

UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND,
JOHANNESBURG



Centre For Researching
Education and Labour
Skills For an equitable, just
and sustainable Future

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Doctoral and Masters Fellowship for 2024 - 2025

The Centre for Researching Education and Labour (REAL) is offering Doctoral fellowships (three years) and Masters fellowships (one year) attached to the SARCHI Research Chair in Skills Development

Fellowship Value

- PhD fellowships are available for three-year periods and are for full-time study, valued at up to R for the first year and R188 000, depending on financial need.
- Masters fellowships are available for one-year and are for full-time study, it is valued at up to R182 000, depending on financial need.
- Additional funding for travel and research expenses is available, and involvement in research projects at the REAL Centre is an additional possibility.

Eligibility

- Candidates should be in a position to register for full time studies in 2024.
- PhD candidates should have a strong Master's degree in Education (with an appropriate focus), Sociology, Economics, or a cognate discipline with a relevant focus;
- Masters candidates should be in possession of an Honours degree. The South African NRF does not fund PhD students older than 32 at the age of registration; for Masters students the cut off is 30 years.

Research Areas

Prospective candidates can propose any topic related to skills development, or education/work relationships. The following are particularly welcomed:

- Patterns of skill formation systems in developing countries
- The relationships between skills development and industrial development in a developing country context
- Knowledge and curriculum in preparation for work in specific occupations
- The roles of education and training in reinforcing or rupturing inequality in society
- Qualifications, the labour market and new forms of work organisation
- Access to work and types of work in the informal labour market



About the SARCHI Research Chair in Skills Development

Skills development is a complex notion. It sometimes refers to workplace-based training programmes such as apprenticeships or shorter training programmes in the workplace, but sometimes refers to all education and training that is aimed at the workplace. Improving the ways in which the education and training system produces skilled workers is a crucial challenge for South Africa and many other developing countries. This includes the ways in which workplaces support skills development as well as the ability of workers to use their skills for work which is meaningful to them and valuable to their immediate and broader communities. We aim to improve insights into the ways in which skills development interacts with the economy, industrial policy, and working conditions, as well as into the possibilities and limitations of education in this complex policy arena. The research chair encompasses South Africa, Africa, and cross-country international studies.

Institutional political economists examine 'skill formation regimes', by which they mean the ways in which political and socioeconomic institutions such as collective bargaining; as well as industrial strategies and industrial relations; and labour market and social welfare policies shape the ways in which education and training systems as well as workplaces are able to produce skilled workers. Skill formation systems are shaped by, and shape, the societies and economies in which they exist.

The notion of 'skill' itself is contested: Educationalists do not agree about the role of theoretical knowledge or its relation to practical knowledge. They also do not agree in what form these two types of knowledge are acquired, and what the best ways are to include them in curriculum which prepares for work. From the perspective of sociology, what is crucial is the power relations in societies and how different forms of power constrain and/or enable access to certain knowledge and skills.

Come join us to explore the complexity of these issues.

To apply, please note

Applicants have to apply on the NRF online system <https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za/>, for the fellowship of the SARCHI Chair in Skills Development.

The NRF funds successful applicants either at Full Cost Study (FCS) or Partial Cost of Study (PCS). The FCS funding can be awarded to South African citizens and permanent residents only, who are either financially needy (i.e., those whose combined household family income is less or equal to R350 000 per annum), living with a disability or exceptional academic achievers. However, the PCS funding will be awarded to 5% of international students including South African citizens and permanent residents who could not be funded under FCS but meet other minimum requirements for the NRF scholarship funding criteria.

[DSI-NRF Master's and Doctoral Application and Funding Guide for 2025 \(June 2024\) updaed.pdf](#)

[DSI-NRF Postgraduate Scholarship Framework for 2025 Funding_May 2024_F.pdf](#)

[ISFAP - Application Consent Form FINAL.pdf](#)

CLOSING DATE: 5 July 2024

Successful candidates will be contacted by the university.

The South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) is funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and administered by the National Research Foundation (NRF). The South African Research Chair in Skills Development was awarded to Professor Stephanie Allais, who is the Chair holder and leads the programme.

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