
Call for applications: ALC Scholarship/Bursary support
2020

The ALC is an **open non-exclusive partnership** to stimulate innovation, research and technology development **in lasers and the application thereof**, across Africa. In support of this broad objective, the ALC **seeks local, continental and global partnerships** to support this objective. The ALC is also recognized as an **AU-NEPAD Flagship Program**. To enable this objective the ALC has an active research collaboration support program, a conference, workshops and topical schools program and a scholarship program for African students to enroll and do post graduate degrees at South African Tertiary Institutions in a laser-related research field.

The CSIR National Laser Centre is managing the funding allocation from the Department of Science and Technology in support of the objectives of the Africa Laser Centre (ALC).

The CSIR hereby invites applications from researchers in South Africa or across Africa with active collaborations with researchers at South African universities for bursary support for their African students* who intend furthering their studies in laser related disciplines at South African universities in 2020.

Support for all ALC activities is subject to availability of funding. In line with NRF guidelines on freestanding Scholarships and Fellowships, R60 000 will be allocated for Master level studies and R85 000 towards PhD studies, per annum. For Master level studies, only 2 years of funding support will be allowed, and for PhD studies, 3 years of funding support will be allowed.

It is important to note that students who presently hold an ALC Scholarship, and who have not yet completed their studies, also need to apply for continuation funding.

* = Students from African countries excluding RSA. Only a few RSA students may be considered under exceptional circumstances

Who may apply?

- Students working within an existing funded ALC collaboration project who wish to pursue laser related Master or PhD research studies at a South African university will get preference.
- Master and PhD students from Africa who wish to pursue their studies in laser related disciplines at South African universities can also apply.

Note: The application for an ALC Scholarship has to be submitted via a supervisor at a South African university where the student is or will be enrolled. ALC research project grant-holders must apply on behalf of their student (s). A strong motivation is required by the supervisor for the student.

Evaluation Criteria:

The decision to award the bursary will be final and the following criteria will be used:

- Student's performance gleaned from academic record and motivated by research supervisor;
- Relevance of research project in which a student will be involved (it must be laser-based research);
- Acceptance of student by a South African university (letter of acceptance from university will help);
- Preference will be given to applications from where the student is aligned with an existing ALC research collaboration project.
- A certified copy of the student's full tertiary academic record is required. Not submitting this will disqualify an application.
- For continuation students, a detailed progress report must be submitted. A template for the report is available from the CSIR NLC.
- Availability of funds.

Expected Call launch date: 9 September 2019

Expected Closing date for applications: 25 October 2019

Scholarship application forms available from the CSIR National Laser Centre

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