
Call for Applications: ALC Scholarship/Bursary support
2023

The African Laser Centre initiative (ALC) is an **open non-exclusive partnership** to stimulate innovation, research and technology development **in lasers and the applications thereof**, across Africa. In support of this broad objective, the ALC **seeks local, continental and global partnerships** to support this objective. The ALC is also recognized as an **AU-NEPAD Flagship Program**. To enable this objective the ALC has an active ALC Research Collaboration support program, a conference, workshops and topical school program (The ALC Training Program), a ALC Knowledge Exchange Program and a ALC Scholarship program for African students to enrol and do post graduate degrees at a South African Tertiary Institution in a laser- and laser application related research field.

The CSIR Photonics Centre is managing the funding allocation from the Department of Science and Innovation in support of the objectives of the Africa Laser Centre (ALC).

The CSIR hereby invites applications from researchers in South Africa or across Africa with active collaborations with researchers at South African universities for bursary support for their African students¹ who intend furthering their post graduate studies in laser and laser application related disciplines at South African universities in 2023.

Support for all ALC activities is subject to availability of funding. For Master level studies the ALC Scholarship value for 2023 will be R 90 000 per annum and For Doctoral studies the annual value is R 120 000. For Master level studies, only 2 years of funding support will be allowed, and for Doctoral studies, 3 years of funding support will be allowed.

It is important to note that students who presently hold an ALC Scholarship, and who have not yet completed their studies, also need to apply for continuation funding.

¹ Students from African countries excluding the Republic of South Africa (RSA). Only a few RSA students may be considered under exceptional circumstances, and subject to the availability of funding.

Who may apply?

- Students working within an existing funded ALC collaboration project who wish to pursue laser and / or laser applications related Master or Doctoral research studies at a South African university will get preference.
- Master and Doctoral students from Africa who wish to pursue their studies in laser and / or laser applications related disciplines at South African universities can also apply.

Note: The application for an ALC Scholarship has to be submitted via a supervisor at a South African university where the student is, or will be enrolled. ALC Research Collaboration project grant-holders must apply on behalf of their student (s). A strong motivation is required by the South African based supervisor of the student.

Evaluation Criteria:

The decision to award the bursary will be final and the following criteria will be used:

- Student's performance gleaned from academic record and motivated by research supervisor.
- Relevance of research project in which a student will be involved (it must be laser- and/or laser applications-based research).
- Acceptance of student by a South African university (letter of acceptance from university is a requirement).
- Preference will be given to applications where the student's studies is aligned with an existing ALC research collaboration project.
- A certified copy of the student's full tertiary academic record is required. Not submitting this will **disqualify** an application.
- For continuation students, a detailed Annual Progress Report must also be submitted. A template for the report is available from the CSIR Photonics Centre. Continuation funding will not be allocated if a fully signed ALC Scholarship Application **and** signed ALC Scholarship Annual Progress Report are not available at the closing date for applications.

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Call launch date: 5 September 2022

Closing date for applications: 28 October 2022

Scholarship application forms and templates for progress reports are available from the CSIR National Laser Centre

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