Awards for Postgraduate Study

The Oppenheimer Memorial Trust (OMT) awards a limited number of scholarships each year for postgraduate education at Master’s, Doctoral and Postdoctoral level.

South African nationals are eligible to apply and preference is given to candidates with a proven record of academic excellence, coupled with financial need, who intend to pursue careers in academia, research or related fields. Applications for study abroad may be considered where the field of specialisation cannot be undertaken locally or in cases where candidates have advanced to a level where international tuition is appropriate to proceed meaningfully in their chosen fields. Preference may be given to candidates undertaking split-site graduate programmes.

Applications must be supported by the following information:

- **Personal Information, Qualifications and Academic Record**
  - An up to date *curriculum vitae* and a recent photograph (3x4 cm);
  - a current statement of academic record including certified copies of degree certificates, name/s of institution/s, dates of study and category of pass;
  - a listing of associated dissertations, publications and other accolades or achievements;
  - employment history and work experience, as applicable;
  - letters of recommendation from at least three referees who are familiar with the applicant’s current work and intended studies (referees must submit signed letters or reports under separate and confidential cover directly to the Trust).

- **Intended Study**
  - Intended degree, programme of study, institution, period of study;
  - details of course work, fieldwork (if applicable) and an outline of the dissertation proposal;
  - supervisor/s name, current designation and abridged (one-page) CV;
  - letter of acceptance and terms of admission;
  - applicants who are already part way through their studies should position themselves accurately within the above framework.

- **Motivation**
  Applicants should submit a signed statement (of not more than 500 words) that describes their background, schooling, general interests, personal philosophy, short to medium term plans and priorities and career aspirations. The following points should also be addressed:
  - Relevance of the study to the South African context and the anticipated outcomes;
  - the perceived benefits to the applicant personally, the academy and the broader community;
  - reasons that the course of study cannot be undertaken in South Africa (where applicable).

- **Financial Position**
  Applicants should disclose their personal financial position and submit an income and expenditure budget indicating:
  - Annual estimates as well as estimates spanning the duration of the period of study;
  - income from all sources (both applied for and secured) including access to savings, family contributions and loans, offers of scholarships and bursaries or other awards as well as any income from part-time work;
  - details of expenditure including travel, tuition, books, subsistence costs and incidentals (but excluding the costs of support for any dependants);
  - as a general rule, applications will not be formally considered until such time as complete and accurate budgets are received.

Applications will be treated confidentially and are adjudicated at quarterly intervals in the normal course of events. Submissions should reach the OMT (details overleaf) at least four months in advance of the intended date of commencement of study.
Late or incomplete applications may not be accepted, failure to comply with the Trust’s requirements may result in disqualification and the provision of the information outlined above does not guarantee a positive outcome. Awards are determined at the discretion of the Trust and may be granted on a co-funding, annual basis (i.e. partial contributions towards the overall costs) but not for more than two or three years of study towards any one degree, subject to performance and compliance with the Trust’s reporting and re-application procedures.

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