



## South African Radio Astronomy Observatory Undergraduate Scholarships for 2024

### Application Guide – Read this Guide before Completing an Application Form

**NRF|SARAO Closing Date for Applications: 31 August 2023**

**Applications Forms Available at <https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za>,**

#### **1 APPLICANT'S CLOSING DATE FOR SARAO UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR 2024**

Individual universities will set their own internal closing dates for applications. Please find out from the university where you intend registering for your undergraduate degree, what their internal closing date is, and ensure you submit your application by that date.

#### **2 ELIGIBILITY FOR SARAO UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS**

SARAO will consider applications from South African citizens and permanent residents who achieved a minimum of 70% in Mathematics in Grade 12, or a minimum grade-point average of 65% at undergraduate level, and who are studying/plan to study, any of the following degrees:

- 2.1 Bachelor of Electronic Engineering
- 2.2 Bachelor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- 2.3 Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering
- 2.4 Bachelor of Mechatronic Engineering
- 2.5 Bachelor of Computer Engineering
- 2.6 Bachelor of Science in Mathematics / Applied Mathematics and Physics
- 2.7 Bachelor of Science in Physics and Electronics
- 2.8 Bachelor of Science in Astronomy / Astrophysics and Physics
- 2.9 Bachelor of Computer Science, with co-major in Mathematics / Applied Mathematics
- 2.10 Bachelor of Science in Physics and Electronics / Astrophysics / Computer Science

#### **3 FUNDING LEVELS AND PERIOD OF SUPPORT FOR SARAO UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS**

- 3.1 The duration of a SARAO Undergraduate Scholarship is for a maximum of four years for Engineering degrees to cover the full duration required by any student entering first year in 2024, to complete a BEng degree by the end of 2027, and three years for Science degrees, to cover the full duration required by any student entering first year in 2024, to complete a BSc by the end of 2026.
- 3.2 The 2024 undergraduate scholarship level is R168 000. In addition to the scholarship, students are eligible for a once-off laptop grant of R12 000.

#### **4 CONDITIONS OF AWARD OF A SARAQ UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP**

- 4.1 Students are required to submit proof of registration at their university, to SARAQ. No funds for a scholarship will be released until SARAQ has received the proof of registration.
- 4.2 A scholarship from SARAQ is renewable each year, for the duration of the scholarship, at the sole discretion of SARAQ, subject to satisfactory academic performance. Students must achieve a minimum of 65% average, in their mid-year and year-end results. Students are required to submit their mid-year and year-end university transcripts for evaluation to SARAQ. Students who do not obtain a minimum of 65% average may not receive further funding from SARAQ.
- 4.3 Students who do not obtain the degree for which the scholarship was awarded, relinquish their studies, or leave the tertiary institution during the period for which the scholarship was awarded, will have to refund all payments of the scholarship already paid to them.
- 4.4 Students are allowed to hold supplementary grants with this scholarship, to a maximum of 50% of the SARAQ scholarship, but the student must inform SARAQ, via his/her university, of such awards.
- 4.5 If a student wishes to change his/her field of study, or the university, for which the scholarship was offered, he/she must provide a motivation to SARAQ for approval, prior to any changes. SARAQ is under no obligation to continue support if the changes do not align with the original criteria on which the scholarship offer was made.
- 4.6 On completion of the studies supported by means of the scholarship, students are required to submit a copy of their degree to SARAQ.
- 4.7 Fourth year engineering students and third year science students, who achieve two or more distinctions in their mid-year exams, may be invited to the postgraduate scholarship conference. Attendance at the conference will provide students with the opportunity to get to know the general radio astronomy community, meet potential postgraduate supervisors, and understand the postgraduate research environment.
- 4.8 All first-time SARAQ-funded undergraduate students are required to attend an induction workshop.

#### **5 IMPORTANT APPLICATION INFORMATION**

- 5.1 Applications must be submitted electronically on the NRF Connect: <https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za>, as per the university internal closing date, see section no 1 above.
- 5.2 A student may only submit one application.
- 5.3 Applicants MUST upload/attach the following documents to their applications.
  - A motivation/biography, of at least 1000 words describing your academic achievements, why you chose to study the degree you have selected, your research and career aspirations, as well as why you think you deserve to be awarded a SARAQ Undergraduate Scholarship.
  - Two letters of reference, at least one of which must be from an academic (lecturer/teacher).
- 5.4 In completing an application form for a SARAQ Undergraduate Scholarship, you accept the conditions of grant listed in section 4.
- 5.5 No late or incomplete applications will be accepted.
- 5.6 Successful applicants will be notified by 10 December 2023. If you have not heard from SARAQ by 10 December 2023, please assume that your application was NOT successful.
- 5.7 SARAQ reserves the right not to accept any application in part or in whole. The decision of SARAQ will be final and no correspondence will be entered into after the decision.

#### **6 SARAQ CONTACT INFORMATION**

Application queries may be directed to:

Mr. Mkhululi Jodwana

Email: [mjodwana@sarao.ac.za](mailto:mjodwana@sarao.ac.za)

Telephone: 011 268-3412