



SOUTH AFRICA / FONDS WETENSCHAPPELIJK ONDERZOEK (FWO) JOINT SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR JOINT PROJECTS

CLOSING DATE: 30 JUNE 2016
DA CLOSING DATE: 7 JULY 2016

A MAXIMUM OF 6 JOINT PROJECTS WILL BE FUNDED FOR THIS CALL

Background

The programme of cooperation is carried out within the framework of the agreement, concluded on 27 January 2010, between the National Research Foundation (NRF) and the Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (FWO) of Flanders, Belgium.

Aims of the programme

- To collaborate on research projects selected within joint calls for proposals
- To strengthen international collaboration in fundamental research; and
- To exchange scientific and technical information and personnel.

Who may apply?

Applicants must hold a doctoral degree, reside in South Africa and be full-time employed at a recognised higher education or research institution such as a university, university of technology, national facility, science council or other NRF Recognised Research Institution. Applications must designate the primary Flemish counterpart in collaboration with whom joint research or networking is to be undertaken. The Principal Investigators (PI) will bear full responsibility for the project, including its technical and administrative coordination as well as scientific and financial reporting.

Areas of Cooperation

All fields of research are eligible.

In terms of human capital development, South African applications from historically disadvantaged researchers are encouraged, as is the involvement of historically disadvantaged higher education institutions.

How do I apply?

South Africa:

Applicants can apply by following the steps below:

- Applications must be submitted electronically to the NRF on the NRF Online Submission System at <https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/>
- Register/Login using your ID number and password.
- Go to “My Applications” and select “Create Application”.
- Select the call for which you are applying for: NRF-FWO 2016 Joint Call for Proposals.
- Complete all compulsory sections applicable to you. Please attach the required documents in PDF format in the following order: CV of partner, budget of partner and the signed page of the partner.
- Remember to submit your application on completion.
- Complete applications will go to the host institutions for verification before being forwarded to the NRF for further processing.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered.
- Please contact your research office or Designated Authority if you have any queries.

Please Note:

Applications submitted outside the NRF Online Submission System will not be accepted and no hard copies will be accepted and will automatically be disqualified by the NRF. Only applications endorsed by the research office or its equivalent at higher education or research institutions will be accepted.

Flanders:

Online project application using the FWO E-portal should be submitted (<http://www.fwo-eloket.be/FWO.ELoket.WebUI/Login.aspx>).

Which activities may I apply for?

The purpose of this call is to support the mobility of researchers, scientists, post-docs and short-term research placements of doctoral students between the two countries to carry out joint research projects. In this regard, funding will be made available for visits and exchanges of leading and young scientists, technical personnel or other experts conducting joint research within any thematic area of focus.

Support will be provided for collaborative basic, applied and innovation research projects. Funds can be used to cover the following costs:

- Research-related costs (including field work, publication costs, etc.).
- Exchange programmes (i.e. mobility of researchers, postdocs and doctoral students) between the two countries.
- Doctoral research placements (for visits not shorter than 2 weeks and not longer than 3 months per annum).
- Networking events (i.e. joint workshops, seminars, conferences, symposia and lecture presentations). Joint workshops must be aimed at intensification and

long-term orientation of the FWO - NRF collaboration in the relevant subject area.

- Consumables (30% of the budget is allowed for consumables and accessories).

All PhD exchanges funded through this programme should ensure that the best possible development experience is provided for each student. International exchanges should add value through enabling students to:

- Learn valuable new skills or techniques
- Access facilities or resources not readily available in their home country
- Build relationships with potential new collaborators
- Advance complementary collaborative research.

It is expected that PhD placements will be managed so that they fit within the original funded period of the studentship. Additional funding will not be made available through this call or by the funders to support studentship extensions for those undertaking international placements. Applicants should include information about how these exchanges will be managed within their proposal.

In the case of meetings, research visits and exchanges of scientists, personnel, experts and students, as well as reciprocal visits undertaken as part of joint research projects and the attendance of seminars, symposia and other meetings funded under this agreement, the sending Investigator will be responsible for financing international travel, visas, and medical insurance. Fees relating to accommodation, ground transport, living expenses, and the organisation of events (venue, catering, audio-visual equipment etc.) will be the financial responsibility of the host investigator which is to be paid from his / her allocation of the joint funding.

The following may NOT be funded from this allocation: consultant's fees, educational expenses (scholarships and/or bursaries), large equipment, project management fees, salaries and temporary staff fees.

Duration of projects

The projects will be supported for a period of three years.

Funding Modalities

Funding will be available for a maximum of three years for 2017 start of projects (2017 – 2019).

3-year collaborative research projects should be jointly developed and completed by researchers on both sides. Three flights per year with a maximum of **two months stay** at a time are allowed. In both countries, all the approved projects will be supported from the two parties in terms of the cost of exchange of experts, scientists and other specialists unless specified otherwise by the two parties. In addition, each party may provide additional research funds to some/all of the approved projects based on its internal evaluation of the projects. Apart from the financial support from the two parties, institutions and universities in both countries are encouraged to solicit other funding resources.

How much should I apply for?

South Africa:

The total amount requested from the NRF should not exceed **R2.8 mil.** per joint project (**R930 000 per year to be paid in instalments**) exclusive of research activities commencing in 2017. Note that applicants will be funded only for the activities within the scope of the guidelines should they be successful. Note that a commitment to both scientific and financial reporting on the project following its completion is an obligatory condition of funding. Please also note that the requested amounts do not necessarily imply that this amount will be awarded upon selection for funding.

Please do take note that:

- you will be funded only for the activities within the scope of the guidelines should you be successful;
- only a maximum of six (6) joint projects will be funded for this call; and
- scientific and financial reporting on the project is an **OBLIGATORY** condition of funding in subsequent years.

Flanders:

The FWO commits to contribute to this call a total budget of 1.200.000 EUR for a period of three years. The FWO strives to fund six (6) projects in this current call. The number of funded projects may vary depending on the requested individual project funding and on the quality of the received project proposals. The FWO will only fund the Flemish part of the project.

How are applications evaluated?

Following the closing date indicated below applications will be submitted to a postal review by recognised local experts in the various fields of research represented by the proposals received. These experts will evaluate each proposal based on the following criteria:

- Scientific and technical merit
- Suitability and feasibility
- Methodology
- International significance
- Budget
- Students training.

Please note:

From the South African side proposals demonstrating strong elements of capacity building, particularly among previously disadvantaged socio-economic population groups, will be favourably regarded. A final decision on projects to be funded will be made in consultation with the FWO authorities. Note further that funding will only become available once both funding agencies have completed their respective evaluation and operational processes. Both scientific and financial reporting on the project is an obligatory condition of funding.

Projects follow-up and reporting

South Africa:

- A final scientific and financial report will be submitted in English by the South African project leader no more than 3 months after the end of the project.
- The reports will mention the outputs of the projects compared with the objectives targeted in the submission.
- The joint publications will mention the support from the NRF and the FWO.

Intellectual property

The researchers of each country, particularly the leaders, must take adequate steps to ensure protection and sharing of the intellectual property that could result from the joint projects.

When is the closing date for applications?

Applications for both South Africa and Flanders must be submitted by **30 June 2016**. Applications received after this date will not be considered for funding. Neither the NRF nor the FWO will be held responsible for applications that were not received. Researchers are also advised to ensure that their research partners' applications are submitted and have also been received in the partner country.

Where can I obtain more information?

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