



**Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory, SARAO**  
**Call for Applications: Two Masters / PhD bursaries**  
**Closing date for applications: 15 October 2017**

The Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory (HartRAO) invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for two postgraduate bursaries, commencing during late 2017 / early 2018. Successful applicants must be able to commence with their Masters or Doctoral studies during 2018. Applicants must have obtained their qualifying degree after 2012, or must have been actively involved in some relevant activities since / while obtaining their degree.

These bursaries are awarded for a period of up to three years for a Masters-level and up to five years for a Doctoral-level, on a yearly renewable contract, based on performance and mutual agreement to by the host university, the student and HartRAO. The contract will include duties at the HartRAO facility related to satellite tracking and / or data processing, as part of data collection and research towards their studies. Candidates must provide their own transport and are expected to be at the HartRAO facility up to 5 days per week on average. There is no relocation support for bursary recipients. The bursaries are only tenable at South African universities.

Applicants are encouraged to investigate the research specializations available related to laser ranging, orbital dynamics and gravity models to inform their choices, and match their own strengths and interests. The HartRAO bursary programme supports research that is relevant to the scientific and technical goals of the organization, and for this call HartRAO will consider applications that propose research in the following areas:

1. Applications of satellite laser ranging data
2. Laser ranging software: model and algorithm development (troposphere, orbital dynamics, geophysics, relativity)
3. Studies that require a combination of laser ranging data with other geodetic data / products
4. Applications of Space Geodesy in general
5. Proposed topics are also welcome

HartRAO reserves the right to grant more or fewer bursaries depending on the evaluation of applications.

Please apply by sending:

1. a cover letter stating your interest and / or proposed topic
2. your CV
3. and a complete academic record

to [recruitment@hartrao.ac.za](mailto:recruitment@hartrao.ac.za) before / on 15 October 2017.