



Guidelines for SONTA-Theodora Tobrise Young Female Thesis Assistance Grant

INTRODUCTION

This Grant Award is instituted by Professor Mabel Ewuirohoma in memory of her mother, **Mrs. Theodora Airenwinkiekie Ewemade Tobrise** (Née Aiwerioghne) to mitigate some of the challenges faced by young female Theatre Academics. The Society of Nigeria Theatre Artists (SONTA) holds the right to administer this grant.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

This grant is available for young female SONTA members on postgraduate programmes. The grant covers both the Master's and PhD degree programmes. The grant is available to qualified applicants annually to assist them in the production of their postgraduate research outcomes. The grant is essentially designed to help the recipients word process (type) and bind their theses/dissertations.

3. AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of this grant is to aid young female theatre academics in Nigerian universities on the postgraduate degree programmes.

Specific objectives include:

- a. To encourage young female theatre academics on their postgraduate research studies;
- b. To mitigate the challenges of poverty affecting young female SONTA members;

- c. To promote and encourage young female SONTA members to pursue and achieve excellence;
- d. To advance knowledge and creativity, and
- e. To enhance capacity building in young female SONTA members.

3. ELIGIBILITY

A. MASTER'S DEGREE GRANT

The *SONTA-Theodora Tobrise Young Female Thesis Assistance Grant* covers female SONTA members who are undergoing studies in Theatre Arts or its equivalence at the Postgraduate level (Master's Degree programme) in any NUC approved universities. Only two applicants shall be selected to benefit from the grant annually. To qualify, a candidate must:

- i. be a registered SONTA member (provide evidence of current registration);
- ii. be a young female of not more than 35 years (birth certificate required);
- iii. not have previously received this grant;
- iv. provide evidence of a successfully defended proposal;
- v. provide a letter of attestation from your Head of Department;
- vi. be a registered student on an M. A. programme (Admission Letter and evidence of current studentship registration are required).

B. PhD DEGREE GRANT

The *SONTA-Theodora Tobrise Young Female Thesis Assistance Grant* is also open to female SONTA members who are undergoing PhD programme research studies in any NUC approved Universities. Only two applicants shall be selected to benefit from the grant annually. To qualify, a candidate must:

- i. be an academic staff in a University (provide letter of appointment);
- ii. be a registered member of SONTA (provide evidence of current registration);
- iii. be a young female of age not above 40 years (birth certificate required);
- iv. be a registered student on a PhD programme in any NUC recognised universities at the time of seeking or applying for this grant;
- v. provide evidence of a successfully defended proposal.

NB:

- *An applicant who may have enjoyed the grant at Master's Degree level need not apply for the grant at the PhD level.*

- *Any false declaration by an applicant shall lead to automatic disqualification.*
- *Only quality proposals with evidence of originality and contribution to knowledge will be selected.*

5. SCREENING AND DISBURSEMENT

- i. Applicants shall submit completed application forms with copies of all the required credentials to the SONTA General Secretary;
- ii. A Board of Trustees shall be constituted for the grant by SONTA Executive body;
- iii. Upon the expiration of the submission date of applications, the Board of trustees shall screen and consider the various applications for the grant;
- iv. A list of successful applicants shall be submitted to SONTA President for announcement and disbursement;
- v. Time and duration for advertising the grant shall be determined by the SONTA Exco or the President acting on behalf of the Exco;
- vi. The grant shall continue to be advertised as long as the endowment is adequately funded;
- vii. It is not automatic to announce a winner in any of the two grant categories if no applicant satisfies award conditions;
- viii. The decision of the grant's Board of Trustees shall be final and NOT contestable under any legal process;
- ix. The Board of Trustees shall submit to SONTA President a comprehensive report on every award exercise and this shall be made public on SONTA website;
- x. The grant shall be released to beneficiary lump sum;
- xi. Selected Master's students beneficiaries shall receive the sum of ***Fifty Thousand Naira (₦50,000.00)*** only each; while the PhD students beneficiary shall receive ***One Hundred Thousand Naira (₦100,000.00)*** only each; and
- xii. ***One Hundred Thousand Naira (₦100,000.00)*** only shall be reserved as administrative/running cost for the scheme per award exercise.

6. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A Board of Trustees shall be in place to screen and consider applicants for the grant annually. The board shall determine who deserves the award and accordingly transmit the list of successful applicants to SONTA President for announcement and disbursement. Transparency shall be the watchword of the Board in the discharge of this sensitive function.

7. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. Representative of SONTA Council - Chairman
2. Representative of SONTA EXCO
3. Representative of SONTA Congress

8. DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

The Board of Trustees shall maintain decorum, discipline and transparency in the discharge of their duties and general administration of the fund. The decisions of the Board on who wins the year's grants shall be final. The decisions of the Board regarding every award exercise shall be final and NOT actionable in any Court of Law. Feedbacks on the administration of the grant are however welcome to help the management of the grant better. Such feedbacks shall be directed to the SONTA General Secretary who shall in turn make them available to SONTA Exco and Board of Trustees.

9. CONCLUSION

SONTA holds the *SONTA-Theodora Tobrise Young Female Thesis Assistance Grant* to be of premium value and the institutor in high esteem. Beneficiaries are expected to deepen the objectives of the scheme in their researches and even after enjoying the grant. The Society shall administer the grant faithfully and in the true spirit of its endowment. All beneficiaries of the grant **MUST** clearly acknowledge this in their dissertations and theses.

A copy of the dissertations/theses that benefited from this grant shall be deposited with SONTA through the General Secretary.

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