

Sasol Agriculture Trust

Reg no: IT 870/2012

Master by Dissertation and Doctoral study Bursary Application Form - 2024

Applications open from 1 September 2023 – 30 September 2023

APPLICATIONS TO BE SUBMITTED ANNUALLY

BRIEF BACKGROUND TO THE SASOL AGRICULTURE TRUST

The Sasol Agriculture Trust aims to improve the competitiveness and sustainability of the South African agricultural industry and provides support for enterprise development projects and emerging farmers. The Trust also supports initiatives aimed at enhancing education and training programmes for farmers and the agricultural industry at large. In consideration of grain's large contribution to food security in South Africa, the Trust has a particular focus on the sustainability of grain production in the country.

Following extensive engagement with Grain SA, as well as other agricultural stakeholders, Sasol identified the Trust as an opportunity to increase its contribution to a sustainable agricultural industry.

The Sasol Agriculture Trust is administered by independent Trustees for the benefit of the South African agricultural community.

For further details about the Sasol Agriculture Trust bursary scheme, kindly contact Marna Booyens at Agri Manage Solutions (the Administrators of the Sasol Agriculture Trust) electronically via marna@agrimanage.co.za



BURSARY CRITERIA

i) BASIC REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants are invited to apply for postgraduate bursaries with Sasol Agriculture Trust to further their studies within the agricultural industry.

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

- Applicants must be South African citizens.
- Applicants must be admitted to study full-time with the institution of their choice.
- Sasol Agriculture Trust bursaries are only awarded to Masters and Doctoral studies.
- The field of study must be relevant to the South African agricultural 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 Sasol Agriculture Trust before the commencement of the studies.
- Upon application, Sasol Agriculture Trust requires:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A completed application form, b) A certified copy of a South African identity document/passport, c) Updated curriculum vitae, d) The latest academic transcript/record on official letterhead, e) Proof of registration and a fee statement.

- A formal bursary agreement is to be concluded with Sasol Agriculture 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 Sasol Agriculture Trust.
- Applicants will be expected to work in the South African agricultural industry for the same period for which a bursary was awarded.
- Annual bursary amounts will be determined by Sasol Agriculture 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.

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

- Applications will not be processed unless the Legal Undertaking (Section I) on this Application form has been completed and signed by the applicant concerned.
- Application for a bursary does not obligate Sasol Agriculture 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 Sasol Agriculture Trust within 8 weeks from the closing date, applicants may accept that their 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 Sasol Agriculture 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 R 99 750,00 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.

i) BURSARY POLICY AND PROCEDURES:

- **Policy Preamble**

Sasol Agriculture Trust acknowledges its responsibility to the South African agricultural 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 Sasol Agriculture Trust 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.

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

- **Policy**

- The policy will apply to Sasol Agriculture 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 Sasol Agriculture Trust.
- Applications must please be submitted electronically to: marna@agrimanage.co.za with the subject **“SAT BURSARY”**.
- Students who enrolled for a tertiary qualification, at a tertiary institution that is recognised by Sasol Agriculture 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 Sasol Agriculture Trust and the University.
- All recipients of the bursary must submit quarterly progress reports to Sasol Agriculture 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 Sasol Agriculture Trust in writing (email) and will be treated by Sasol Agriculture 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 Sasol Agriculture 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 Sasol Agriculture 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.
- Sasol Agriculture 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.

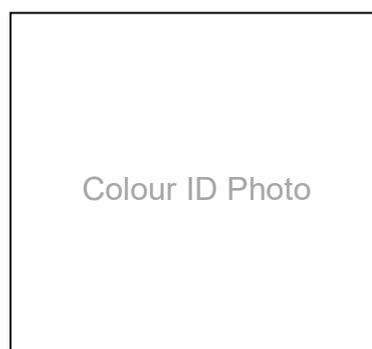
¹ All correspondence will primarily be made via the bursary holder's email account.

SECTION A: PERSONAL PARTICULARS

PERSONAL PARTICULARS							
Title	Mr.	Mrs.	Miss	Ms.	Dr.	Rev.	Other (please specify):
First Name/s					Surname		
Cellphone					Email		
Nationality					ID Number		
Gender	Male		Female		Population Group		

PERMANENT PHYSICAL ADDRESS	POSTAL ADDRESS
Postal Code:	Postal Code:

BANKING DETAILS	
Account holder	
Branch Code	
Account Number	
Account Type	



¹ 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Soil microbiology	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plant physiology	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plant entomology	<input type="checkbox"/>
Biometry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plant nematology	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agronomy (Especially important)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Food sciences (relevant to the crop industry)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weed science	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plant pathology	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soil science	<input type="checkbox"/>	Molecular biology	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Fields of Study			
Qualification applied for	Master (MSc)	Doctorate (Ph.D.)	
Institution applied to			
Estimated Completion Date			Number of Study Years

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

- 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 Sasol Agriculture Trust.

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____ DD/MM/YY

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

SECTION C: PROPOSED RESEARCH DETAILS

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)

¹ 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 D: MOTIVATION

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

¹ 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

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?	

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SECTION F: SUPERVISOR REPORT

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

- 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 2024 academic year?

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

SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: DD/MM/YY _____

¹ 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 SASOL Trust at the beginning of **March, June, September, and December**)

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 Sasol Agriculture Trust **every quarter**.

1st/2nd/3rd/4th 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 1st Quarter
6. SUMMARY OF RESULTS (If applicable)
7. SUMMARY OF 2nd 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 2nd or 3rd or 4th Quarter
3. SUMMARY OF RESULTS (If applicable)
4. SUMMARY OF 3rd or 4th QUARTER INTENTIONS
5. APPENDICES (If applicable)
6. STUDENT SIGNATURE
7. DATE

¹ 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 SASOL 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, every quarter.

1st/2nd/3rd/4th 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 Sasol Agriculture 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: _____

¹ 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 Manage 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 Sasol Agriculture Trust and its affiliates liable, nor make any claim against the Sasol Agriculture 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 Sasol Agriculture Trust or one or more of its affiliates or other 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 Sasol Agriculture 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 give permission that information about my academic progress to be divulged to the Sasol Agriculture 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 authorize Agri Manage 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 Manage 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 Sasol Agriculture Trust can be cancelled at the discretion of the Trust.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____ DD/MM/YY