

SAKOV Bursaries for studies in Organ, Organ building and Church music 2026

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR APPLICATIONS DURING 2026

- Closing date for applications: 26 June 2026
- Closing date for recordings: 20 July 2026
- Candidates have until the end of May to pay their SAKOV membership fees for 2026 before applying for the bursary.
- A programme must be submitted together with the bursary application. Programmes consisting exclusively of *manualiter* compositions will be accepted provided that the works in question are of the same standard for the bursary that is being applied for.

1. Aims and definition

The Southern African Church and Concert Organists Society (SAKOV) hereby introduce the **SAKOV STUDY BURSARIES** for deserving studies in Organ, Organ building and Church music for 2026.

The bursaries aim to give financial assistance to enhance the quality of organ playing, organ studies, organ building and to stimulate research in the field of Church music in Southern Africa.

The following bursaries are available:

Organ Studies

- Postgraduate study bursaries: Doctoral, Masters and/or Honours
- Undergraduate bursaries: Main instrument, Second instrument and/or Non-degree purposes
- Study bursaries for school learners
- Study bursaries for church organists

Church Music (Academic)

- Postgraduate study bursary: Doctoral, Masters and/or Honours

Organ building/tuning

- Training bursaries

2. Application procedure and closing date

- The entry form must be completed and submitted with a certified copy of identity (ID document or passport), a photo (**only** black/white), as well as proof of registration at a tertiary or other institution, or a letter from the teacher/organ builder, e-mailed to the Chairperson of SAKOV at info@sakov.co.za.
- Applications for bursaries for **organ studies** will be processed through recordings.
- Applications for **academic bursaries** take place by means of an academic research proposal that sets out the aspects of the development and enhancement of church music in Southern Africa that will be investigated.

- Applications for bursaries for **organ building** must be accompanied by an application letter and motivation which states the aims of the applicant, a cost breakdown for planned training, as well as a recommendation from the organ builder with whom the candidate will follow his/her training. The organ builder's recommendation must be sent directly to the Chairperson.
- **The closing date for applications is 26 June 2026 (Recordings: 20 July 2026).**

3. Auditions and Final Round

- You are requested to make a professional and unedited audio-visual recording. The following format of recordings is required:
 - MP4
 - Resolution: 1080p
 - If using your mobile phone, make sure the phone is turned sideways (on its side). The highest resolution, please.
 - Ensure that the lighting of room/building is sufficient.
 - A wide shot will be sufficient (it is not necessary for hands & feet to be in the recording), but the sound quality is more of value. The organist and the organ should be in sight.
 - **Recordings** must be sent to Johann Enslin via *Dropbox*, *WeTransfer* or any good online storage platform. Send it to info@sakov.co.za and johannenslin@gmail.com
- A panel of organ specialists will be appointed by the SAKOV Executive Committee to do the adjudication during the rounds.
- The decision of the panel is final and there will be no correspondence regarding the outcome.

4. Programme requirements and guidelines for adjudication

Candidates must strictly adhere to the programme requirements. For any changes to the programme requirements, candidates need to apply in advance for approval from the Chairperson of the bursary committee at bursaries@sakov.co.za .

A. All practical bursaries, INCLUDING the bursary for church organists

- Candidates applying for bursaries for degree purposes must include a preliminary programme with their applications.
- Each programme must include works from at least THREE style periods.
- The inclusion of a substantial chorale prelude, -fugue, -fantasia or -partita is compulsory.
- The inclusion of an 18th-century work with contrapuntal elements is compulsory.
- The inclusion of a work from one of the published SAKOV chorale prelude collections is compulsory.
- The technical standard of the pieces must be commensurate with the specific bursary that is applied for.
- The time limits for the different categories are as follows:
 - Doctoral bursary: 50-60 min
 - Masters bursary: 35-40 min
 - Honours bursary: 30-35 min
 - Undergraduate bursary: 25-30 min
 - Second instrument bursary: 20-25 min
 - Bursary for organ studies (non-degree): 15-20 min
 - Bursary for school learners: 10-20 min
 - Bursary for church organists: 25-30 min

- Candidates are reminded to respect and adhere to particular and applicable copyright laws.
- One set of copies of the sheet music of each piece to be performed must be scanned and sent electronically with the application form.

B. Church organist bursary

All receivers of a Church Organist bursary MUST enrol for one of the SAKOV Conservatory for Organ Music's exams in 2027. Candidates can choose to register for a full exam, or only an assessment. In the case where the candidate has undergone an assessment, an exam must be conducted in the following year. The syllabi are available on the SAKOV website. Candidates can also request to present alternative works. These requests should be addressed to the Chairperson, and must be included with the application form.

Each programme should include the following:

- Five (5) hymns for congregation accompaniment, chosen from any recognised hymnals currently used in Southern Africa, which should include at least two praise songs and two worship songs/prayers. It is recommended that the hymns be chosen as to be in thematic coherence as a group.
- Each hymn must have a suitable introduction (new or from one of the existing published SAKOV introduction books), and two verses with contrasting text content should be played. It is important that the character and text be reflected in the interpretation regarding the registration, harmonisation, phrasing and choice of tempo where appropriate. Alternative harmonisations are not compulsory, but may be used where suitable. These harmonisations must also be presented, and might be published with the composer's consent. Once again, there is a choice between your own or previously published harmonisations. The Introduction Books are available for download from the SAKOV website.
- One or two chorale prelude(s) / chorale partita(s) / chorale variation(s) with a time limit of 6-10 minutes, chosen from one of the existing published SAKOV chorale preludes publications (2010, 2011, 2013 and 2019).
- An organ work (hymn-based or free) that is suitable as a postlude.
- The time limit for this category is 25-30 min.
- This bursary is aimed at active church organists. No specific standard of organ playing is prescribed. The adjudication panel is interested in assessing the progress in standard of the playing from year to year. For this reason, the candidate is required to enrol for a yearly SAKOV exam. (See *General bursary regulations*)
- The bursary winners in this category must commit to receiving organ tuition from a pre-approved organ teacher, as determined by the Executive Committee.
- Candidates are made aware of copyright terms and are requested to adhere to these.

5. General bursary conditions

- Only current SAKOV members may apply for a bursary. Application forms for new members are obtainable from the SAKOV website.
- The written agreement of the bursary regulations between the Donor (represented by the Administrator) and SAKOV is binding.

- The number of bursaries can be altered according to the funds available in a specific year, as well as the quality and number of entries in a specific year.
- There are no age restrictions for applicants.
- A complete written submission must be included with all applications to explain how and to what extent there are plans to be involved in the further contribution and promotion of organ playing and/or church music in Southern Africa.
- All recipients of bursaries for Undergraduate studies, second instrument, Non-degree purposes, School learners and Church organists MUST enrol for one of the Conservatory for Church Music's as scheduled by SAKOV in June/December.
- Full-time music students (undergraduate and postgraduate (HonsBMus)) can take an assessment during one of their official university exams. One of the examiners can complete the assessment form and send it to SAKOV. However, an assessment fee is still charged for this.
- In all of the cases mentioned above, SAKOV already collects the fees for an assessment before the bursary is paid out. The bursary office pays these fees directly to SAKOV at the beginning of the year when funds are disbursed. If the candidate does apply for an exam that costs more, the difference will be paid to SAKOV by the candidate before the exam takes place.
- The syllabus (2023) is available for download on the SAKOV website or can be requested directly from info@sakov.co.za. Candidates can also send a written request to perform alternative repertoire, but such a request must be submitted 3 month prior to the exam to the Chairperson and must accompany the bursary entry form.
- Recipients of postgraduate scholarships (organ and church music) will only receive the relevant scholarship once.
- Incomplete application forms, as well as applications received after the closing date, will result in disqualification.
- The announcement of bursaries will take place annually during the weekend of the SAKOV Annual General Meeting.
- The decision of the adjudicators is final. No correspondence to discuss the results with the Administrator, or any member of the SAKOV Executive Committee, will be allowed. The adjudicators and the Administrator reserve the right to withhold the awarding of any bursaries.
- Bursary winners must attend a regional meeting.
- Bursary winners must perform a concert piece at a regional meeting.
- Postgraduate bursary winners must publish an article in the journal, *To the director of music*.
- **Criteria for photos of candidates:**
 1. Should be in electronic format.
 2. The photo should not have a dark background.
 3. It should be a portrait photo (face and shoulders).
 4. The file size must be at least 2MB.
 5. It should be in JPEG or BMP-format.



APPLICATION FORM

SAKOV Bursaries for studies in Organ, Organ building and Church music 2026

SAKOV membership number: _____

Bursary that you apply for: _____

Previous SAKOV bursaries received: Yes If yes, which bursary/ bursaries? _____

No _____

Personal information

Surname and Names _____

Physical address _____

Postal address _____

Date of birth _____ ID-/Passport number _____

Telephone number _____ (H) _____ (C)

E-mail address _____

Name of institution / school _____

Field of study / Degree _____

Church where you are based _____

Supervisor / Teacher _____ Telephone number _____

I, _____, hereby declare that all the information above is correct, that I have read all the rules of the competition, and that I understand and accept it.

Signature (Applicant / Parent / Guardian) _____ Date: _____

Email the completed application form, certified copy of ID/passport, photo and proof of registration/letter from teacher to the Secretary, mr Johann Enslin (info@sakov.co.za).

Entries & enquiries: info@sakov.co.za

- Closing date for applications: 26 June 2026
- Closing date for recordings: 20 July 2026

www.sakov.co.za