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POSTGRADUATE STUDY RESEARCH GRANTS

WEBSITE INFORMATION

PainSA provides two research grants to enhance knowledge and research capacity in the field of pain and pain management.

Application status: currently closed

Grant Overview

PainSA Research Grants support the development of postgraduate students conducting research aimed at improving knowledge in the field of pain and pain management.

Grant Details

Two grants are provided each year. The Foundation-level Grant supports study towards an Honours or Masters degree and has a maximum value of R60 000 in total. The Doctoral Grant supports study towards a doctoral degree (PhD or equivalent), and has a maximum value of R80 000 in total. The research must focus on pain. The study programme may be undertaken either part-time or full-time.

Awardees must abide by the following terms:

The awardee must:

1. register for the relevant degree at a South African university by the end of the June following the awarding of the grant;
2. endeavour to complete the degree within the maximum period prescribed by the university at which they are registered;
3. report their progress to the Chair of the PainSA Research Portfolio, using the provided template, in November each year for the duration of the grant, including a final report upon awarding of the degree;
4. apply to present their research findings at the annual PainSA Congress. Foundation grant awardees must apply for an oral presentation at least once (in year 1 or 2 of the grant); Doctoral grant awardees must apply for an oral presentation at least twice (latest date for first of these is year 2 of the grant). All awardees are also encouraged to apply to present a scientific poster on their preliminary data.

Executive Committee:

Prof Sean Chetty, Dr Michelle King, Dr Roland van Rensburg, Dr Sudha Bechan, Ms Linda Hiemstra

Council members:

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5. avail themselves to present their research at a maximum of two PainSA-sanctioned events other than the annual congress, for each year the grant is held, and the year after awarding of the degree;
6. avail themselves to write a short summary of their research for PainSA newsletters and/or other communications, as requested, for each year the grant is held;
7. submit a paper derivative of the dissertation for publication in a journal listed by Pubmed, Scopus, and/or the South African Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), within one year of the degree being awarded;
8. undertake to acknowledge PainSA as a funding source in the thesis/dissertation, and all presentations and scientific publications;
9. remain a member of PainSA for each year the grant is held and for two years thereafter.

Grant funds will only be disbursed after all of the following conditions have been met:

- PainSA receives proof of the awardee's registration, or the invoice for the awardee's registration fees to be paid from the grant, from a relevant university for the degree specified in the grant submission;
- PainSA receives the signed contract in which the awardee commits to the obligations of the award. The contract will also specify the value, payment terms, and repayment terms (if required) of the grant. Repayment is only required in the event that the contract is breached.

Access to the grant

1. The duration of the grant is considered to start at the awarding of the grant and end upon awarding of the degree, to a maximum of 5 years. The continued availability of the grant is also subject to timely submission of progress reports that are deemed to demonstrate satisfactory progress, and proof of re-registration for the degree.
2. PainSA will retain 20% of the grant money until the awardee has submitted proof of acceptance of the research protocol by the university and, where relevant, the institutional ethics review board.
3. The grant money is to be used for registration fees (excluding any penalties for late payments) and/or costs directly related to the research and research training programme for the postgraduate degree. Acceptable use of the funds is determined by the PainSA Treasurer and Chair of the Research Working Group .
4. University registration fees will be paid directly by PainSA to the university on presentation of an invoice by the recipient to the Secretary of PainSA.
5. Other research-related expenses will be paid on claim up to the full amount of the grant. Claim forms and receipts are to be submitted to the Secretary of PainSA by the 20th of each month using the PainSA claim form template (available from the secretary), to ensure that reimbursements are completed by the end of the month.
6. Major deviations in scope of the research project must be reported to the Chair of the PainSA Research Portfolio with evidence of explicit approval of the research supervisor. PainSA may retract the award if a planned deviation in scope results in the research project losing its relevance to pain.
7. In the case of unusual circumstances delaying progress, the awardee may apply for a one-year extension to the period of grant availability, using a letter of motivation addressed to the Chair of the Research Portfolio. Granting of an extension is at the shared discretion of the Treasurer and the Research Working Group , who may also consult with the PainSA Council if deemed necessary. In the case of exceptional circumstances, an awardee may apply for a second year's extension, which would be assessed by the same process as a first extension, but very rarely granted,

Grant Eligibility Requirements

At the time of application, an applicant should:

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1. be a member of PainSA and in good standing. An applicant for the Doctoral grant must have been a member of PainSA for at least the 12 months preceding submission of the application; there is no equivalent requirement for applicants for the Foundation-level Grant;
2. not have previously received the same category of PainSA research grant for which they are applying. Previous awardees of the Foundation-level grant may apply for the Doctoral grant. Unsuccessful applicants in either category may apply for the same grant in subsequent years.

Grant Application Requirements

Complete the online application. Links will be provided here when applications are open.

Additional documents needed for the online application are a:

- a. curriculum vitae, provided on the PainSA grant template available on the application portal. This must include a section explaining the applicant's motivation for undertaking the degree. The applicant is expected to address the specified review criteria in this section;
- b. two-page synopsis of the planned research study;
- c. two reference letters. At least one of the reference letters must be from the supervisor of the research for which the applicant is applying for support. The research supervisor's letter is expected to directly address the award review criteria. The second letter should ideally be from an academic who has taught, supervised, or worked alongside the applicant. If no such person is available, the second letter may be from another person (e.g., peer colleague, clinical supervisor), and the nature of the relationship must be specified.

Grant Review Process and Criteria

The evaluation process is conducted by the Research Working Group of PainSA, under the oversight of the PainSA Council. Each application is reviewed independently by at least two reviewers, against predefined criteria that are available on the application portal. Recipients are selected based on merit. For each grant, if no application is deemed to be of an adequate standard, PainSA may choose not to award a grant for that cycle or to release a second call for that year. PainSA also reserves the right to award only one grant, or not to advertise or award any research grant(s) in any given cycle, depending on the financial circumstances of the society.

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