



FirstRand
FOUNDATION

2024 FirstRand international postgraduate scholarships

Beth van Heerden/Rabia Awasi



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 up to R1,500,000 for a Masters degree and up to R2,000,000 for PhD studies at any University overseas and in any field of study.



FirstRand Empowerment Foundation scholarships

- In 2016 the FirstRand Foundation resolved to provide additional scholarships in the spirit of the FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship and the FirstRand Foundation Scholarships for international postgraduate study were created.
- In 2023, a decision was taken to move the scholarships from the FirstRand Foundation to the FirstRand Empowerment Foundation from 2024.
- The FirstRand Empowerment Foundation's mandate is to reduce poverty and inequality by undertaking and/or supporting public benefit activities that result in B-BBEE. The Quality Education strategic pillar aims to provide access to further learning opportunities (including the provision of domestic bursaries, international scholarships, and fellowships).
- The FirstRand Empowerment Foundation scholarships currently awards three scholarships worth up to R1,500,000 for a Masters degree and up to R2,000,000 for a PhD for studies at any University overseas and in any field of study.

FirstRand Empowerment Foundation partnerships

- In line with the FirstRand Empowerment Foundation's Quality Education strategic pillar, aiming to provide access to further learning opportunities in areas where South Africa has a skills shortage, partnership scholarships were pursued for 5 years with the following international institutions:
 - **FirstRand Oxford African Studies scholarship**
 - **FirstRand Oxford Blavatnik School of Government Scholarship**
 - **FirstRand Oxford Smith School Scholarship**
 - **FirstRand IHE Delft Scholarship**
- It takes at least 3 to 5 years to attract the top scholars to any new scholarship
- Partnerships have been pursued with international universities in areas of sustainability/climate change, hydrology and water, African studies and public policy. We are continuously looking for new partnerships that are aligned with skills that will be required in South Africa.

Scholarships for 2024

FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship for international postgraduate study – Worth up to R1,500,000 for a Masters degree and up to R2,000,000 for a PhD

- Two scholarships available

FirstRand Empowerment Foundation scholarship for international postgraduate study – Worth up to R1,500,000 for a Masters degree and up to R2,000,000 for a PhD

- Three scholarships available

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 Masters in 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

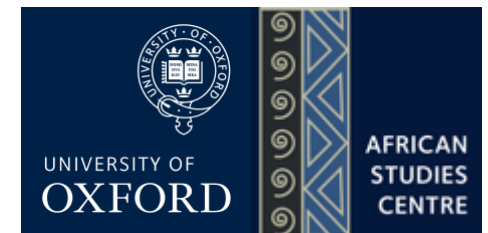
Scholarship details

FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar and FirstRand Empowerment 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 Empowerment 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 Empowerment Foundation for a full scholarship
- The FirstRand Empowerment 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, 19 January 2024**
- <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 Empowerment 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 Empowerment 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, 19 January 2024**
- <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's in Public Policy

- Collaboration between the FirstRand Empowerment 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 Empowerment Foundation for a full scholarship
 - The FirstRand Empowerment 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 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's in 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, **5 January 2024**
 - <https://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/study/mpp/how-apply-mpp>



FirstRand Oxford Blavatnik School of Government Scholarship for a Master's in Public Policy (continued)

The Blavatnik School of Government addresses the defining issues of the 21st 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 Empowerment Foundation and IHE Delft Institute for Water Education
- Funded 70% by the FirstRand Empowerment 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, **7 March 2024**
- MSc Programmes | IHE Delft Institute for Water Education (un-ihe.org)
- Home – Apply IHE Delft (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
2024!

Applications
open in
October

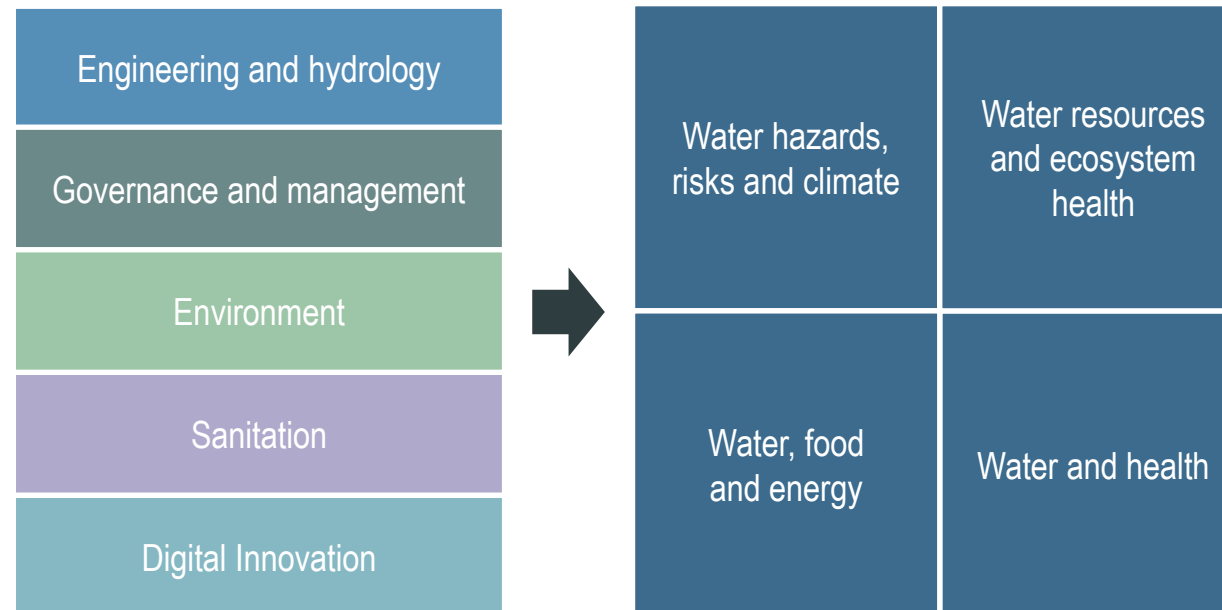


- One year (68EC) programme
- Starting yearly in October

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	2023
<p>FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar and FirstRand Foundation Scholarship and assistance and other bursaries</p>	<p>FirstRand FNB Fund scholarship for International Postgraduate study in Education and FirstRand FNB Fund Oxford Education Scholarship</p>	<p>FirstRand Oxford African Studies scholarship for a master's degree at the African Studies Centre and Wadham College at Oxford University</p>	<p>FirstRand IHE Delft Scholarship for a Master's degree in Water and Sustainable Development</p>
<p>AWARDS TO DATE</p> <p>75</p>	<p>AWARDS TO DATE</p> <p>10</p>	<p>AWARDS TO DATE</p> <p>5</p>	<p>AWARDS TO DATE</p> <p>1</p>

Alumni Stories

2013 Momentum Dippenaar Scholarship

Mluleki Shongwe



- LLM in Finance and Law, Duisenberg School of Finance
- Governor's Award at the South African Reserve Bank for his contributions to the launch of the Covid-19 Loan Guarantee Scheme

2013 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar Scholarship

Charlotte Slingsby



- Masters in Innovation Design Engineering, Imperial College London and Royal College of Art
- Forbes 30 under 30

2016 FirstRand Foundation Scholarship

Genna Gardini



- PhD in Drama, Queen Mary, University of London
- Genna won the 2020 CASA Award, a Canadian sponsored mentorship for a South African Woman playwright

2017 FirstRand Foundation Scholarship

Farai Mubaiwa



- Masters in the Political Economy of Emerging Markets at Kings College London
- Queen's Young Leader Award at Buckingham Palace in London and Top 100 influential young South Africans in 2020

2018 FirstRand Foundation Scholarship

Bubele Boo



- Masters in Music Technology, New York University
- In 2019, Bubele produced a song on Beyonce's Lion King Album

2017 FirstRand Foundation Scholarship

Tshepo Moloi



- M Sc in Economics and Public Policy, University of York
- 2023 Mail and Guardian Top 200 Young South Africans and UFS Chancellor's Distinguished Alumni Award



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 15 December 2023 and will close on Thursday, 7 March 2024
- 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 Empowerment 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 Empowerment Foundation
 - Board member of FirstRand
- Final announcement will be made before the end of May

2023 Scholars

2023 FirstRand Laurie
Dippenaar Scholarship

Ayabulela Mhlahlo

- Masters of Arts in African Literature at Wits

PhD in Philosophy at the University of Connecticut, USA



2023 FirstRand Laurie
Dippenaar Scholarship

Daniel Johnson

- M Sc in Astrophysics and Space Science at UCT

PhD in Astrophysics at the University of Montpellier, France



2023 FirstRand
Foundation Scholarships

Azminah Jhetam

- LLB at Wits

Bachelor of Civil Law at the University of Oxford, UK



2023 FirstRand
Foundation Scholarships

Jaron Cohen

- Bachelor of Science Hons at UP

M Sc in Advanced Computer Science at the University of Oxford, UK



2023 FirstRand
Foundation Scholarships

Malaika Mahlatsi

- Masters in Urban and Regional Planning at UJ

PhD in Geography at the University of Bayreuth, Germany



2023 FirstRand IHE
DELFT

Cindy Cherry

- B Sc Civil Engineering at UCT

M Sc in Water and Sustainable Development at the IHE Delft Water Education Institute in Delft, The Netherlands



2023 FirstRand Oxford
African Studies

Micaella Rogers

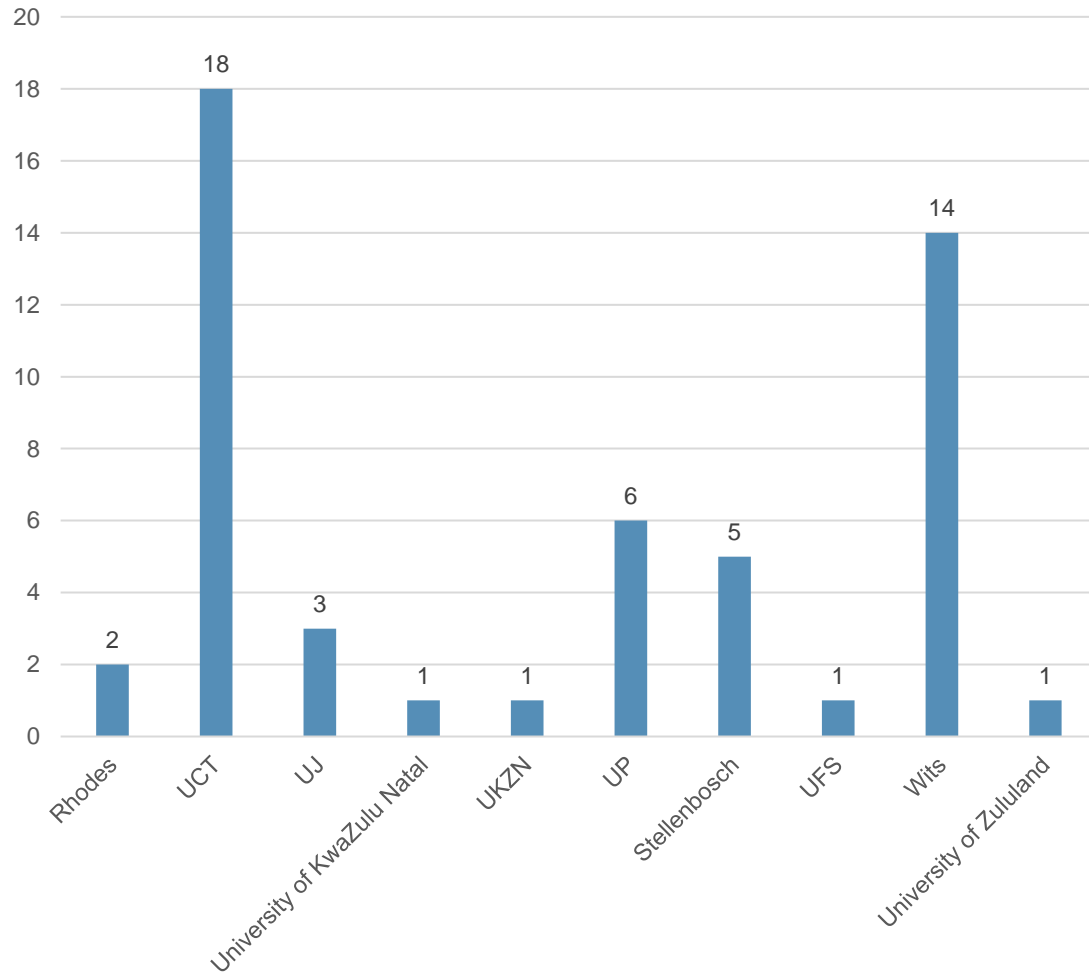
- B Com Economics Hons at UCT

M Sc African Studies at the University of Oxford, UK

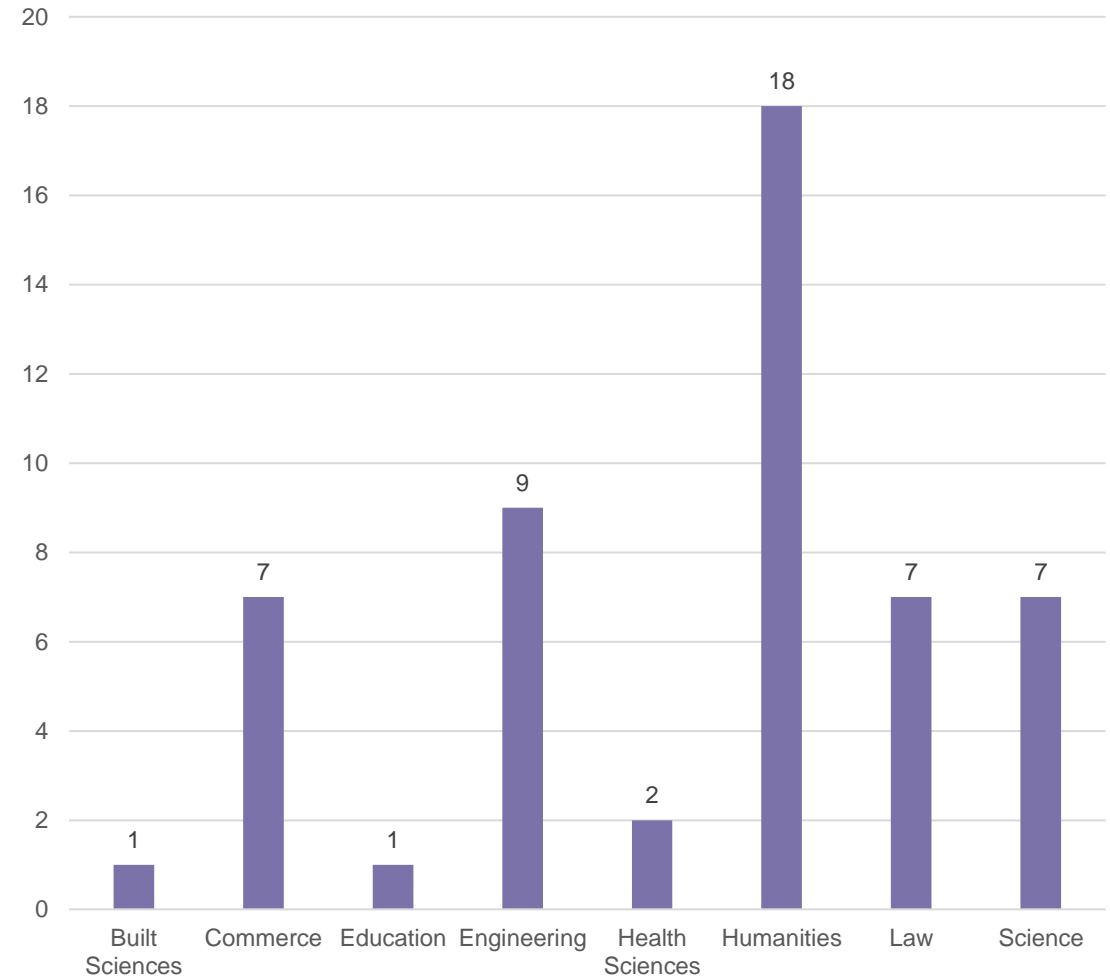


Scholar Alumni: Universities and Fields of Study

Universities 2017-2023

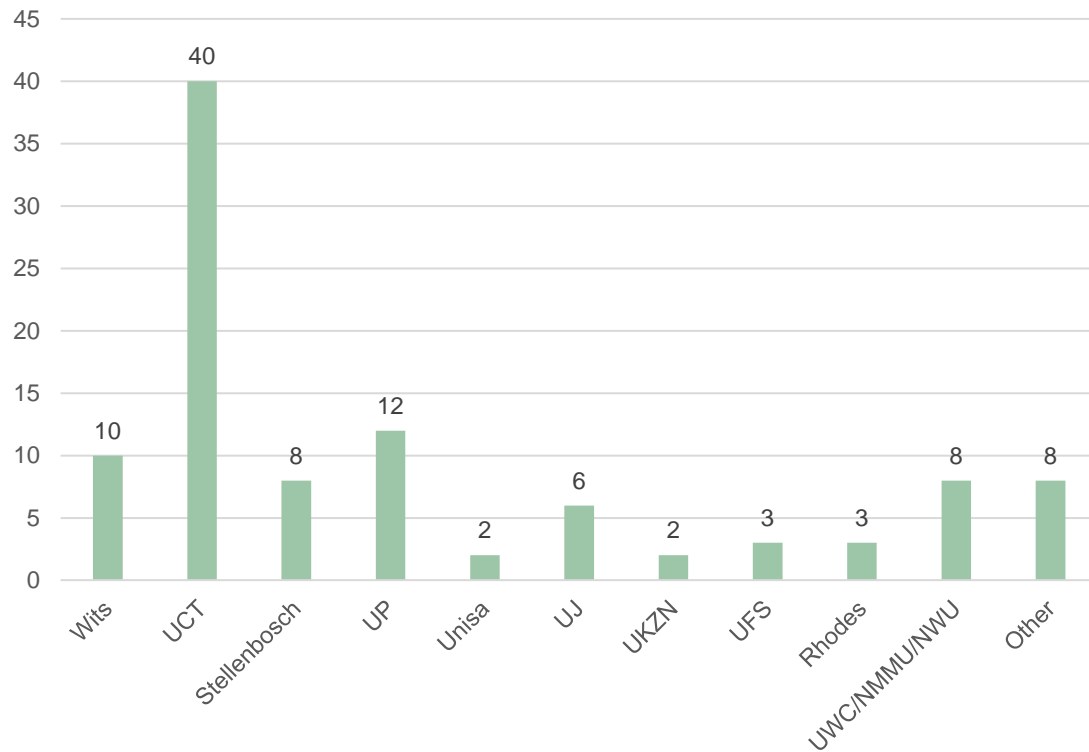


Fields of Study 2017-2023

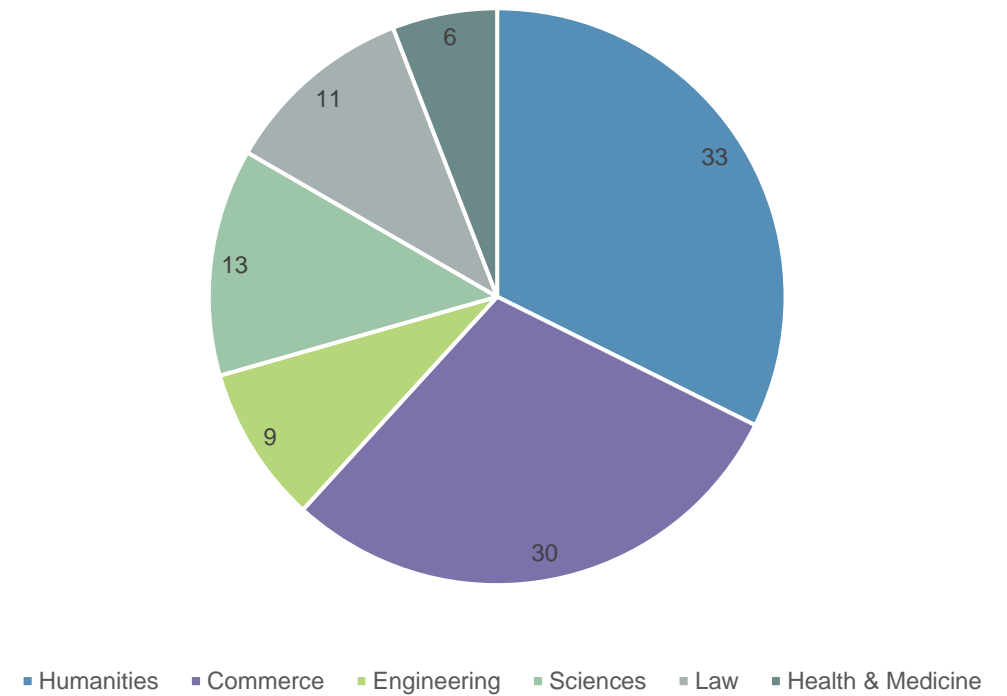


2023 Applications

Applicant Universities



Applicant Fields of Study



Important email addresses and websites:

- For any additional information: 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: **15 December 2023**
- Applications close: **7 March 2024**

