



***HUMAN AND SOCIAL DYNAMICS FOR
DEVELOPMENT FUNDING INSTRUMENT***

KNOWLEDGE ADVANCEMENT AND SUPPORT

Framework Document

February 2021

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1 INTRODUCTION

The National Research Foundation (NRF) recognises that in order for South Africa to be internationally competitive and to meaningfully contribute to the global economy, the country must have the capability to understand the knowledge it produces, and that produced by others. This understanding can best be developed in part through producing new knowledge and translating and developing existing knowledge. Publicly-funded basic and applied research is critical for innovation and potentially, international competitiveness.

The NRF views support for basic disciplinary, multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary research as an investment in the country's learning and knowledge production capabilities and capacities. The Human and Social Dynamics for Development funding instrument is a theme-based, demand-driven funding instrument.

1.1 Funding instrument description

The Human and Social Dynamics Funding Instrument is theme-driven and will support new or existing research initiatives in the following thematic focus areas:

- Science, technology and society
- The dynamics of human and social behavior
- Social cohesion and identity
- Societal change and the evolution of modern society

These four thematic focus areas provide the basis for a structured research agenda to improve the understanding of social conditions and issues.

2 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The mandate of the NRF is to support and promote research through funding, human resource development and the provision of the necessary research facilities so as to facilitate the creation of knowledge, innovation and development in all fields of science and technology, including indigenous knowledge and thereby to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of all the people of the Republic (NRF Act, 1998).

In support of its purpose, the NRF's *Strategy 2025, and the NRF Vision 2030*, aspire to contribute to the development of *a vibrant and globally connected national system of innovation*.

Strategy 2025

NRF Strategy 2025 is an implementation framework for the ten-year vision. This strategy is centred on the NRF's desire to contribute to national development through research with impact. The strategic outcomes include:

- i. A transformed (internationally competitive and sustainable) research workforce;
- ii. Enhanced impact of the research enterprise;
- iii. Enhanced impact of science engagement; and
- iv. A transformed organisation that lives its culture and values.

Vision 2030

The overall objectives for 2030 are to shape, influence and impact the national research system; to establish the NRF as a thought leader and source of knowledge within the science sector; to create a clear causal relationship between research and national development; to have a transformative effect on the national research enterprise and the relationship between science and society; and to enable, initiate, facilitate and perform excellent research with direct and indirect impact, whether immediate or long-term, that extends the frontiers of knowledge and addresses national challenges.

2.1 Environmental scan

The Human and Social Dynamics for Development funding instrument resonates with the NRF mandate by being cognisant of the role that research plays in the innovation and the commercialisation value chain, and hence the socio-economic development of the country.

While it is recognised that the innovation value chain requires basic, strategic and applied research, the emphasis in **this** funding instrument will primarily be on the support of both basic research and applied research¹. In order to participate in an international system of

¹ The Frascati Manual (OECD, 2002) defines **Basic research** as experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundation of phenomena and observable facts, without any particular

innovation, a nation needs to produce knowledge and understand the knowledge produced by others. Support for basic disciplinary research is thus seen as an investment in a society's learning capabilities (Salter and Martin, 2001).

At the same time, this funding instrument acknowledges that basic and applied research are a continuum and inter-dependent (ICSU, 2004) and that increasingly, the notion of "frontier research" is gaining purchase internationally, as it transcends the distinction of basic and applied research and refers to leading edge research which is risky and often across different disciplines.

Social Sciences, Law and Humanities applications are especially encouraged, to enable support traditionally skewed towards the natural sciences, engineering and health science. The NRF continues to support self-initiated bottom-up research ideas and research that address national strategic initiatives as reflected in national strategies like the National Development Plan, the 10-year Innovation Plan and those that are embedded in our geographic advantage areas. The NRF also supports the African Union Agenda 2063 priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals as contained in the United Nations 2030 of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In respect to the social sciences and humanities however, the NRF would like to highlight the fact that it is supportive and committed to working closely with the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) on the advancement of social sciences and the humanities.

2.2 Objectives

The objectives of the funding instrument are:

- To contribute to knowledge production in the different areas of Human and Social Dynamics from the specific lens of the Social Sciences and the Humanities;
- To support world-class basic research alongside the development of the associated human capacity;

application or use in view. It further defines **Applied research** as also original investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge. It is, however directed primarily towards a specific practical aim or objective.

- To advance or develop paradigms, theories and/or methodological innovation in the disciplinary fields of Social Science and the Humanities.
- To achieve world-class research including a renewed prioritization of previously identified vulnerable, emerging or critical skill areas,
- To develop a comprehensive pipeline of human capacity, from past graduate training to emerging researchers, to established researchers
- To ensure meaningful public awareness activities
- To develop sustainable and inclusive community engagement activities.

2.3 NRF Perspective

The Human and Social Dynamics for Development funding instrument will serve to develop and expand various understandings of harnessing these dynamics for development. This is in line with the NRF's view that support for research is an investment in South Africa's learning capabilities. The funding instrument directly, and in part, addresses the following objectives of the *NRF Strategy 2025*:

- A transformed (internationally competitive and sustainable) research workforce;
- Enhanced impact of the research enterprise; and
- Enhanced impact of science engagement.

2.4 Institutional structure

The strategic direction and outcomes of the funding instrument are managed by the Knowledge Advancement and Support (KAS) Directorate. The Reviews and Evaluation (RE) Directorate is responsible for the review processes up to the recommendations of grant awards. RE is also responsible for writing feedback to unsuccessful applicants. The Grants Management and Systems Administration (GMSA) Directorate's responsibilities include posting of the research call, disbursement of grant funds and ensuring adherence to the conditions of the grant.

2.5 Financing support

Funding for the Human and Social Dynamics for Development funding instrument is made possible through contract funding from the DSI. The DSI will fund a three-year cycle of research funding from 2022-2024. As a demand-driven funding instrument, there is no limit to the amount an applicant can request. Having said this, the financial requests need to be

in line with the requirements of the proposal and should accurately reflect the anticipated needs of the proposed work. **Excessive budget requests are not well received by the review panel.** Applications will be scored according to a scorecard (see **Annexure 1**). The final number of successful applicants that will be supported will be determined by the available budget, which is approximately R8 000 000.00 (eight million Rand) per year for 2022-2024. This amount includes research-related costs **and** postdoctoral fellowships.

2.6 Key stakeholders

The key stakeholders involved in the Human and Social Dynamics for Development funding instrument are persons doing research under one of the four thematic focus areas in the disciplines of Social Science, Law or the Humanities, and based at public research institutions that are recognised by directive of the Minister of Science and Innovation. These include mainly, Public Universities, Museums and Science Councils.

2.7 Information sources

International Council for Science (ICSU) 2004. The value of basic scientific research, <http://www.icsu.org/publications/icsu-position-statements/value-scientific-research/the-value-of-basic-scientific-research>

National Government 2012. *National Development Plan 2030: Our future, make it work.*

https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201409/ndp-2030-our-future-make-it-workr.pdf

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development 2002 *Frascati Manual: Proposed standard practice for surveys on Research and Experimental Development* http://www.dcc.ac.uk/sites/default/files/documents/resource/DMP/DMP_Checklist_2013.pdf

Salter, A.J., and Martin, B (2001) The economic benefits of publicly funded basic research: a critical review. *Research Policy* 30(3):509-532

The African Union, 2015. *Agenda 2063*, <https://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/au/agenda2063.pdf>

The Department of Science and Technology, 2013. *The ministerial guidelines for improving equity in the distribution of DST/NRF bursaries and fellowships.*

The Department of Science and Technology, 2015. *Science Engagement Strategy*
https://www.dst.gov.za/images/Science_Engagement_Strategy_-_SES.pdf

The National Research Foundation, 2015. *Open Access Statement*. accessed at
<http://ir.nrf.ac.za/page/policies>.

The National Research Foundation, 2020. *2025 Strategic Plan of the National Research Foundation: NRF Vision 2030*. Pretoria. National Research Foundation. South Africa.

3 **MODUS OPERANDI**

All application materials **must** be submitted electronically via the NRF Online Submission System at <https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za>

All applications **must** be endorsed by the research office of the principal applicant before submission to the NRF. It is the responsibility of each applicant to familiarise himself / herself with the **internal closing dates**, set by institutions. These closing dates will be before the final NRF closing date included in the “General Application Guide 2022”.
Incomplete OR late submissions will not be accepted for review.

3.2 **Eligibility**

- A PhD is not an applicant prerequisite;
- Rated and unrated researchers can apply for three years funding (2022-2024) in this call,
- Applicants must be doing social science or humanities research and must be employed by public research institutions as recognised by directive of the Minister of the Department of Science and Innovation;
- Full-time **employees** at recognised research institutions in South Africa are invited to apply;
- Part-time **employees** on contract at recognized research institutions in South Africa may apply, on condition that their appointment is for (at least) the duration of the project applied for in the submission. The length of the contract should be stated in the application form;
- Salaries must be paid by the research institution and the primary employment of the individual concerned must be at that institution. A contract researcher appointed at a

research institution on behalf of a third party to fulfill a very specific function for the latter does not qualify for support.

- Retired academics/researchers if they meet all set criteria as stipulated below:
 - are resident in SA;
 - are formally affiliated to a South African Higher Education Institution (e.g., appointed as an emeritus professor, honorary research associate/professor, supernumerary/contract employee);
 - are active researchers with a distinguished track record in research and postgraduate student supervision;
 - are actively mentoring/training postgraduate students/young research staff and
 - the institution ensures that a minimum of reasonable time (6 months minimum) is spent at the facility for the purpose of research and research capacity development.

- **Students, including PhD Candidates and Postdoctoral Fellows are NOT eligible to apply** as principal investigators in this call. They may, however, find support for their proposed research by embedding this into applications submitted by eligible principal investigators as detailed above. ***Applications for own degree purposes will not be considered.***

3.3 Ethical clearance

It is the responsibility of the grant holder, in conjunction with the institution, to ensure that all research activities carried out in or outside South Africa comply with the laws and regulations of South Africa and/or the foreign country in which the research activities are conducted. These include all human and animal subjects, copyright and intellectual property protection, and other regulations or laws, as appropriate. A research ethics committee must review and approve the ethical and academic rigor of all research prior to the commencement of the research and acceptance of the grant. The awarded amount will not be released for payment if a copy of the required ethical clearance certificate, as indicated in the application, is not attached to the Conditions of Grant.

Please also refer to the “Statement on Ethical Research and Scholarly Publishing Practices” on the NRF website at <https://www.nrf.ac.za/media-room/news/statement-ethical-research-and-scholarly-publishing-practices>

3.4 Application assessment

The assessment of applications will be guided by a Panel Assessment Scorecard (see **Annexure 1**) and scored according to the Proposal Grading (see **Annexure 2**). **Annexure 3 details the pre-selected equity scores for each applicant, as applied to South African citizens and Permanent Residents. Non-South Africans or Permanent Residents will not be counted towards transformation, and will score as White Males or Females, as appropriate.**

Application assessment will occur by way of a two-tiered process:

- **Remote peer review**

The remote peer reviewers will be specialists in the ambit of the respective proposals. Requests for written reviews will be solicited electronically from national and international peers. Applicants will be requested to provide between 6 to 10 possible reviewers. It is in the applicant's best interest to ensure that the selected reviewers are aware of the submission and are thus likely to respond. It is also in the applicant's best interest to ensure that selected reviewers **have no possible conflict of interest** (project partners, academics in the same department, close personal or professional relationships, etc.) in submitting a review; as such review reports are dismissed without consideration. On average, a 30% response rate is achieved by the NRF in requesting any postal peer reviews.

- **Panel-peer review**

The adjudication panel will be broadly constituted to include senior academics, selected based both on their respective knowledge fields and their research standing. The panel meeting will be held at a central location or by way of tele- or video-conferencing. Panel members will deliberate on submitted written reviews and will be expected to offer their own expert opinions.

Please note: Applicants **must** ensure that their Curriculum Vitae are updated on the NRF Online Submission System at <https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za>. **These Curriculum Vitae are used in the assessment processes, and incomplete or outdated inputs will jeopardise the success of the application.**

3.5 Rules of participation

a) Principal Investigator

The principal investigator (PI) (i.e. the applicant) must be an active researcher who takes intellectual responsibility for the project, its conception, any strategic decisions required in its pursuit, and the communication of results. The PI must have the capacity to make a serious commitment to the project and cannot assume the role of a supplier of resources for work that will largely be placed in the hands of others. The PI will take responsibility for the management and administration of resources allocated to the grant award, and for the meeting of reporting requirements.

The research team may also include:

b) Co-investigators

A co-investigator (CI) is an active researcher who provides significant commitment, intellectual input and relevant expertise into the design and implementation of the research application. The CI will be involved in all or at least some well-defined research activities within the scope of the application. Only South Africa-based co-investigators will be eligible for funding in successful grant applications.

It is important to note that postdoctoral fellows, students, technical and support staff

DO NOT qualify as co-investigators

c) Research Associates / Collaborators

These individuals or groups make a relatively small, but meaningful contribution to the research endeavours outlined in the application, but do not participate in the research design. They are not considered as part of the core research team and are **not eligible** to receive NRF funds from the grant if the team's application is successful.

3.6 Data management and use

A data management Plan (DMP) is a **formal document** that describes the data you expect to acquire or generate during the course of a research project, how you will manage, describe, analyze, and store those data, and what mechanisms (including digital data storage) you will use at the end of your project **to share and preserve** your data. This may be included as an attachment to the application, or the information can be placed into the application template text, as preferred.

Research data sharing that underlies the findings reported in a journal article/conference paper/thesis as set out in the NRF Open Access Statement.

The findings reported in a journal article or conference paper should be deposited in accordance with the NRF Open Access Statement. It is acknowledged that some data generated are more sensitive than others. Before initiating the research, it is the grantholder's responsibility to consider the following: confidentiality, ethics, security and copyright. Possible data sharing challenges should be considered in the DMP with solutions to optimise data sharing.

Researchers should note that publicly funded research data should be in the public domain, with free and open access, by default. Collaborators and co-investigators in the research project should be informed by the applicant that due to public funding and funder mandate, one is expected to share research data as openly as possible. The Data Management Plan should indicate which data will be shared. If (some) research data is to be restricted, an appropriate statement in the DMP and subsequent publication should explain why access to data is restricted.

The National Research Foundation has adopted and is given permission to use the [DCC Checklist for Data Management Plan](#), and this can be used as a guide for developing the DMP.

(http://www.dcc.ac.uk/sites/default/files/documents/resource/DMP/DMP_Checklist_2013.pdf)

3.7 Science Engagement

The NRF supports science engagement through its coordination and implementation of the Department of Science and Innovation's Science Engagement Strategy. The strategy embraces a broad understanding of science, encompassing systematic knowledge spanning natural and physical sciences, engineering sciences, medical sciences, agricultural sciences, mathematics, social sciences and humanities, technology, all aspects of the innovation chain and indigenous knowledge. Within this context, science engagement refers to activities, events, or interactions characterised by mutual learning and dialogue among people of varied backgrounds, scientific expertise and life experiences, who articulate and

discuss their perspectives, ideas, knowledge and values. Science engagement is an overarching term for all aspects of public engagement with science, science awareness, science education, science communication and science outreach, which aim to develop and benefit individuals and society. Researchers funded through the NRF programmes are required to contribute to science engagement and report the related outputs in their project's annual Progress Report.

3.8 Management of funding instrument

The **KAS Directorate** of the NRF – Research and Innovation Support and Advancement (RISA) manages the Human and Social Dynamics for Development funding instrument, and is responsible for:

- Strategic oversight and management of the funding instrument;
- Conceptualizing and developing the funding instrument;
- Coordinating and facilitating activities of the funding instrument;
- Compiling funding instrument research and evaluation reports;
- Stakeholder engagement; and
- Ensuring that the funding instrument delivers on its intended goal(s).

The **RE Directorate** of the NRF – RISA is responsible for managing the adjudication process including:

- sourcing of reviewers both for remote reviews and panels;
- managing the peer review process;
- organizing and managing the review panels as and where appropriate; and
- providing feedback as appropriate.

The **GMSA Directorate** of the NRF – RISA is responsible for

- Managing the call process, that is,
 - Posting the call;
 - Receiving and assessing applications' eligibility;
- Coordinating and facilitating the granting processes
- Managing the granting including the administration of awards;
- Administering grant payments; and
- Ensuring adherence to conditions of grants

3.9 Lines of authority

The Director responsible for the Human and Social Dynamics for Development funding instrument reports to the Executive Director of the KAS Directorate. Directors from RE and GMSA manage the review and granting processes. The Directors in both RE and GMSA report to their respective Executive Directors.

4 FINANCIALS

5.1 Funding model

The grants of this funding instrument are to be primarily used for **research purposes** and for the development of associated human resources under the auspices of the NRF standard grant and finance policies. The money is released upon acceptance of the conditions of grant, both by the applicant and his/her employing institution. These grants will fall under the NRF audit requirements of beneficiary institutions.

5.2 Funding ranges

The allocation of funds is demand-driven, and as such there is no maximum or minimum proposal request. The number of applications that will be supported overall will depend on the availability of resources and the financial requirements of those successful applications. If successful applications have high financial requirements, fewer applications will be supported. The application assessment process will consider proposed budget items in terms of cost, risk and reward ratios. The NRF Online Submissions System uses a single template for all research grants. Not all sections will apply to the Human and Social Dynamics for Development funding instrument. All awards will be made in line with the detailed funding rules and guidelines as outlined below. Although specific funding categories are outlined in the application form, awards will be collapsed into categories: such as running costs, research equipment and postdoctoral fellowships on the award letters. The detailed budget is required during the assessment process.

The application assessment process will consider proposed budget items in terms of cost, risk and reward ratios. Decisions relating to budget items will also be governed by the overall funding instrument funds available for the period. Awards will be made in line with the NRF funding rules and guidelines as outlined in **Section 4.3**.

4.3 Funding support

(a) Postgraduate student support

The National Research Foundation (NRF) has developed a new Postgraduate Student Funding Policy that will use postgraduate student funding as a lever to address the challenges of inequity of access, success and throughput. The policy is underpinned by the pursuit of research excellence in all of its dimensions and has transformation of the postgraduate cohort as the core objective. Its purpose is to retain high academic achievers in the system to pursue postgraduate studies up to doctoral level, as part of a national drive to grow the next generation of academics to sustain South Africa's knowledge enterprise. The NRF is prioritising postgraduate students with research inclination, with the aim to grow the pool of early career researchers. Another motivation for this policy is to fast-track the development of postgraduate students in high-impact, priority and vulnerable disciplines critical for national socio-economic development.

From the 2021 academic year onwards, the NRF began phasing out the block grant nomination process as well as the grantholder-linked modalities of funding postgraduate students. All the postgraduate students are required to apply on the NRF Online Submission System by accessing the link: <https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/>. This single-entry point will allow the NRF to coordinate the applications that have not yet had the financial means test conducted. This financial means test will be conducted by Ikusasa Students Financial Aid Programme (ISFAP). Postgraduate students will be funded either at Full Cost of Study (FCS) or Partial Cost of Study (PCS) under the new policy. To ensure equity of access to postgraduate studies, financially needy students (i.e., those whose combined household income is R350 000 per annum or less) and students with a disability will be funded at FCS. Academic "*high-fliers*" achieving a distinction or first-class pass will also be eligible for funding at FCS. International students as well as any other South African students who are not eligible for FCS may be funded at PCS. The academic minimum requirements for NRF postgraduate funding is 65% in order to be eligible for FCS and PCS support. Detailed eligibility criteria for NRF postgraduate funding for FCS and PCS are outlined in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Eligibility criteria for NRF postgraduate funding for FCS and PCS.

Study Level	Full Cost of Study <i>(South African Citizens and Permanent Residents only)</i>		Partial Cost of Study <i>(South African Citizens; South African Permanent Residents and 5% Non-South African Citizens)</i>
	Exceptional Achievers	Financially Needy & Students with Disability	Other
Honours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≥ 75% Mark in Final Year of study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≥ 65% Mark in Final Year of study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≥ 65% Mark in Final Year of study
	<p>Honours students must be 28 years of age or younger in the year of application. Non South African Citizens are not eligible for Honours Scholarships.</p>		
Masters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≥ 75% Mark for Honours • Completed Honours in one year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≥ 65% Mark for Honours • Completed Honours in one year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≥ 65% Mark for Honours • Completed Honours in one year
	<p>Masters students must be 30 years of age or younger in the year of application.</p>		
Doctoral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≥ 75% Mark for Masters • Completed Masters in two years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≥ 65% Mark for Masters • Completed Masters in two years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≥ 65% Mark for Masters • Completed Masters in two years
	<p>Doctoral students must be 32 years of age or younger in the year of application.</p>		

In cases where a grade is not indicated, the application will not be considered for funding by the NRF.

The NRF will allocate all postgraduate bursaries under its management control as follows:

- 95% South African citizens and permanent residents;
- 5% students from SADC countries and from the rest of the world; and
- 55% women.

The NRF disaggregates these targets for South African citizens and permanent residents as follows:

- 90% Black (African, Coloured, and Indian);
- 10% White; and
- 1% students living with a disability.

For further details on the DSI-NRF Postgraduate Funding policy, kindly refer to the Postgraduate Funding Framework document which is available on www.nrf.ac.za.

a) Research-related operating costs

These costs include materials and supplies, travel (including conferences) and subsistence, equipment and research/technical/*ad hoc* assistance may be included within the context of the project applications. These costs should be justified and commensurate with the planned outputs, as they will be assessed on this basis. The amount awarded within this framework can be used at the discretion of the applicant. Below are some general guidelines:

Sabbaticals

The Human and Social Dynamics for Development funding instrument **does not** provide support for sabbaticals

Lecture replacement

The Human and Social Dynamics for Development funding instrument **does not** provide support for lecturer replacements.

Materials and Supplies *

Support for running expenses of the proposed application. These items would be used in the normal course of operations in all fields of marine and coastal-related research. The Human and Social Dynamics for Development funding instrument does not provide financial support for:

- Basic office equipment including computers and consumables unless the computer is required for high-end computing for the research itself.
- Basic office stationery, photocopying costs, printing costs unless these items form part of the research tools.
- **Journal publication costs, journal subscription costs and book costs.**
- Telephone, fax and internet costs.

*** PLEASE NOTE:**

These restrictions do not apply to a PI and/or CI's based at a museum

Travel and subsistence

- International conference attendance: Generally, the NRF restricts this amount to R25,000 per person to a **maximum of R50,000 per application per year** for a team application i.e. for principal investigators and co-investigators (local only) and local postgraduate students.
- International visits: These will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Such visits must be integral to the research plan and strong motivations should accompany these requests. Realistic funding allocations will be based on the requested activities. Only outgoing visits will be considered depending on the availability of funding.
- Local conference attendance: Generally, the NRF restricts expenditure against this item to **R5,000 per person (all costs)**. Support for local conference attendance could be requested for all listed co-investigators and postgraduate students. The applicant should clearly motivate for the benefit to attend more than one local conference per annum, and for the number of people attending each local conference.
- Local travel: The NRF does not stipulate any rate for mileage as this will depend on the rate which varies per institution/organisation. Applicants are requested to provide details of this rate as well as the estimated distance to be travelled within the given year. This travel should be well-motivated and exclude travel to conferences mentioned above
- Local accommodation costs should not exceed a three-star establishment. This relates to local travel for research purposes and estimation of accommodation cost for each trip should be clearly presented in the motivation.

Research / Technical / Ad hoc Assistants

The Human and Social Dynamics for Development funding instrument **does not provide funding for salaries**. Requests for research/technical/*ad hoc* assistance should be treated with caution. Generally, the NRF would encourage applicants to engage students to undertake the research rather than employing research consultants. **The NRF will not pay for students to undertake research**. This guideline however does not apply when specific and/or highly-specialised research/technical expertise is required. This should be **CLEARLY** motivated for in the application.

Administrative assistance does not qualify as technical assistance.

Research Equipment

Funding for equipment will be limited to R200 000 per application. Requisitions for large equipment items should be submitted through the NRF's National Equipment Programme

Science Engagement

Pre-planned science engagement events can be awarded additional funds, **limited to a maximum of R30,000 per annum**, and only events that are motivated upfront will be funded.

c) Funding to cater for disabilities

Additional funding support to cater for disability will be allocated to people with disabilities as specified in the Code of Good Practice on Employment of People with Disabilities as in the Employment Equity Act No 55 of 1998.

4.4 Financial control and reporting

Upon receipt of the signed Conditions of Grant, the NRF will release the awarded amount for the year. Grantholders will then be required to comply with the standard NRF financial management procedures, including the submission of an annual Progress Report. These are to be submitted by 15 February of the following year and are a prerequisite for the release of the subsequent year's funding for **ALL current NRF awards**. Failure to submit

an annual Progress Report will result in the cancellation of ALL current awards held by the defaulting principal investigator

5 MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE FUNDING INSTRUMENT

The NRF-RISA is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the Human and Social Dynamics for Development funding instrument.

5.1 Reporting

The KAS Director is responsible for reporting quarterly on the contribution of the Human and Social Dynamics for Development funding instrument to the KAS Directorate's Key Performance Indicators. In addition, the Director is responsible for reviewing and reporting on the progress of the funding instrument.

5.2. Timeframes for funding instrument review

The Human and Social Dynamics for Development funding instrument will be evaluated by an appropriate external reviewer as appointed by the RE Directorate. In consultation with this directorate, KAS will agree to and set timeframes for the review in line with existing guidelines.

5.3 Broad terms of reference for the funding instrument review

The broad terms of reference for the programme review of the Human and Social Dynamics for Development funding instrument will be determined by the KAS Directorate prior to the evaluation taking place, and in accordance with tenets set in the RE Directorate's Guidelines.

5.4 Utilisation of funding instrument review findings and recommendations

The results of the evaluation will be used in line with the purpose set in the Terms of Reference for the evaluation, as well as for instrument improvement and development.

6 CONTACT DETAILS

Please direct all queries to the individuals detailed below. Applicants may also direct their queries to the Support desk via email: supportdesk@nrf.ac.za

Funding instrument related queries	NRF Technical queries
KAS	GMSA
Mr Katleho Ralehoko Professional Officer: KAS E-mail: Katleho.ralehoko@nrf.ac.za Tel: 012 481 4188	Ms Motsakwe Rakgoale Professional Officer: GMSA E-mail: Motsakwe@nrf.ac.za Tel: 012 481 4297

7 LIST OF ACRONYMS

CI	Co-investigator
DMP	Data Management Plan
DSI	Department of Science and Innovation
FCS	Full Cost of Study
GMSA	Grant Management and Systems Administration
ISFAP	Ikusasa Students Financial Aid Programme
KAS	Knowledge Advancement and Support
NIHSS	National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences
NRF	National Research Foundation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PCS	Partial Cost of Study
PI	Principal Investigator
RE	Reviews and Evaluation
RISA	Research and Innovation Support and Advancement
SADA	South African Data Archive

ANNEXURE 1: Panel Assessment Scorecard – HSDD				
Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Details	Score / 4	Weight
Proposal	Scientific merit and feasibility	Reflect on the proposed rationale, approach and methodology Is the proposal feasible as proposed? Has knowledge of relevant literature been adequately articulated?		45%
Equity	Of applicant	Race / Gender / Years post PhD ¹		10%
Transformation	Early career researchers/ postgraduates	Reflect on the historical compliance with transformational objectives		10%
Science Engagement	Plans for science engagement	Is there evidence of a science engagement strategy? Are the appropriate target groups adequately articulated?		10%
Impact	Wider Impact	Has economic/ societal/ environmental impact been embedded in the proposal? Is it clear how such impact will be measured?		15%
Data management and use	Plans for digital data storage, usage and/or dissemination	Has appropriate consideration been given to digital data storage, usage and/or dissemination beyond the immediate project team?		10%
			Total	100%

¹ This score is predetermined in accordance with an NRF-approved scale – see Annexure 3

ANNEXURE 2: Proposal Grading - HSDD

Score	Meaning of score	Notes
4	Excellent	Application demonstrates evidence of outstanding performance across all the stated criteria, as determined by the panel and relative to the knowledge field under consideration
3	Above average	Above average performance across all criteria, as determined by the panel and relative to the knowledge field under consideration
2	Average	Application demonstrates average performance across all the stated criteria, as determined by the panel and relative to the knowledge field under consideration
1	Below average	Below average performance across all the criteria, as determined by panel and relative to knowledge field
00	Poor	There are major shortcomings or flaws within and across the stated criteria, with particular emphasis on the scientific/scholarly merit

Context:

Proposal grading is done with sensitivity to the context within which each application is submitted. The score of each criterion for each application will be contextualised to accommodate variability in such things as knowledge fields, institutional capacity, etc. Should a criterion not be applicable to a specific application (e.g. plans for digital data storage; collaborations; etc.), the weighting of that specific criteria will be made to equal zero, and the overall score normalised.

ANNEXURE 3: Pre-set equity scores

Equity Status	Pre-set Equity Score
Disabled	4
Black female; Black male, young ¹	4
Black male, not young	3
White female, young	3
White female, not young	2
White male, young	2
White male, not young	1

¹ "Young" refers to 5 years post-PhD as per the applicant's CV. Applicants will be classified as "young" if their graduation date is less than 5 years prior to the date of assessment.