

## POSTGRADUATE MERIT AWARD

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS STUDENTS SHOULD TAKE NOTE OF FOR UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE FUNDING.

The aim of the University Postgraduate Merit Award (PMA) is to assist graduates to complete Honours, Masters or PhD degrees by research or by a combination of course work and research on a full-time basis only.

- Tuition fees up to a maximum of **R68 000** will be awarded to students who qualify.
- **This award is based purely on academic merit and the availability of funds.**

**The Postgraduate Merit Award does not fund all courses. These courses are all undergraduate degrees, undergraduate professional degrees, LLB, MBBCH, Bsc Eng, BEdu etc. are not funded by this award as well as all Postgraduate Diploma's, Advanced Diploma's and Postgraduate Certificates & Master of Business Administration (MBA), Part time\* courses, Block-release programmes and students registered as Awaiting Examiners.**

**\*Part time Note:**

**As of 2023, Part time students will no longer be eligible for the Postgraduate Merit Award. The current Part time students who received the Postgraduate Merit Award in 2022 will be phased out. Therefore, there will be no new Part-time awards from 2023.**

*Please note that the PMA does not pay for international registration fees, clubs and societies, parking etc.*

**Criteria**

	<b>WITS STUDENTS</b>	<b>NEW STUDENTS</b>
<b><u>PhD</u></b>	Masters must be completed in N+1 years. Students need to obtain a weighted average mark of 75%.	Masters must be completed in N+1 years. Students need to obtain an average mark of 75%.
<b><u>MASTERS by Coursework and Research</u></b>  <b><u>MASTERS by Research</u></b>	Students who receive a weighted average mark of 75% or above for their 4 <sup>th</sup> year of their professional degree, Honours degree or Postgraduate Diploma. Students are ranked according to their average.	Students who receive an average mark of 75% or above for their 4 <sup>th</sup> year of their professional degree, Honours degree or Postgraduate Diploma. Students are ranked according to their average.
<b><u>HONOURS</u></b>	Undergraduate degree must be completed within N+1 years. Students who received a weighted average mark of 75% or above for their Last year of their undergraduate degree (YOS 3) or 3-year National Diploma. -	Undergraduate degree must be completed within N+1 years. Students who received an average mark of 75% or above for their Last year of their undergraduate degree (YOS 3) or 3-year National Diploma.

- **Please note: If a student has repeated a year of study or writes a supplementary/deferred or rewrites a module, this will be considered.**
- **Modules for non-degree purposes and or registered as Occasional studies will not be evaluated.**

### Process

- Only students that have a **firm offer** for admission will be considered in the selection process.
- All awards are automated based on the PMA criteria. This means that students **do not** need to apply for the award.
- There will be **no appeals** for the awards, as it will be strictly based on the criteria and the availability of funds.

The automated system will run for all four intakes for PG admission:

1 <sup>st</sup> Intake	2 <sup>nd</sup> Intake	3 <sup>rd</sup> Intake	4 <sup>th</sup> Intake
January	April	July	September

### Allocation of award

- Awards will only be allocated to the students that register for a particular intake that they indicate on their admission application.
- Allocations will be done automatically and can be viewed on the fee statement.
- Students do not need to sign any form for the award to be allocated to the fee account.
- However, should a student wish to decline the award, they may do so by submitting a letter to the Financial Aid Office ([info.finaid@wits.ac.za](mailto:info.finaid@wits.ac.za)) please use "Cancellation of PMA" as the subject
- **Only Full-time students** will need to complete duties for their stipend.
- Part time\* students **do not** qualify for a stipend.

#### Important Notice

- If you add modules during the year, notify the Financial Aid Office as payment is subject to availability of funds.
- Inform the Financial Aid Office if you change from part-time to full-time or vice versa.
- Notify the Financial Aid Office if you upgrade or convert your degree. Students who register in the second semester should ensure that they are registered for half year modules according to the Faculty rules.

### PMA obligation for FULL TIME STUDENTS ONLY:

#### **Departmental Duties**

1. These duties are at the discretion of the school in which the student is studying and is compulsory for the Postgraduate Merit Award Full Time recipients.
2. These duties should be academically related and not administrative.
3. **FAILURE TO PERFORM THESE DUTIES WILL LEAD TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE AWARD.**

4. Duties will be monitored by the school administrator. A list of PMA students will be sent to the school for your duties to be allocated.
5. The schools will let the Financial Aid Office know which students have completed their duties by submitting a list approved by the Head of School. Submission dates for Schools to send to FASO is stated below.
6. Awaiting Examiners **do not** perform duties.

The below listed are awarded as follows per block.

<b>Honours</b>	R5 700
<b>Masters</b>	R5 700
<b>PHD</b>	R5 700

**Submission dates for PMA stipends**

**These dates are for schools to submit the lists to FASO for all students that have completed their duties.**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Block</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Block</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Block</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2025
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Block</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> October 2025

- **Students must complete all required hours per week for each teaching block. A stipend cannot be paid if the required hours are not completed.**
- **NB: Please make sure that you have updated your bank details on the system with Fees Office before submission date of the first stipend. Banking details can be updated on the student self-service portal.**
- **The last stipend will not be paid out if the student has outstanding fees after payment of the last stipend is made.**

**Renewals**

Please note that the normal maximum tenure is as follows:

<b>Postgraduate Merit Award</b>		<b>Postgraduate Merit Award</b>	
<b>Full-Time</b>		<b>Part-Time*</b>	
PhD	3 years	PhD	4 years
Masters	2 years	Masters	3 years
Honours	1 year	Honours	2 years

**Students who have received funding for full time and change to part time will not be Eligible for PMA**

**Maximum Limit of Funding:**

- Please note that each level of study has a maximum limit of total funding.

- Should the student reach this maximum limit with an external and or Faculty/School bursary including the PMA & NRF, the tuition and stipend will be reversed or reduced to meet the maximum limit.
- Please note that this means if you reach the maximum limit, you may not receive the rest of your PMA stipends.

**Maximum Limits are:**

PhD	R307 400
Masters	R239 500
Honours	R196 300

**Application Status**

**Provisional Offers**

The offer is provisional as there are obligations attached to the award, these include:

1. The student registers for the specific level of study, attendance type and intake that he/she has applied for.
2. The student performs the academic departmental duties of **6 hours per week**, per block if the student receives the Postgraduate Merit Award for Full Time study.
3. Students that have received the Postgraduate Merit Award for Part-Time **are not to perform academic duties** related to this award\*.
4. Provisional Offer is not a final offer; it is confirmed once the award reflects on your fee account.
5. Awaiting Examiners will not qualify for the award.