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WINTER CEREAL TRUST BURSARY SCHEME

Research is a vital element of agricultural production. Without dedicated research teams working tirelessly to increase productivity, there is little hope of agricultural production keeping pace with the world's ever growing need for food.

The Winter Cereal Trust (WCT) is very aware of this situation. It is particularly relevant in South Africa which has to import most small grains (wheat, barley, oats and rye) on a regular basis to meet the country's needs.

The WCT, therefore, decided in 2006 to introduce a Bursary Scheme to help students starting their careers in the field of small grains research. The Bursary Scheme enables the WCT to play a role in increasing the Industry's pool of appropriately qualified scientists in an equitable and transparent manner.

The WCT aims to award ten bursaries in a financial year (6 African, 2 Coloured, 1 Indian and 1 White) to post-graduate students to help finance their masters or doctoral studies in a small grains related field.

In addition, a further three bursaries (2 African and 1 Coloured) will be awarded if funds are available to students in their final year of undergraduate and/of honours study who are planning post-graduate studies related to small grains at least to the level of an MSc degree. These bursaries will be allocated specifically to Black* students. Post- doctoral studies will also be considered depending on the availability of funds.

Applicants will be expected to complete in full the official application form and submit it to the Winter Cereal Trust at the postal or e-mail addresses provided in this document. Every effort is made to respond to all applications but this may not always be possible. If there is no written response to an application within 25 working days after submission, it must be accepted that the application was not received.

A key element of the Bursary Scheme is that every student will have a Mentor and/or Co-Promotor with the necessary skills and a proven track record in the field of small grains research, to assist the student. The Mentor will keep the WCT informed of the student's progress and ensure that the student stays on the right track with his/her studies.

Bursary-holders will be expected to attend the annual two-day meeting of the Winter Cereal Trust Technical Committee. This is usually held in Pretoria during September and reasonable traveling and accommodation costs will be paid by the WCT.

These meetings will give the Bursary holder an excellent opportunity to network with other agricultural scientists involved in research on small grains. It will also enable the student to see where his/her research work fits in with the overall pattern of research on small grains.

Finally, although it is the Bursary holder's own responsibility to find work in the Small Grain Industry the student's CV, the field of study and previous experience will be placed by the WCT on appropriate web-sites such as those of the SA Chamber of Baking, National Chamber of Milling, Grain South Africa, and SAGIS. This will be done three months before the student's studies are completed.

The most important conditions of the bursaries are as follows:

- **Students must be South African citizens**
- **The bursaries are for Masters and Doctoral study**
- **Three bursaries per annum will be allocated to Black students busy with their final year of undergraduate studies and/or honours degree depending on the availability of funds.**
- **The field of study must be relevant to the Small Grains Industry**
- **The topic for the thesis must be approved by the Winter Cereal Trust.**
- **A Mentor and Co-Promotor (where applicable) for the study programme must be nominated and, together with the University where the study will be undertaken, must be approved by the Winter Cereal Trust**
- **Students will be expected to work in the Small Grains Industry for a period that is the same length as the period of study**
- **The bursary amount will be approximately R64 135 per year for one year for an undergraduate or Honours degree, R 77 698 per year for two years for MSc students and R94 965 per year for three years for PhD students**

This information together with the WCT Bursary Application form and the Bursary agreement is available on the WCT website: www.wintercerealtrust.co.za.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR BURSARY APPLICATIONS IS 31 AUGUST EVERY YEAR.

“Black” as defined in the BEE legislation refers to African, Coloured and Indian people.

Please contact the Winter Cereal Trust at (012) 007 1200 for any further inquiries