

THE GIGSA BURSARY 2024

REVISION 1

1. INTRODUCTION

The GIGSA Bursary aims to support the growth of the appropriate knowledge of geosynthetics in South Africa.

2. TARGET GROUP

The GIGSA Bursary is open to Masters or PhD students studying at a South African Tertiary Education Institution, who are conducting research in line with the Mission of GIGSA, which includes promoting the appropriate use of geosynthetics, advancing geosynthetics knowledge or developing new geosynthetic technologies. Applicants must be GIGSA members. The research project may not be specifically developed with the aim of providing commercial advantages to a specific product or company.

3. FUNDS

The GIGSA Bursary supports applicants financially in South African Rand (ZAR). The amount for the 2024 Bursary is fixed at R 75.000,00 (seventy-five thousand Rand). Funds may be used for tuition fees, travel, conferences, labour, consumables and specialist equipment relevant to the research topic.

Approval of applications and allocation of funds will be at the sole discretion of the GIGSA Bursary Committee. The voting is confidential, and it will not be disclosed to any applicants. Funding may not meet the applicant's full funding requirements. The funds are available to the awardee until the 31st December 2024 unless requested in writing by the applicant and approved by the Treasurer of GIGSA.

Funds will be allocated quarterly in advance based on a quarterly forecast and detailed reconciliation including proof of expenditure. GIGSA reserves the right to terminate funding subject to progress compared to the project schedule and milestones. Funds will preferably be transferred to the institution account or will be paid against invoices signed by the institution Supervisor.

4. APPLICATIONS

Applications are required to be submitted no later than the 31st of October 2023 (**extended to 23rd of November 2023**). Applicants will be informed on the outcome of their applications by no later than the 15th of November 2023 (**extended to 30th of November 2023**).

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Applications should comprise the following documentation:

1. Cover letter of application to the GIGSA Bursary (1 page);
2. Topic of the research;
3. Scope of the research / proposal (1 page);
4. Letter of motivation by the proposed institution Supervisor;
5. Overall budget forecast;
6. Project schedule and clear milestones;
7. Copy of ID or Passport;
8. Proof of residence;
9. Academic record;
10. Proof of GIGSA membership;
11. Details of any other funding received or allocated to the student.

Should the student applying receive news of any other funding allocated to them following the submission of their application, GIGSA must be informed immediately. If the student is not registered at the time of application, the funds will only be made available after proof of registration.

GIGSA bursary applications shall be e-mailed to president@gigsa.org and copied to secretary@gigsa.org by 17H00 on the **31st October 2023** (**extended to 17H00 on the 23rd of November 2023**).

6. RECIPIENT COMMITMENTS

The recipient is required to publish the results of the research project in an International peer reviewed Journal, or in peer reviewed conference proceedings. In addition, a short summary shall be published in the GIGSA newsletter and on the GIGSA social media page within 12 months from completion or requested by the Board.

My GIGSA Bursary Experience: Empowering Academic Growth

I am thrilled to share my experience as a recipient of the GIGSA Bursary 2023, which has been a pivotal factor in shaping my PhD academic journey.

Thanks to the generosity of GIGSA, I have been granted the privilege of attending the 12th International Conference on Geosynthetics (12ICG) set to take place in Rome, Italy from 17 – 21 September 2023. This conference promises to be an exceptional occasion for me to immerse myself in the latest advancements, innovative research, and dynamic discussions within the realm of geosynthetics. I am particularly excited about the chance to engage with eminent experts in the field, such as Prof. Sanjay Kumar Shukla and Prof. Ennio Marques Palmeira, among others. Attending insightful sessions and connecting with fellow enthusiasts from around the world is sure to expand my horizons and deepen my understanding.

I am confident that this conference will further enrich my knowledge of geosynthetics and connect me with like-minded researchers and practitioners. Additionally, I am looking forward to contributing my own insights through the presentation of my research paper titled “*Modelling Single & Multi-layer Soil-Geosynthetic Interface Behavior from Large Direct Shear Tests*”.

I am incredibly grateful to GIGSA for investing in my growth and development. The bursary has not only empowered my academic pursuits but has also reaffirmed my commitment to contributing meaningfully to the geosynthetics community. This commitment is manifested in my ongoing PhD studies, which particularly focuses on the interface shear behavior and stability of landfill liner systems.

I encourage all aspiring researchers and students to seize this remarkable opportunity by applying for the GIGSA Bursary. It is not merely about financial aid; it is about unlocking doors of possibilities and expanding the horizons of your potential.

Shade S. Muluti

PhD Candidate

University of Cape Town

GIGSA Bursary Recipient 2023

