



Call for NRF Bursary Applications for 2027 intake:

**NRF SARCHI Chair in Cities, Law and Environmental
Sustainability (CLES)**

Faculty of Law, North-West University, Potchefstroom

The NRF SARCHI CLES Chair invites expressions of interest to join the Chair as a full-time residential Master's in Law (LLM) or Doctor in Law (PhD/LLD) student in 2027.

Applicants are expected to clearly demonstrate their interest in advancing the Chair's research focus on law, environmental sustainability, and urban development.

Minimum requirements:

For LLM studies: An average of 65% or above for the LLB Degree. Applicants must obtain an average of at least 65% for their research report/mini dissertation.

For PhD studies: An average of 65% or above for the LLM dissertation/thesis. A published article will be beneficial.

Potential funding:

From the NRF: R 145 000-00 to R 200 000-00 per year (depending on level of study and award conditions)

From the Faculty of Law: R 6000-00 per month (for 10 months from Feb to Nov)

From the NWU: R 32 700-00 or R35 410-00 once-off to cover tuition fees (depending on level of study; to be adjusted for inflation)

Potential total for the year: **R 282 700-00 (LLM)** or
R 295 410-00 (PhD)

To apply:

Submit the following documents by email to Dr Lourens Erasmus (lourens.erasmus@nwu.ac.za) by **Monday, 18 May 2026**, at the latest:

- CV (with two academic references listed)
- Copy of ID
- Copy of academic record
- For LLM applications: copy of completed / draft LLB mini-dissertation or a completed written assignment
- For PhD applications: copy of completed / draft LLM dissertation
- A memo of 2 pages explaining interest in joining the Chair as a postgraduate researcher. *Interest and experience in the specific research field should be clear.*

The SARChI CLES Chair will nominate successful applicants for CLES Linked NRF Bursaries. *Applicants still need to apply in their individual capacity to the NRF for funding and to the NWU for admission to pursue LLM or PhD studies. The internal NWU application date closes at the end of May.

For more on the CLES Chair, visit:

<https://law.nwu.ac.za/sarchi-cles-chair>

For more on the 2026 NRF funding instrument, visit:

<https://www.nrf.ac.za/dsti-nrf-postgraduate-student-funding-for-the-2027-academic-year/>