

Teaching Relief Grant

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Motivation for funding:

I need time off my full-time lecturing load in order to complete my MEng Civil research project (Thesis). I am currently in the process of applying for sabbatical leave for the second semester of this year and I am applying for the Teaching Relief Grant under the condition that my sabbatical leave will be approved.

I registered for my Master studies in Civil Engineering (structured) through Stellenbosch University in January 2018. For this I have needed to complete eight structured subjects for which I had to travel to Stellenbosch for 8 week-lectures over the past two years and now I need to finalise my thesis. I started my proposal for the thesis in January this year and submitted it to the Ethics Committee. The feedback I received is that changes are required in terms of my data collection methodology as I am not able to personally collect information through interviews and survey questionnaires as a result of the current Corona pandemic. Therefore I will need to investigate alternative methods to collect information and re-write the methodology section.

My original plan was to be complete with my thesis by the end of this year. Current circumstances is making this very unlikely. Balancing my master studies with my full-time academic commitment-which as a result of COVID-19 takes me longer than usual due to my own struggles with technology- and family responsibilities has proven to be more than challenging. My HOD from my department is fully supporting my endeavours to complete my studies and will encouraging me to get teaching relief in order to complete my studies.

I completed my original BEng Civil degree in 1993 and therefore I am literally having to dust off my brain when it comes to studies and research and therefore, I need to confess that I am not so efficient as I would like to be with research and typing etc. However, my research capabilities have developed substantially over the past two years and I believe that if I can dedicate my attention to my research and have time to think of alternative methods of collecting information I may be able to successfully complete my Master studies by the end of the year.

The Teaching Relief Grant will allow me to pay a teaching replacement so that I would be able to take sabbatical leave.