

Christof Heyns Human Rights Scholarship

Regulation (introduced September 2021)

1. Background

The Christof Heyns Human Rights Scholarship (the Scholarship) is instituted in memory of leading human rights scholar, Christof Heyns, who was professor of human rights law at the University of Pretoria (UP) until his untimely death in March 2021. Christof was the Director of the Centre for Human Rights from 1999 to 2006; Dean of the Faculty of Law from 2007 to 2010; and was the founding Co-Director of the Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa at UP. He was United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions from 2010 to 2016; and was a member of the UN Human Rights Committee from 2017 to 2020. Prof. Heyns pioneered and supported numerous human rights education initiatives in the course of his life, including by providing opportunities to deserving students to pursue human rights education.

2. Purpose of the Scholarship

The Scholarship is established to continue the legacy of Prof. Heyns in expanding human rights scholarships, and giving opportunities to deserving but economically disadvantaged African students to undertake human rights related postgraduate studies at UP.

3. Eligibility criteria

The Scholarship is available to students who:

- meet the requirements for admission to masters or doctoral studies related to human rights at the University of Pretoria;
- are citizens of an African country;
- have an excellent academic record, based on previous tertiary studies; and
- are able to demonstrate the need for economic support to achieve their academic goals.

4. Selection process

The Scholarship is administered by the Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, UP.

- The Centre for Human Rights annually, subject to the availability of sufficient funding, advertises a call for applications.
- Applications for the Scholarship must be submitted before the end of the year preceding the start of studies.
- At least three members of the Advisory Board of the Centre for Human Rights, no more than two representatives of the Centre for Human Rights, a representative of the family of Prof. Heyns, and a representative of Faculty's Bursary Committee, select the

recipient(s) of the Scholarship. The Dean of the Faculty of Law chairs the selection panel.

- The selection process may include interviews with candidates.
- The Postgraduate Scholarship division in the Department of Research and Innovation will assist the Centre for Human Rights in the selection process.

5. Terms and conditions of the Scholarship

The Scholarship is awarded and administered subject to the following terms and conditions:

- The Scholarship award is dependent on successful registration for the relevant degree.
- Scholarship only applies to full time study at the University of Pretoria.
- The Scholarship holder may be required to perform limited functions within the Centre for Human Rights related to advancing human rights, within the relevant UP guidelines.
- Scholarship holders may apply for and qualify for the UP Postgraduate award.
- While Scholarship holders may not be excluded from accessing other funding opportunities, they must inform the Centre for Human Rights in writing of any scholarships or funding sources that may come into effect before or during the course of the Scholarship, and which would fundamentally affect their eligibility for the Scholarship.
- The Scholarship is provided for a maximum of two calendar years for masters studies, and a maximum of three calendar years for doctoral studies.
- The Scholarship award is reviewed annually, for continued funding, on the basis of satisfactory academic progress by the recipient.
- In exceptional circumstances the Scholarship may be extended by a maximum of one year subject to the approval of recipient's supervisor(s) and the Director of the Centre for Human Rights (or if the Director is also the recipient's supervisor, the Dean of the Faculty of Law).
- The Scholarship may be terminated at any time if the recipient does not make satisfactory academic progress within the time period for which the Scholarship has been granted or if the recipient is found guilty by a disciplinary committee of the University for misconduct.
- Any appeal in relation to exclusion for unsatisfactory academic progress may be made to the Dean of the Faculty of Law.

6. Source of funds and investment of funds

The Scholarship is established with funds contributed by the University of Pretoria, including the Faculty of Law and the Centre for Human Rights, as well as external funding from institutions and individuals, including Centre graduates and former recipients of the Scholarship. As far as possible, interest on these funds will be used towards the Scholarship. These funds will be managed by the Centre for Human Rights, in a dedicated account (cost centre) which will be audited annually as part of the general audit of the funds of the Centre for Human Rights.

The amount of the Scholarship and the number of recipients per year will depend on the availability of funds, and be determined annually by the Centre for Human Rights, in consultation with the Department of Finance of the University.

7. Eligible costs under the Scholarship

The Scholarship may be applied towards:

- tuition and registration fees as determined by the University;
- purchase of books and other study materials;
- the cost of accommodation, meals and other modest living expenses during the course of study;
- travel allowance from the student's home to the University and back at the beginning and end of the degree.

8. Disbursement of funds

The disbursement of funds will be managed by the Post-graduate Office of the University of Pretoria. Accordingly, tuition fees will be paid directly to the University; allowances will be disbursed through student accounts once the recipient has registered for their course, and may also be disbursed periodically as may be set out in the Scholarship award letter.

9. Reporting

The Centre for Human Rights, through its Director, annually provides a narrative and financial report to the Board of the Faculty of Law, and the Centre's Advisory Board.

10. Information and contacts

Enquiries related to the scholarship can be directed to carole.viljoen@up.ac.za.