

**RESEARCH AND INNOVATION BURSARY PROGRAMME (PhD and MASTER’S DEGREE) 2025/2026 FINANCIAL YEAR**

The FoodBev SETA was established through the Skills Development Act of 1998, with a focus on the economic sub-sectors encompassing food and beverage processing. In line with this mission, FoodBev SETA is extending an invitation to public universities of South Africa to apply for Postgraduate Research and Innovation Bursary Programme for students studying towards their Doctorate (PhD) and Master’s degrees for the 2025/26 Discretionary Grant.

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

The Research Bursary Programme by FoodBev SETA has been designed to address the research and development requirements of the food and beverages manufacturing sector. This initiative aims to enrich the existing knowledge base and enhance research innovation within the sector. Furthermore, the program actively contributes to cultivating the necessary skills, particularly among researchers, to generate pertinent research outcomes that positively influence the industry. Simultaneously, it plays a pivotal role in advancing the research agenda of FoodBev SETA. As a result, we encourage aspiring Ph.D. and Master’s students with approved research proposals, focusing on the food and beverages manufacturing value chain, to apply for this research grant opportunity.

**FUNDING INCENTIVE**

The bursary amount has been carefully determined to offer an appealing incentive for students to pursue postgraduate studies. The funding awards are structured as follows:

- Master's students may receive up to a maximum of R120,000.00 for the entire duration of their studies, contingent upon the evaluation results of their approved research topics.
- PhD students have the potential to receive a maximum of R150,000.00 for the entire duration of their studies, depending on the evaluation outcomes of their approved research proposals.

<b>ELIGIBILITY</b>	<b>FUNDING REQUIREMENTS &amp; OTHER CONDITIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Must be a South African citizen or permanent resident.</li> <li>✓ Preference will be given to students from previously disadvantaged groups.</li> <li>✓ A student must not be in possession of another bursary funding and this must be confirmed by the university Bursary Office.</li> </ul>	<p align="center">The requirements and conditions of this funding are as follows:</p> <p align="center"><b>Master’s Students</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Proof of registration for the 2024 academic year or proof of acceptance for the 2025 academic year.</li> <li>✓ Research topics endorsed by the supervisors (relevant and responsive to the food and beverages manufacturing value chain)</li> <li>✓ The bursary covers the following expenses: registration fees, tuition fees, research costs, and study material to a maximum of R120 000.00.</li> <li>✓ Students must submit a progress report at the end of every academic year, and this must be signed off by the supervisor.</li> </ul>

### PhD Students

- ✓ Proof of registration for the 2024 academic year proof of acceptance for the 2025 academic year.
- ✓ Students who have an approved Research Proposal by the university with clear timeframes and estimated year of completion (NB: The expected timeframe for completion of PhD is between 2-5 years from the current academic year for reporting purposes by the SETA).
- ✓ The bursary covers the following expenses: tuition fees, and costs associated with the research undertaken to a maximum of R150 000,00.
- ✓ Students must submit a progress report at the end of every academic year, and this must be signed off by the supervisor.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

The application forms must be duly completed, signed, and submitted with all required supporting documents to FoodBev SETA.

#### **Compulsory Supporting Documents to be Submitted:**

The fully completed application form must be accompanied by the following documents:

1. A copy of the student's certified ID that is not older than six (6) months.
2. Proof of registration for the 2024 academic year or proof of acceptance for the 2025 academic year.
3. Approved research proposal (including research costs) with confirmation from the recognised tertiary institutions for PhD students, as well as research topic endorsed by the supervisor for Master's students.

The funding window will close on the 06 December 2024.

**NB: FoodBev SETA reserves the right to cancel the grant funding as a whole or partially at its discretion. Grant funding will be limited to the availability of funds.**

All applications must reach FoodBev SETA on or before the closing date. For more information about this bursary please contact Collin Mshayisa on 011 253 7322 or Mondli Makhubu on 011 253 7343 or email:

[ResearchBursaries@FoodBev.co.za](mailto:ResearchBursaries@FoodBev.co.za).

To access the application form, please see link below: