

Overseas Cooperation Information Brochure

WHO WE ARE

Overseas Cooperation is a sub-unit within the International Relations and Cooperation (IRC) Directorate of the National Research Foundation (NRF) specifically concerned with promoting South Africa's science and technology links on the global front. Working closely with the Department of Science and Technology (DST), OC participates in the implementation of the Intergovernmental and Inter-agency Bilateral agreements by funding joint research projects and in the process ensure capacity building in key strategic areas. In addition OC serves as liaison between the South African and international scientific communities, and facilitates South African participation in global scientific and research engagements.

OUR GOALS

- To promote local science and technology research and development in order to strategically position South Africa in the global arena.
- To facilitate the generation and transfer of scientific knowledge and technology so as to increase South Africa's international competitiveness.
- To contribute to the socio-economic and sustainable development of South Africa through the promotion of international scientific collaboration.
- To facilitate access to international opportunities for study and research for South African students and scientists.

WHAT WE DO

OC promotes South Africa's scientific relations with the rest of the world in a number of ways, notably through the funding of bi-lateral and multi-lateral joint research projects such as:

- Having agreements for scientific cooperation with more than 30 overseas countries;
- Funding South Africa's participation in international projects involving partner countries and research agencies aimed at promoting national S&T priorities;
- Providing **research grants** for scientists wishing to conduct research at international institutions and **mobility grants** that allow them to continue their research in specific academic disciplines;
- Making it possible for local students to travel overseas and attend workshops and seminars; and
- Supporting regular workshops, seminars, conferences and training courses attended by scientists and researchers from all over the world.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR ACTIVITIES?

Every year OC posts a number of calls for joint research proposals with partner countries, of which a certain number is then selected and funded for a specific period. These calls are issued in conjunction with foreign research institutions or government departments, and

generally involve researchers funded not only for local endeavours but also for conducting their research in each other's country for a specified period of time. Calls are generally posted on the NRF website and distributed electronically via the research offices. Proposals may be submitted by researchers attached to recognised universities, universities of technology, museums or science councils in their respective countries. All news and announcements of organised scientific engagements are available on the NRF website.

CURRENT OC ENGAGEMENTS

Europe and Gulf		Americas, Asia and Multilaterals		
Bi-National	Bi-Lateral	Bi-National	Bi-Lateral	Multilateral
Czech Republic	ASCR (Czech Rep.)	Argentina	JSPS (Japan)	IBSA DST Trilateral
Finland	FAS (Finland)	Brazil	JST (Japan)	IBSA HE Trilateral
Flanders	AF (Finland)	China	NSFC (China)	IBSA DST Nanotechnology
France	FWO (Flanders)	Cuba	ASACEN (Argentina)	BRICS Formation (DST)
Germany	FNRS (Brussels)	Japan	CNPq (Brazil)	European Union (EU)
Hungary	DFG (Germany)	Mexico	NSF (USA)	
Italy	DAAD (Germany)	United States of America	NRF (South Korea)	Strategic Projects
Netherlands	SNSF (Switzerland)	India	ERC (EU)	Newton Fund (multiple calls)
Norway	RCN (Norway)	Malaysia	FAPESP (Brazil)	NRF/TWAS Partnership
Poland	RFBR (Russia)	South Korea		NRF/ERC Partnership
Romania	NCRD (Poland)	Taiwan		NRF/Canadian Research Chairs Partnership
Russia	NWO (Netherland)	Indonesia		NRF/Embassy of Sweden Nobel Lecture Series
Spain	RS (United Kingdom)	Jamaica		NRF/ICTP infrastructure mobility fund
Sweden	CNRS (France)			
Switzerland	STINT (Sweden)			
United Kingdom				
Iran and Oman				

OC FUNDED THEMATIC AREAS OF FOCUS FOR BILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS

- Astronomy
- Agriculture
- Space Science and Remote Sensing
- Information Communication Technology (ICT)
- Biosciences and Biotechnology
- Indigenous Knowledge System
- Health Sciences
- Social Sciences and Humanities
- Geosciences and Material Resources
- Mining, Minerals and Energy
- Environment and Climate Change
- Mathematical Sciences
- Material Sciences and Nanotechnology
- Laser Technology
- Biodiversity

- Earth Science

CONTACT DETAILS

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