



# 2023 FirstRand international postgraduate scholarships

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# FirstRand international postgraduate scholarships

## Objective:

To provide South Africans with higher learning opportunities abroad, contributing to their personal, academic, and career growth to develop leaders/innovators/out the box thinkers of the future who can drive and influence positive social and/or economic change

## FirstRand is looking for:

- Exceptional South Africans who will come back to SA after their studies and make a difference in the country
- Destiny changers

Do you have the ability to be a destiny changer in your chosen field of study?

Can you change South Africa for the better on your return in your chosen field?

Can you innovate, motivate, inspire and/or lead in the private or public sector, individually or as a part of a team?

Can you make a difference to companies, communities or the country as a whole?

# FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarships

- Laurie Dippenaar was one of the founders of FirstRand
- When he retired in 2006, the FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar Scholarship for international postgraduate study was established
  - In terms of the FirstRand employee share trust rules, he forfeited share options which had not yet vested
  - R10 million of unvested shares was invested in an endowment to which Laurie personally contributed a further R1 million
  - The interest earned on the endowment should be able to fund the scholarship for years to come
- The FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship currently awards two scholarships worth R925 000 for a year of study abroad for scholars studying towards their Masters or PhD in any field of their choice

# FirstRand Foundation scholarships

- The FirstRand Foundation's mandate is to empower communities to be active participants in the broader South African economy by enabling financial inclusion, building resilient communities, investing in lifelong learning and facilitating enabling environments.
- In 2016 the FirstRand Foundation resolved to provide additional scholarships to previously disadvantaged candidates in the spirit of the FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship and the FirstRand Foundation Scholarships for international postgraduate study were created.
- The FirstRand Foundation scholarships currently awards three scholarships worth R925 000 each for a year of study abroad for scholars studying towards their Masters or PhD in the field of their choice

# FirstRand Foundation partnerships

- In line with the FirstRand Foundation's strategic intent to empower communities to be active participants in the broader South African economy, the foundation trustees mandated the scholarship programme to look for five new scholarship partnerships for 5 years with international institutions from 2023 in areas of importance to South Africa
- It takes at least 3 to 5 years to attract the top scholars to any new scholarship
- Partnerships are being pursued with international universities in areas of sustainability/climate change, hydrology and water, African studies and public policy – these are close to completion and the new scholarships should be available from the 2023 academic year

# Scholarships for 2023

**FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship** for international postgraduate study – R925 000\*

- Two scholarships awarded

**FirstRand Foundation scholarship** for international postgraduate study – R925 000

- Three scholarships awarded to previously disadvantaged students

**FirstRand Oxford African Studies scholarship** for a master's degree in African Studies at the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies

- One full scholarship awarded

**FirstRand Oxford Blavatnik School of Government Scholarship** for a Master of Public Policy at the University of Oxford

- One full scholarship awarded

**FirstRand Oxford Smith School Scholarship** for a MSc in Sustainability, Enterprise, and the Environment at the University of Oxford

- One full scholarship awarded

**FirstRand IHE Delft Scholarship** for a Masters degree in Water and Sustainable Development at IHE Delft Institute for Water Education

- One full scholarship awarded

• 2022 award amounts indicative of future award value.

# Scholarship details

# FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar and FirstRand foundation scholarships

- Available to South African citizens for postgraduate study at an international university of their choice
- **Criteria:**
  - Academic excellence
    - As schools are not all equal, it is anticipated that some students may struggle in their first year of university
    - There should, however, be an improvement in academic results afterwards
    - By the final or honours years, good or excellent academic results are expected
  - Leadership qualities – applicants are expected to meaningfully contribute to South Africa when they return from their studies; do they have what it takes to implement what they dream of?
  - Community involvement – applicants should have interests beyond themselves and should be able to explain what their proposed studies would mean to communities they hope to impact
  - Ability to be destiny changer – **looking for exceptional South Africans who will come back to SA after their studies and make a difference in the country**



# FirstRand Oxford African Studies scholarship for a master's degree in African Studies at the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies

- Collaboration between the FirstRand Foundation, the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies and Wadham College at Oxford University
- This is the second five-year partnership with the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies and Wadham College
- Funded 50% by Oxford School of Global and Area Studies and 50% by the FirstRand Foundation for a full scholarship
- The FirstRand Foundation, will at its discretion, assist with visa, travel and medical expenses
- The scholarship is for a South African citizen to study a master's degree in African Studies at the School of Global and Area Studies at the University of Oxford
- The successful candidate will be housed at Wadham College
- Before applying for this scholarship, a course application to the African Studies Centre at the University of Oxford should be submitted. The closing date for applications to the University of Oxford is Friday 12pm UK time, 20 January 2023
- <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/msc-african-studies>



# Wadham College – FirstRand Oxford Scholarships



# FirstRand Oxford Smith School Scholarship for a MSc in Sustainability, Enterprise and the Environment

- Collaboration between the FirstRand Foundation, the Smith School and Wadham College at the Oxford of University
  - Funded 50% by the Smith School and 50% by the FirstRand Foundation for a full scholarship
  - The FirstRand Foundation, will at is discretion, assist with visa, travel and medical expenses
  - The scholarship is for a South African citizen to study a MSc degree in Sustainability, Enterprise and the Environment (MSc SEE) at the Smith School at the University of Oxford
  - The successful candidate will be housed at Wadham College
  - Before applying for this scholarship, a course application to the Smith School for a MSc SEE at the University of Oxford should be submitted. The closing date for applications to the University of Oxford is Friday 12pm UK time, 20 January 2023
  - <https://www.smithschool.ox.ac.uk/course/msc-sustainability-enterprise-and-environment>



# FirstRand Oxford Smith School Scholarship for a MSc in Sustainability, Enterprise and the Environment (continued)

- *“The MSc in Sustainability, Enterprise and the Environment addresses two pervasive and unmet challenges of our time: making the transition to a zero-carbon and environmentally sustainable economic model, whilst simultaneously enabling sustainable development for everyone, poor and rich alike. The course views these challenges through the lenses of finance, economics and enterprise – both public and private – whilst also leveraging environmental and complexity sciences.”*

~ Smith School at the University of Oxford
- MSc SEE and South Africa:  
*“South Africa is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change – effects which are already being felt. Solving these ‘wicked problems’ requires not just theoretical knowledge and applied skills, but also leadership. MSc SEE equips students with all three – and does so with a strong sense of intellectual curiosity, inquisitiveness, justness, empathy and humility toward understanding and solving the unique challenges facing countries like South Africa.”*

~ Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment



# FirstRand Oxford Blavatnik School of Government Scholarship for a Master of Public Policy

- Collaboration between the FirstRand Foundation, the Blavatnik School of Government and Wadham College at Oxford University
  - Funded 50% by the Blavatnik School of Government and 50% by the FirstRand Foundation for a full scholarship
  - The FirstRand Foundation, will at its discretion, assist with visa, travel and medical expenses
  - The scholarship is for a South African citizen to study a Master of public policy at the Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford
  - The successful candidate will be housed at Wadham College
  - Before applying for this scholarship, a course application to the Blavatnik School of Government for a Master of Public Policy at the University of Oxford should be submitted
  - The closing date for applications to the University of Oxford is Friday 12pm UK time, 6 January 2023
  - <https://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/study/mpp/how-apply-mpp>



# FirstRand Oxford Blavatnik School of Government Scholarship for a Master of Public Policy (continued)

The Blavatnik School of Government addresses the defining issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and has never been more relevant. Alliances and coalitions are fragmenting under the pressures of geo-politics. International security is further threatened by the catastrophe of climate change, cyber-terrorism, and economic instability across the globe. Consensus is breaking down; debate and discussion are being hijacked by polarisation of views and the rise of authoritarian regimes which seek to shut down opposition. Our vision remains a world better led, a world better served and a world better governed. We are a global school committed to improving the quality of government and public policymaking, through three routes:

- Teaching current and future leaders
- Pioneering research with impact
- Engaging with governments and practitioners

*“The School offers a distinctive approach to learning about public policy; it is a transformative opportunity for current and future leaders with a commitment to public service.”*

~ Dean, Ngaire Woods



# FirstRand IHE Delft Scholarship for a Master's degree in Water and Sustainable Development

- Collaboration between the FirstRand Foundation and IHE Delft Institute for Water Education
- Funded 70% by the FirstRand Foundation and 30% by IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, for a full scholarship
- The scholarship is for a South African citizen to study a one-year master's (68 ECTS) in sustainable development at IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, Delft, the Netherlands
- Before applying for this scholarship, a course application for the one-year master's degree in Water and Sustainable Development at IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, Delft, the Netherlands should be submitted
- The closing date for applications for this MSc at IHE Delft is Thursday, 2 March 2023
- MSc Programmes | IHE Delft Institute for Water Education ([un-ihe.org](http://un-ihe.org))
- Home – Apply IHE Delft ([un-ihe.org](http://un-ihe.org))

# FirstRand IHE Delft Scholarship for a Master's degree in Water and Sustainable Development (continued)

- *“The recently issued sixth IPCC report confirms the increase of extreme climate events, many of which involve excess water or lack of it. Meanwhile, the 2030 target date for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including the availability of clean water and sanitation, is fast approaching and accelerated action is needed by all countries if they are to be attained.”*

Professor Eddy Moors, Rector, IHE Delft

- *“The MSc in Water and Sustainable Development offers flexibility. You can focus on your chosen subject within one of the four thematic tracks: Water Hazards, Risks and Climate; Water and Health; Water, Food and Energy; and Water Resources and Ecosystem Health. You can study your track from different perspectives (profiles): Engineering and Hydrology; Governance and Management; Environment; Digital Innovation and Hydroinformatics. Alternatively, you can combine profiles from different tracks to build a customized programme that meets your specific interest and needs.”*

~ IHE Delft



# MSc in Water and Sustainable Development

- Accredited MSc programme for students and early career water professionals/researchers
- Personalised curricula
- Interdisciplinary and 100% international
- Active coaching

Scholarships  
available for  
2023!

Applications  
open in  
October

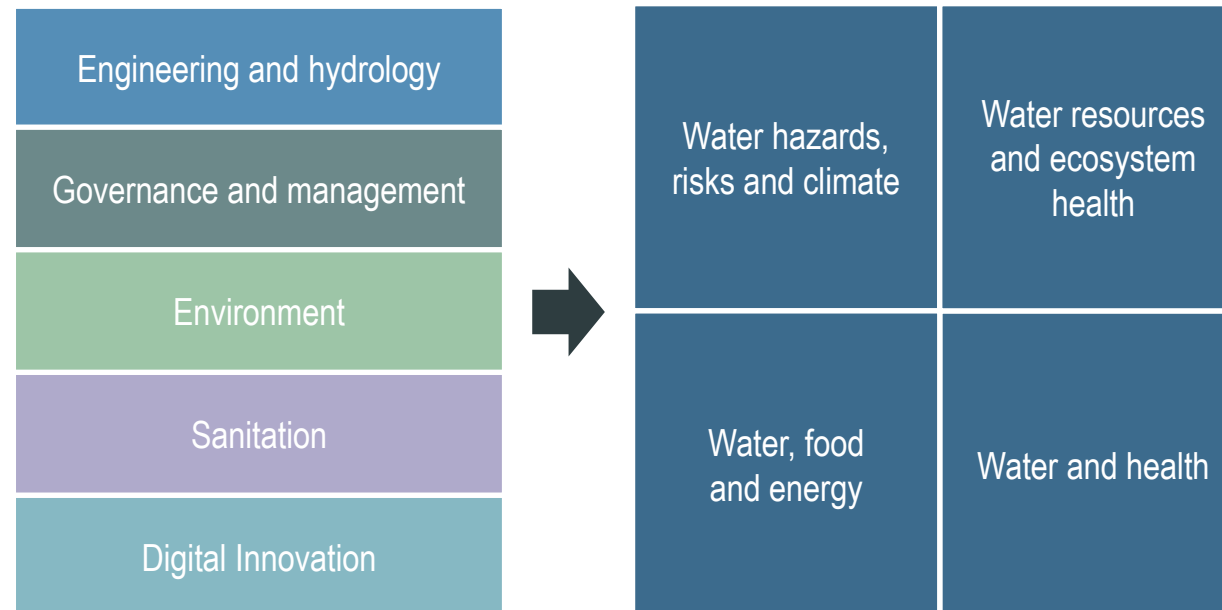


- One year (68EC) programme
- Starting yearly in October

# MSc in Water and Sustainable Development

Students are admitted based on their preference for:

- **disciplinary profile;** and
- **thematic track**



# Awards to date

2006	2018	2017
<p data-bbox="122 475 644 689"><b>FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar and FirstRand Foundation Scholarship</b> and assistance and other bursaries</p> <div data-bbox="208 905 563 1248"><p data-bbox="308 975 463 1061">AWARDS TO DATE</p><p data-bbox="333 1090 435 1176"><b>70</b></p></div>	<p data-bbox="721 475 1251 803"><b>FirstRand FNB Fund scholarship</b> for International Postgraduate study in Education and <b>FirstRand FNB Fund Oxford Education Scholarship</b></p> <div data-bbox="828 905 1182 1248"><p data-bbox="927 975 1082 1061">AWARDS TO DATE</p><p data-bbox="952 1090 1054 1176"><b>10</b></p></div>	<p data-bbox="1319 475 1849 746"><b>FirstRand Oxford African Studies scholarship</b> for a master's degree at the African Studies Centre and Wadham College at Oxford University</p> <div data-bbox="1419 905 1773 1248"><p data-bbox="1518 975 1674 1061">AWARDS TO DATE</p><p data-bbox="1564 1090 1625 1176"><b>4</b></p></div>

# Alumni stories

- **Bubele Boo**, 2018 FirstRand Foundation Scholarship
  - Masters in Music Technology, New York University
  - In 2019, Bubele produced a song on Beyonce's Lion King album
- **Farai Mubaiwa**, 2017 FirstRand Foundation Scholarship
  - Masters in the Political Economy of Emerging Markets at Kings College London
  - Chosen out of over 2000 applications across the Commonwealth to receive the prestigious Queen's Young Leader Award at Buckingham Palace in London
- **Genna Gardini**, 2016 FirstRand Foundation scholarship
  - PhD in Drama, Queen Mary, University of London
  - Genna won the 2020 CASA Award, a Canadian sponsored mentorship for a South African Woman playwright
- **Charlotte Slingsby**, 2013 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship
  - Masters in Innovation Design Engineering, Imperial College London and Royal College of Art
  - Forbes 30 Under 30

# General scholarship criteria

- SA citizenship required
- Excellence is a key criteria in the selection of candidates across all scholarships
- Successful candidates will have excelled academically in their chosen field
- Demonstrated leadership qualities
- Strength of character
- Community-orientated initiatives
- Potential to be a destiny changer in his or her chosen field
- Candidates who are currently, or have been studying overseas for degree purposes, will not be considered for this scholarship
- Successful candidates have to return to South Africa for at least five years after completing their studies

# Process

- Application forms will be available at <https://bursaries.firststrand.co.za/> from 16 December and will close on Thursday, 2 March 2023
- Applicants are evaluated by panel comprised of senior executives from across the FirstRand group, alumni of the scholarship, and an independent academic from one of SA's top universities
- Each application is reviewed by at least three panelists
- A preliminary 'long list' of around 45 applications are selected to be interviewed either in person or per telephone by a team from FirstRand and independent academics
- Scholars need to have applied for and be accepted to their university of choice by beginning April
- Specialists are asked for their opinion if necessary
- Final shortlist of around 18 candidates for the FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar and FirstRand Foundation Scholarships and the three University of Oxford and the IHE Delft scholarships are selected and invited to Sandton for the final interviews in two groups – selection panel includes:
  - Members of the Dippenaar family
  - CEO and chairman of FirstRand
  - Chair and a trustee of the FirstRand Foundation
  - VC of a South African university
- Final announcement will be made before the end of May

# 2022 awarded candidates

2022 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar Scholarships	
<p>Palesa Phalafala</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MBCHB at UFS,</li> <li>• Masters in Medicine at WITS</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposed: Fellowship in Microsurgery in Hands at National University of Health, SINGAPORE</b></p>	<p>Siya Charles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bachelor of Music, specializing in jazz trombone performance at UCT</li> <li>• Bachelor of Music (Honours), specializing in jazz trombone at UCT</li> <li>• Master of Music, specializing in dissertation and performance at UCT</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposed: Master of Music – specializing in jazz tenor trombone performance at The Juilliard School</b></p>
2022 FirstRand Foundation Scholarships	
<p>Tshephisho Somo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LLB at UP</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposed: MSc in International Oil and Petroleum Management at University of Dundee</b></p>	<p>Michael Burke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bachelor of Engineering (Industrial) at SU</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposed: MSc Business Analytics at The University of Edinburgh</b></p>
2022 FirstRand FNB Fund Scholarship for International Postgraduate study in Education	
<p>Christine Strauss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BSc Human Life Sciences at SU</li> <li>• Honors BSc Human Genetics at SU</li> <li>• Postgraduate LLB (3-year) at SU</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposed: LLM at Science and Technology Law at Stanford University (USA)</b></p>	
2022 FirstRand FNB Fund Oxford Education Scholarship	2022 FirstRand FNB Fund Oxford African Studies Scholarship
<p>Ingrid Pienaar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B Soc Sci English Lit and Social Anthropology at UCT</li> <li>• BA Honours English Literature at UCT</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposed: MSc Education (Child Development and Education) at Oxford University</b></p>	<p>Zaphesheya Dlamini</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BA Political Science in Political Studies at UP</li> <li>• BA Honours International Relations at UP</li> <li>• Masters of Art in Political Science at UP</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposed: MSc African Studies at Oxford University</b></p>

# Universities and fields of studies

2017 UCT	Engineering	2021 Stellenbosch	Commerce
2017 UCT	Engineering	2021 Wits	Commerce
2017 UCT	Law	2021 UKZN	Humanities
2017 Stellenbosch	Engineering	2021 UCT	Humanities
2017 Stellenbosch	Commerce	2021 Wits	Humanities
2017 Wits	Humanity		
2018 Wits	Engineering		
2018 Wits/UCT	Science	2022 Wits and University of the Free State	Health Science
2018 Wits	Humanity	2022 Stellenbosch	Engineering
2018 University of Free State	Commerce	2022 Stellenbosch	Law
2018 UCT	Music	2022 UCT	Education
2018 University of Pretoria	Law	2022 UP	Law
2018 University of Pretoria	Humanity	2022 UP	Humanities
2018 CPUT/Rhodes University	Humanity	2022 UCT	Humanities
2018 UCT	Humanity		
2019 UCT	Engineering		
2019 UCT	Commerce		
2019 UJ	Linguistics		
2019 UP	Law		
2019 UCT	Arts		
2019 UCT	Dev studies		
2019 Wits	ChemEng		
2020 Stellenbosch	Medicine		
2020 UCT	Engineering		
2020 Wits	Law		
2020 UCT	Commerce		
2020 UJ	Biochemistry		
2020 Wits	Humanities		
2020UKZN	Science		
2020 UCT	Humanities		





# 2022 participating universities

University of the Witwatersrand	28	28.8%
University of Cape Town	25	25.7%
University of Stellenbosch	11	11.3%
University of Pretoria	10	10.3%
UNISA	10	10.3%
University of Johannesburg	4	4.1%
UKZN	4	4.1%
University of the Free State	3	3.09%
Rhodes University	3	3.09%
UWC/NNMU/UNW	2	2.06%
Other	3	3.09%
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Faculties

Humanities	38	36.9%
Commerce	17	16.5%
Engineering	9	8.7%
Sciences	21	20.4%
Law	14	13.6%
Medicine	4	3.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Important email addresses and websites:

- For any additional information: [firstrandpgscholarship@firstrand.co.za](mailto:firstrandpgscholarship@firstrand.co.za)
- To access the FirstRand website and application forms: <https://bursaries.firstrand.co.za/>
- For additional insights and behind-the-scenes information on the scholarships on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu-USvinwYHr8esaYiibo1w>
- Applications open: **16 December 2022**
- Applications close: **2 March 2023**