

Knowledge Fields Development Directorate

Development Grants

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Version 3.0
October 2009

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The KFD Directorate supports Knowledge Fields Development by way of:

1. Investigating/ analysing/ addressing research trends/ gaps;
2. Promoting interaction between researchers;
3. Strengthening scientific / professional organisations;
4. Strengthening networks within / beyond the South African research community

The KFD Directorate does NOT support Knowledge Fields Development by way of:

1. Providing support for traditional research projects;
2. Providing support for research projects that are / could be supported by way of other NRF funding mechanisms
3. Supporting Masters or PhD studies;
4. Providing Masters or PhD bursaries

PART A:

Background

A1. Purpose of the directorate

The Knowledge Fields Development Directorate functions to facilitate the advancement of the frontiers of existing knowledge and expertise; and develop new fields of knowledge and the necessary associated research capacity within the context of national research and development challenges and strategic initiatives.

The Directorate for Knowledge Fields Development (KFD) is mandated to promote new knowledge, push the boundaries of existing knowledge and associated research capacity by stimulating and developing the entire spectrum of knowledge fields.

The Directorate is strategically focused on the following interrelated objectives:

1. To facilitate the advancement; and the pushing of the frontiers of existing knowledge;
2. To facilitate activities that enable the creation of new knowledge;
3. To promote active interaction between researchers within and across disciplines and knowledge fields
4. To strengthen the scientific and professional organisations of the South African research community
5. To strengthen networking within and beyond the South African research community
6. To investigate and analyse research interests and trends within and across disciplines and knowledge fields

Knowledge Fields Development is achieved by, inter alia:

1. Investigating and analysing research interests, trends, gaps and strengths within and across disciplines and knowledge fields;
2. Promoting active interaction between researchers within and across disciplines and knowledge fields;
3. Strengthening scientific and professional organisations of the South African research community; and

4. Strengthening networks within and beyond the South African research community

Knowledge Fields Development does NOT:

1. Provide support for traditional research projects;
2. Provide support for research projects that are or could be supported by way of other NRF funding mechanisms
3. Support Masters or PhD studies;
4. Provide Masters or PhD bursaries;

A2. Funding approaches

In addition to the management of research programmes, KFD also employs a range of tools to stimulate the development and advancement of knowledge fields. The KFD Directorate identifies a number of activities each year for implementation using a dual approach:

1) A directed approach:

Development activities as identified and coordinated by the NRF, based in part on:

- . Alignment with national strategic initiatives and priorities;
- . The development of research fields as assessed and identified by the NRF, in collaboration with the research community.

2) Non-directed, *ad hoc* approach:

Research development activities as identified by the research community within particular fields; and / or related to interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary combinations. These activities typically include roundtable discussions, advisory committees; workshops; symposia; audits of professional associations etc, in support of the development of a field, both with the research community and other stakeholders.

The KFD Directorate reserves a limited percentage of its budget for grants to support the non-directed *ad hoc* grants. Careful consideration will be given to activities which could be funded through other NRF funding programmes e.g. international travel; Knowledge Interchange and Collaboration (KIC); science liaison etc, and applicants may therefore be re-directed to these programme offerings.

Please Note:

Knowledge Fields development grants do not provide support for research projects, or student support and these types of applications will not be considered.

PART B: Submission and Assessment Process

B1. Eligibility

Development Grants will be awarded for the development of any discipline or field of research, including social science, humanities, the Law, natural science, engineering and technology.

Grants will be awarded to applicants who are associated with NRF recognised research institutions, including HEI's, NGO's and private higher education institutions.

B2. Submission & Assessment Process

The submission and assessment process consists of the following processes:

Proposal submission to the NRF »» Assessment by KFD adjudication panel »»
Decision and outcome »» Award

There is a monthly deadline for all submissions of the 25th of each month. Applications submitted to the NRF on or before the 25th of each month will be considered by an internal KFD panel on or before the 30th of that month. Applications received after the 25th will be considered in the next round of the following month.

Applications submitted less than 2 months prior to the start of the proposed event will not be considered. The minimum 2 month period will be calculated from the date of the internal KFD panel meeting on the 30th of each month.

All applications should be submitted to Mrs. Ndileka Qamba (ndileka@nrf.ac.za). Please see further detail in section B4 below

B3. Selection Criteria

The development grant proposal must demonstrate evidence of the following considerations:

- The extent to which the proposal sets out the case for developing or rejuvenating a particular field or sub-field
- How the development of the field aligns with current national strategies or priorities
- A reflection on the potential capacity outcomes as a function of the development grant activity
- A clear and demonstrated rationale for the chosen activity

All Development Grant applications will be considered against national research priorities, as articulated in general and specific government or agency policy documents, including the National R&D Strategy, the DST 10 Year Innovation Plan and its identified Grand Challenges, etc. In addition, Development Grant applications will also be considered against the NRF Vision 2015 strategy document.

B4. Submission of Proposals

Proposals will be submitted using the standard application template provided. The proposal submission must carry the research office stamp, and must

include a signed endorsement from a designated authority within the applicant's institution.

Proposals can be submitted throughout the year, and will be considered as per the NRF internal panel adjudication process detailed in section B2 above.

Proposals must be submitted in electronic format (preferably PDF) to ndileka@nrf.ac.za, with original endorsed copies by way of hard copy delivery to the NRF for attention of Mrs. Ndileka Qamba, GMSA.

PART C:

Management of the Development Grants

C1. Duration of the Development Grant

Development Grants vary widely in nature, and as such vary in their duration. These are, however, understood to be short-term grants, and as such would not continue for more than one year. Typically, the modalities for support may include: roundtable meetings, workshops, seminars, colloquia, winter schools or any other relevant activity that will support the development of the field.

C2. Management of the Development Grant

On accepting the award the development grant grantholder will be required to comply with the Conditions of Grant (supplied separately by the Grants Management and Systems Administration – GMSA of NRF) and deliver on the stated activities and outcomes, as outlined in the proposal.

C3. Funding Levels

The Knowledge Fields Development Directorate's development grants range from approximately R 20 000 to not more than R200 000 per proposal. This award can cover expenses such as travel costs, venue hire, operating costs and a 10% administration levy for management or co-ordination of the event. This information serves as a guide, and well motivated variations can be

negotiated on a case-by-case basis. The assessment process will consider proposed budgets in terms of cost, risk and reward ratios. The assessment process will be governed by the overall programme funds available.

C4. Payment of Grants

Upon receipt of the signed Conditions of Grant letter, the NRF will release 90% of the awarded amount. Grantholders will then comply with the standard NRF financial management procedures.

Upon receipt and approval of the final report, the NRF will release the remaining 10% of the awarded amount.

C5. Reporting

Development grant reports must be submitted within 2 calendar months after the completion of the activity, in electronic format (preferably PDF), using the standard report template provided.

Development grant reports will be submitted to ndileka@nrf.ac.za These reports should address the outcomes and highlights of the development intervention and must also include a financial statement of income and expenditure incurred on the project.

Contacts:

Should you require clarification on any of the process, criteria or plans presented in this Guide please do not hesitate to contact Ms Candice Steele (candice@nrf.ac.za) or Ms Renee le Roux (renee@nrf.ac.za)

Should you require any information on the administration of your grant once it has been awarded, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Ndilieka Quamba (ndileka@nrf.ac.za)