

New scholarship aimed at producing more black PhDs

Tiso Foundation announces Archibald Mafaje Scholarship for Advanced Study

Tiso Foundation in partnership with the University of the Witwatersrand is calling on black South African graduates wishing to study for a PhD in 2015 to apply for the prestigious new Archibald Mafaje scholarship for Advanced Study.

With a bias towards females demonstrating exceptional academic potential, this is a Tiso Foundation effort to assist the growth of strong academic minds and increase the number and quality of black doctoral graduates in the country.

The scholarship is named in honour of South African born “intellectual pathfinder” Professor Archibald Mafaje, born in Ngcobo, South Africa in 1936 and died in 12007. Mafaje was an influential academic who contributed to the development and self-worth of the African people on the continent and around the world. Holding a PhD from Cambridge University himself, Mafeje demonstrated that, given the right support, it is possible to achieve ones dreams despite the greatest challenges.

“When a nation comes under siege, as the black South Africans did, then families must sacrifice their best and brightest. Archie certainly possessed uncommon academic abilities passing all classes with distinction or first class through Healdtown and UCT, and eventually Cambridge University, “says the Mafaje family.

“At about the age of 31, in 1968, he had to accept a life of exile, leaving behind all his younger siblings and parents to become a major African intellectual and activist across the continent laying foundations for independent African scholarship, robust continental socio-economic development programmes and democratic change. His sense of style, penetrating conversations and sense of humour, coupled with stringent standards of excellence will certainly echo again and again in the reproduction of independent African intellectuals through the generous and the carefully crafted Tiso PhD scholarship programme. It is fitting that only the best African universities are taking part in the Tiso PhD Scholarship,” adds the Mafeje family.

The Tiso Foundation supports and runs various programmes aimed at skills and leadership development of South African youth, offering undergraduate bursaries for tertiary qualifications and bursaries for the training of young people in technical artisan trades.

About the scholarship

This highly competitive scholarship will be open for South African candidates only from around the country.

The successful candidates will be chosen following a rigorous selection process. Students from previously disadvantaged backgrounds will be expected to have a strong academic record in higher academic studies and written support from their supervisor, Dean of the School and Head of the Department.

Shortlisted students will be interviewed for the scholarship by a Standing Selection Committee that includes the relevant Dean of the Faculty of Wits University, Head of Postgraduate Office and Tiso Foundation Advisory Board Members.

The scholarship will be tenable for a period of no more than three years of full time study and is worth approximately R150 000 per annum per student.

To apply for the scholarship, please visit the Tiso Foundation website: <http://tisofoundation.co.za/archie-mafeje-scholarship/>. Please note: students must apply for their PhD simultaneously and independently to Wits University via <http://wits.ac.za/postgraduate>.