit a hard and soft copy of the completed thesis/dissertation on completion of their studies, which will be posted on relevant industry websites.

### iii) SCOPE OF BURSARY

- **Masters by Dissertation:**
  - Bursaries totaling R99 750,00 per annum for **two years** in respect of **MSc** Applicants.
  - Bursaries will only be paid out according to the submitted and approved progress reports by both the student and their supervisor.
- **Doctoral Research:**
  - Bursaries totaling R 131 250,00 per annum for **three years** in respect of **PhD** Applicants.
  - Bursaries will only be paid out according to the submitted and approved progress reports by both the student and their supervisor.

### iv) BURSARY POLICY AND PROCEDURES:

- **Policy Preamble**

The Maize Trust acknowledges its responsibility to the South African maize industry to contribute to ensuring that sufficient graduates address the relevant functional areas affecting the industry. For this reason, the policy and procedures for the awarding of bursaries have been developed to ensure that the Maize Trust's Bursary Scheme will enable the Trust to play a role in increasing the availability of appropriately qualified scientists and professionals within the industry and that this process is managed equitably and transparently.

<sup>1</sup> All correspondence will primarily be made via the bursary holder's email account.

- **Policy**

- The policy will apply to the Maize Trust Bursary Scheme and it will hereinafter and in general be referred to as **“the bursary”**.
- The evaluation and approval of applications for bursaries will be handled by the Trustees of the Maize Trust.
- Applications must please be submitted electronically to: [marna@agrimanage.co.za](mailto:marna@agrimanage.co.za) with the subject **“MT BURSARY”**.
- Students who enrolled for a tertiary qualification, at a tertiary institution that is recognised by the Maize Trust, will be allowed to apply for the bursary.
- Students in receipt of the bursary will have to collaborate with a supervisor who is subject to the approval of the Maize Trust and the University.
- All recipients of the bursary must submit quarterly progress reports to the Maize Trust, together with quarterly progress reports from the relevant supervisor until completion of the study.
- All progress results of the student shall be directed to the Administrators of the Maize Trust in writing (email) and will be treated by the Maize Trust as confidential.
- Failure to pass a semester or year course can result in the cancellation of the bursary.
- Failure, as referred to above, will result in the student repaying the full amount of the bursary as was awarded up to that point in time. Interest at the prime overdraft rate will be calculated from the date of failure until repayment.
- Students will be expected to submit a hard and soft copy of the completed thesis/dissertation on completion of their studies to the Maize Trust.
- After completion of a student’s course, the student must work for an industry-related organisation or institution in the RSA for a period equivalent to the period for which the bursary was awarded.
- Failure to work for an industry-related organisation or institution, as approved by the Maize Trust, will affect an immediate repayment by the student of such amount(s) as the student had received.
- Interest at the prime overdraft rate will be calculated from the date of non-compliance until the actual date of repayment. The student will be exempt from repayment of such portion of the amount(s) pro rata to the period for which the student has been employed.
- The Trust reserves the right as custodian of the bursary to change the policy, as and when it deems it necessary, but this will only be done with prior notification.

<sup>1</sup> All correspondence will primarily be made via the bursary holder’s email account.

## SECTION A: PERSONAL PARTICULARS

PERSONAL PARTICULARS								
<b>Title</b>	Mr.	Mrs.	Miss	Ms.	Dr.	Rev.	Prof.	Other (Please specify):
<b>First Name/s</b>					<b>Surname</b>			
<b>Cellphone</b>					<b>Email</b>			
<b>Nationality</b>					<b>ID #</b>			
<b>Gender</b>	Male	Female	<b>Population Group</b>					

PERMANENT PHYSICAL ADDRESS	POSTAL ADDRESS
<b>Postal Code:</b>	<b>Postal Code:</b>

BANKING DETAILS	
<b>Account holder</b>	
<b>Branch Code</b>	
<b>Account Number</b>	
<b>Account Type</b>	

Colour ID Photo

<sup>1</sup> All correspondence will primarily be made via the bursary holder's email account.

Please initial each page of this document to indicate that all pages have been read and understood.

\_\_\_\_\_ Initials

## SECTION B: STUDENT REPORT

TERTIARY EDUCATION			
Please select your field of study from the list below (mark with an X):			
Plant breeding		Soil microbiology	
Plant physiology		Plant entomology	
Biometry		Plant nematology	
Agronomy		Food sciences (relevant to the crop industry)	
Weed science		Plant pathology	
Soil science		Molecular biology	
Plant Biochemistry		Agricultural economics	
Agricultural engineering		Agricultural Meteorology	
Livestock sciences		Pasture sciences	
<b>Other Fields of Study</b>			
<b>Qualification applied for</b>	Master (MSc)		Doctorate (Ph.D.)
<b>Institution applied to</b>			
<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>		<b>Number of Study Years</b>	

- a) Briefly assess and discuss your progress within your Hons/MSc academic year/s.

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- b) Should your progress have not been satisfactory, provide a reason/s for your slow progress.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Unable to reach a supervisor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unable to gain access to research material/s
<input type="checkbox"/>	Slow return of data from respondents/ participants
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify):

The final award of the bursary will be considered by the Maize Trust.

**STUDENT SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ DD/MM/YY

<sup>1</sup> All correspondence will primarily be made via the bursary holder's email account.

## **SECTION C: PROPOSED RESEARCH DETAILS**

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Please provide your dissertation/thesis working research title **and** a brief description of the proposed research.

### **Working Research Title**

### **Brief Description of Research**

*(Include Rationale, Problem Statement, Objectives, Industry Relevance, and a separate Gantt Chart - Max 300 words)*

<sup>1</sup> All correspondence will primarily be made via the bursary holder's email account.

## **SECTION D: MOTIVATION**

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Motivate your application for a bursary in terms of your academic ability, financial need, and career plans.

<sup>1</sup> All correspondence will primarily be made via the bursary holder's email account.

**Please initial each page of this document to indicate that all pages have been read and understood.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Initials**



## SECTION E: CHECKLIST

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Please take note that Agri Manage Solutions will not consider incomplete applications. Before submitting your application, please check that you have done everything applicable, as shown in the list below. However, due to the variations in registration periods, please submit the application form although you may have not yet obtained proof of registration and a fee structure. You may forward these documents once you have registered.

We suggest you tick the box next to each point when you have checked it.

Have you:	✓
1) Completed the sections in the application form that apply to you?	
2) Ensured that you can meet the requirements and conditions of the application?	
3) Have you signed the “Legal Undertaking” declaring that the information provided is complete and correct?	
4) Attached is a certified copy of a South African identity document/passport (less than 3 months old).	
5) Updated and attached a copy of your curriculum vitae?	
6) Included the latest academic transcript/record on official letterhead?	
7) Included your proof of registration and a fee statement?	

<sup>1</sup> All correspondence will primarily be made via the bursary holder's email account.

**SECTION F: SUPERVISOR REPORT**

<b>Supervisor</b>	Mr.	Mrs.	Miss	Ms.	Dr.	Rev.	Prof.	Other (please specify):
	<b>Full name</b>							
	<b>Cell</b>				<b>Email</b>			
<b>Co-supervisor</b>	Mr.	Mrs.	Miss	Ms.	Dr.	Rev.	Prof.	Other (please specify):
	<b>Full name</b>							
	<b>Cell</b>				<b>Email</b>			

- a) Please provide a succinct statement based on the quality of work submitted by the applicant thus far.

- b) Discuss the applicant's capacity to deal with methodological issues.

- c) Please provide an estimated completion date for the applied qualification.

Is there any likelihood that the applicant will be able to complete the research within this prescribed period?

- d) Given your assessment, do you recommend the applicant's application for a bursary for the 2020 academic year?

YES	NO
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The final award of the bursary will be considered by the Maize Trust.

**SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** DD/MM/YY \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> All correspondence will primarily be made via the bursary holder's email account.

## SECTION G: STUDENT PROGRESS REPORT

(Completed and signed by the student and handed into The Maize Trust at the beginning of **March, June, September, and December**)

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Although this may be subject to change, the following headings act as an example of what would need to appear on a typical progress report.

A progress report needs only **ONE page**.

Progress reports are to be submitted to The Maize Trust **every quarter**.

### 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Progress Report

#### *Proposed title of thesis/dissertation*

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Co-supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

#### FIRST QUARTER OUTLINE

1. STUDENT DETAILS AS ABOVE
2. BACKGROUND
3. AIM OF STUDY
4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY
5. PROGRESS IN 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter
6. SUMMARY OF RESULTS (If applicable)
7. SUMMARY OF 2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER INTENTIONS
8. APPENDICES (If applicable)
9. STUDENT SIGNATURE
10. DATE

#### SECOND, THIRD, AND FOURTH QUARTER OUTLINE

1. STUDENT DETAILS AS ABOVE
2. PROGRESS IN 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter
3. SUMMARY OF RESULTS (If applicable)
4. SUMMARY OF 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> QUARTER INTENTIONS
5. APPENDICES (If applicable)
6. STUDENT SIGNATURE
7. DATE

<sup>1</sup> All correspondence will primarily be made via the bursary holder's email account.

## SECTION H: SUPERVISOR PROGRESS REPORT

(Completed and signed by the supervisor and handed into The Maize Trust at the beginning of **March, June, September, and December**)

Although this may be subject to change, the following questions act as an example of what would need to appear on a typical supervisor progress report.

These questions, about the progress of a student, would need to be answered and elaborated on further using an official university letterhead.

### 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Progress Report

**Student name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** DD/MM/YY

1. Is the student progressing satisfactorily and, in your opinion, is he/she in control of their studies?
2. Are you satisfied that the student should be able to complete his/her degree in the designated time?
3. Do you believe the student is using the Maize Trust bursary money properly for purposes of studies/research?
4. Are you, as supervisor, pleased with the progress of the student?
5. Is the data collection required for the study finalised by the student?
6. Has the student commenced with the capturing of data for purposes of his/her dissertation/thesis?
7. Has the student produced and presented any posters, lectures, or papers related to his/her studies?
8. Does the student, in your opinion, demonstrate the ability to become a good researcher?
9. Did the student give any indication whether he/she would be interested in further studies?
10. Has the student been networking with international peers or other researchers?
11. On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 – poor and 10 – good), how would you rate the student's quality of work thus far? (Please circle the correct option)

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

**SENIOR SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> All correspondence will primarily be made via the bursary holder's email account.

Please initial each page of this document to indicate that all pages have been read and understood.

\_\_\_\_\_ Initials

## **SECTION I: LEGAL UNDERTAKING (COMPULSORY)**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, ID number \_\_\_\_\_ declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information furnished in this application is true and correct and that if it is found to be false and/or misleading in any respect, this application may be invalidated and the applicant's application terminated.

1. I undertake:
  - 1.1) That I understand and will comply with all the requirements and conditions contained herein,
  - 1.2) To notify Agri Mange Solutions immediately should:
    - 1.2.1) I fail/cancel or abandon my studies,
    - 1.2.2) I need to rectify any information that has been submitted within this application form.
- 2) That the information is supplied voluntarily, without undue influence from any party, and not under any duress.
- 3) To familiarise myself with and adhere to all the rules and general regulations applicable to the bursary for which I intend to apply.
- 4) I undertake that I will not hold the Maize Trust and its affiliates liable, nor make any claim against the Maize Trust and its affiliates for any compensation and/or any expenses incurred or damages suffered as a result of or in respect of any injury to me or illness or my death, irrespective of whether any such damages, injury or death may have been attributable to any degree of negligence on the part of the Maize Trust or one or more of its affiliates or another person (s) for whose actions it might, but for this undertaking, have been responsible.
- 5) I am aware that the bursary is only valid if it complies with the applicable prescripts and regulations governing the bursary concerned.
- 6) I accept that, if I abandon, cancel, or change my qualification or my studies at the University at any time, no cancellation or reduction of fees will be considered and that I will remain liable for the payment of all fees payable to the Maize Trust in full.
- 7) I undertake to accept the responsibility for the payment of fees (tuition, residence, and any other applicable fees).
- 8) I hereby permit that information about my academic progress be divulged to the Maize Trust and the person/bursar liable for the payment of fees. I consent to my study being used on industry websites.
- 9) I agree, understand, consent, and irrevocably authorise Agri Mange Solutions to keep, use, process, and verify information in paper and electronic format, including information supplied by me during the bursary application process.
- 10) I hereby undertake to inform Agri Mange Solutions of any disciplinary and criminal proceedings (finalised or pending) against me before applying for the bursary.
- 11) I hereby confirm that I have not secured funding from alternate sources and understand that the Masters or Doctoral bursary awarded to me by the Maize Trust can be cancelled at the discretion of the Trust.

**APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ DD/MM/YY