# *Call for Emerging Researcher Fund applications for 2019*

## *Emerging Researcher fund applications open 15 June 2018, close 31 July 2018*

The DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Epidemiological Modelling and Analysis (SACEMA) invites applications for Emerging Researcher Funding for students registered at a South African university for Masters, PhD or Postdoctoral study. Funding may not exceed R35 000, and is for project-related costs such as travel and collaboration. It is intended to support integration of empirical and modelling approaches in the student's research. Funds for equipment (e.g. computers), and staff (e.g. research assistants) will not be allowed .

## Eligibility Criteria

A background in quantitative methods is required, and interdisciplinary experience is welcome. Previous exposure to SACEMA's core research areas will be an advantage, and priority will be given to applicants demonstrating high motivation with projects closely aligned to SACEMA's mission and goals.

*Note: Students who currently hold a SACEMA bursary or have applied for one for 2019 are not eligible for this funding.*

The DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Epidemiological Modelling and Analysis (SACEMA) is a national research centre based at Stellenbosch University. The centre is dedicated to the modelling of disease transmission and progression, focusing on South Africa's major health challenges. SACEMA provides research facilities and a stimulating environment in which scientists can interact to transcend disciplinary and institutional boundaries. Our goal is to engage innovatively with fundamental issues in epidemiology and produce quantitative evidence to guide important decisions in national and international health policy. It is part of SACEMA's mission to foster links and generate inter-disciplinary collaborations with researchers at other institutions, hence support is offered to applicants who intend to be based at another institution in South Africa, and supervised there.

## PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS FOR SACEMA BURSARIES INCLUDE:

* Surveillance of HIV and other infections/conditions; in particular, incidence estimation methods and their application.
* Discovery and validation of HIV and TB biomarkers with clinical and surveillance applications.
* Individual-based modelling approaches for the transmission and spread of sexually transmitted infections; in particular, methods for the calibration of individual-based models to empirical data.
* Evaluating options for the control and prevention of infectious diseases; in particular: use of models to improve outbreak response, and strategic interventions in the face of high burdens of HIV and TB.
* Zoonotic and vector borne diseases; in particular, the impact of climate change on tsetse-borne trypanosomiasis.
* Interactions between infectious diseases and chronic conditions, at the scale of individuals or populations.

***For further details, instructions and application forms, go to the links for Emerging Researcher Fund applications at:*** *http://sacema.org/node/call-for-sacema-emerging-researcher-fund.* ***Enquiries may be directed to: Mr Masimba Paradza, mwparadza@sun.ac.za***