



Call for entrepreneurship and financial inclusion research bursary applications

GIBS Absa Chair in Entrepreneurship:
Bursary for master's (MBA, MPhils) and
doctoral studies research in African
entrepreneurship and financial inclusion.

**Gordon Institute
of Business Science**
University of Pretoria

Your story matters



The **GIBS Absa Chair in Entrepreneurship** is pleased to announce bursary opportunities for master's and doctoral students whose research focuses on Entrepreneurship and Financial Inclusion in Africa. Entrepreneurship is a critical driver of economic growth, job creation, and innovation in Africa. Across the continent both informal and formal small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) significantly improve livelihoods of communities. Despite the significance of SMEs, many entrepreneurs remain financially excluded. This raises interest in how entrepreneurship drives financial inclusion

by creating demand for financial services among businesses of all types and generating income, that in turn enhances financial literacy. The GIBS Absa Chair in Entrepreneurship is dedicated to advancing research that addresses pressing challenges faced by entrepreneurs, generates practical business insights, and informs policies and practices for sustainable development in Africa.

We invite current master's and doctoral students studying the broader topics of inclusive entrepreneurship and financial inclusion to apply for this opportunity.

Bursary Value

Doctoral bursaries

Two bursaries valued at R20 000 each

Master's bursaries

Five bursaries valued at R10 000 each

GIBS reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to withhold the awarding of any bursaries should it determine that the submitted proposals do not meet the required quality or standard.

Application Period

Opens
27 August 2025



Closes
17 September 2025

**Gordon Institute
of Business Science**
University of Pretoria

Your story matters



Qualification Criteria

01

Have a valid identity document.

02

Demonstrate registration for a master's or doctoral degree at an accredited African university.

03

Provide a letter of support from the student's research supervisor.

04

Demonstrate academic merit and research potential – master's students must achieve a minimum of 65% for their research proposal, while doctoral students must have their proposal formally approved by their university's research or doctoral committee.

05

Have a research topic directly related to entrepreneurship and/or financial inclusion.

06

Have received ethical clearance (for master's programme students).

07

Be at a stage in their studies where funds are required for research activities (e.g., data collection, fieldwork, and analysis).

08

Submit a brief research proposal (maximum three pages) outlining objectives, timeline, literature review, methodology, and expected contributions.

09

Provide a budget outline showing how the bursary funds will be utilised.

How to Apply

Complete the application form which you can download [here](#) along with:

CV

Certified copy
of identity
document

**Proof of university
registration**

**Proof of ethical
clearance**
and the grade
achieved for
research proposal
(master's
students)

Budget

**Brief research
proposal**
(maximum of three
pages) outlining
objectives, timeline,
literature review,
methodology,
and expected
contributions

Letter of support
from research
supervisor

**Formal research
proposal
acceptance**
(doctoral
students)

Submit to absachair@gibs.co.za

Enquiries

For more information, please contact:

Prof. Anastacia Mamabolo
mamaboloa@gibs.co.za

Prof. Kerrin Myres
myresk@gibs.co.za