



International Science Council (ISC)-South Africa Scientific Events/ Travel Grants

Closing Date: Consult the General Application Guide 2022

Only members of national ISC committees are eligible to apply

Notice: Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant regulations that have included restrictions on both local and international travel, and large gatherings, many physical meetings, conferences and symposia are unlikely to take place during the time covered by this call.

Applicants should only apply for travel and hosting of a physical meetings if they are confident and can show strong evidence that such meetings can and/or will take place. It must be noted upfront that no carry-forwards will be allowed for postponed or cancelled events.

The NRF is however cognisant that some virtual gatherings may require financial support for hosting and or registration fee attendance/participation, and therefore applications for such support accompanied by strong motivation and evidence will be considered on a case by case basis.

1. INTRODUCTION

The International Science Council (ISC) is a non-governmental organisation with a unique global membership that brings together about 40 International Scientific Unions and Associations, and over 140 national and regional scientific organisations including Academies and Research Councils.

The ISC was created in 2018 as a result of a merger between the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC). The mission of the ISC is to act as the global voice for science. As part of that mission, the ISC:

- Speaks for the value of all science and evidence-informed decision-making;
- Stimulates and supports international scientific research and scholarship on major issues of global concern;
- Articulates scientific knowledge on such issues in the public domain;
- Promotes the continued and equal advancement of scientific rigour, creativity and relevance in all parts of the world; and
- Defends the free and responsible practice of science

This is in line with the strategic performance goals set in the National Research Foundation's (NRF) Vision - striving towards an internationally competitive science, technology and innovation system.

NB* In the event you are unable to travel due to Covid-19 restrictions at the time of your event, the NRF will support participation in virtual events/meetings.

2. SOUTH AFRICAN ISC SECRETARIAT

South Africa is a national member of ISC through the support of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI). The South African ISC Secretariat serves the scientific community and the ISC scientific unions and affiliates to which South Africa adheres. The SA ISC Secretariat provides support and organisational services to the ISC National Board of SA, and to the SA ISC National Committees to advance South Africa's position in international platforms. The total membership of these committees is in excess of 200 scientists. Approximately 100 South Africans serve on ICS-related commissions and working groups. The ISC activities in South Africa are executed in line with and subscribe to the following principles:

- Science-for-policy: Stimulate and support national and international scientific research and scholarship, and to communicate science that is relevant to national and international policy issues;
- Policy-for-science: Promote developments that enable science to contribute more effectively to major issues in the national and international public domain;
- Science-for-society: Stimulate science engagement with society;
- Scientific freedom and responsibility: Support the free and responsible practice of science; and
- Adherence: Support committees through payment of ISC membership dues;

3. TYPES OF GRANTS

ONLY members of national ISC committees (refer to Annex 1) are eligible to apply for the ISC grants.

The three types of grants supported under this instrument are:

1. **Travel Grants (and/or connectivity):** This investment area is aimed at supporting networks and partnerships in order for South African researchers to participate in ISC-related international conferences, workshops, relevant meetings and other activities.
2. **Local Events:** Support for hosting of ISC-related events (e.g. seminars, symposia, workshops). These may be virtual events. Under this grants, applicants can also apply for support to disseminate ISC aligned research outputs to broader society, including thought pieces to media houses, audio and video communication etc.
3. **ISC National Committee meetings:** for hosting of annual national committees, including virtual meetings.

* Outcomes of events should include publication of scholarly reports and outreach materials.

*"Conference" is used in its broadest sense, to include all types of scientific meetings/gatherings for exchange of ideas and sharing knowledge, like: seminars, symposia and workshops.

3.1 Travel Grants (International)

Purpose

To support international mobility of ISC associates/experts to participate in events related to ISC programmes/activities hosted abroad or in South Africa such as the ISC General Assembly. The maximum value for this category is R50 000.

Eligibility Criteria

- Be a member of an ISC committee or a member of ISC-related working groups, task groups or commissions;
- Capacity building delegates (presently completing a PhD or recently completed a PhD) appointed to the SA committee of a specific Union. Up to two capacity building delegates will be eligible to apply per year;
- Applications will be supported on a competitive basis;
- A maximum of three delegates will be funded to attend a specific ISC international event;
- Delegates will be funded for a maximum of five days;
- Applications are considered on a value-add, representative and strategic basis;
- Additional funding for the same event from other NRF instruments will not be considered;
- Applicant should clearly indicate financial contributions from other sources.

3.2 Support for Local Events

Purpose

To promote excellence in research through financial support for hosting national and international research events such as symposia, seminars, workshops, meetings and colloquia in South Africa, related to ISC. This grant also supports hosting of virtual events and activities to disseminate ISC aligned research outputs to broader society, including thought pieces to media houses, audio and video communication etc.

The maximum value for this category is R100 000. However, the NRF reserves the right to deviate from this amount should a convincing case be made by an applicant. In this case, an award that exceeds R100 000 may be considered under rare circumstances.

Eligibility Criteria

- Organisers are encouraged to promote science outreach by involving the public and students in the event.
- The funding may be utilised for conferencing and mobility costs related to the event (e.g. air travel and accommodation), or specific publication costs related to, or as a result of, the event.
- Activities such as audio-visual equipment hire, honoraria, student assistance and administration costs will **not** qualify for consideration.
- The applicant should clearly indicate financial contributions from other sources. Co-investment from own/other sources is a minimum requirement.

* Grants for hosting global conferences (more than 500 participants) is provided under the DSI-NRF Conference Fund. This funding instrument makes provision for strategic, large events of an international nature.

3.3 ISC National Committee support grant

Purpose

To promote engagements between ISC committees, learned society and unions through national research events such as symposia, seminars, workshops, meetings and colloquia in South Africa, related to ISC. This grant also supports hosting of virtual events and activities to disseminate ISC aligned research outputs to broader society, including thought pieces to media houses, audio and video communication etc.

The maximum value for this category is R 50 000. However, the NRF reserves the right to deviate from this amount should a convincing case be made by an applicant. In this case, an award that exceeds R50 000 may be considered under rare circumstances.

Eligibility Criteria

- Organisers are encouraged to promote science outreach by involving the public and students in the event.

- National committee meetings should be held parallel with learned society workshops or other related events. ISC committees are expected to host at least one (maximum two) national meeting per calendar year.
 - The applications for hosting committee meetings should be submitted via the Chairperson/Vice Chairperson of the specific committee.
 - The application should include travel and related costs for all committee members.
- The funding may be utilised for conferencing and mobility costs related to the event (e.g. air travel and accommodation), or specific publication costs related to, or as a result of, the event.
- Activities such as audio-visual equipment hire, honoraria, student assistance and administration costs will not qualify for consideration.

Summary of ISC Supported Activities

Category	Item
Travel Grants for Individual Researchers/ connectivity to virtually organised events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International flights (economy) • Accommodation • Conference registration fees • Subsistence • Outreach and dissemination of ISC related activities
Local Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local/regional flights, accommodation and communication (speakers and or students) • Ground transport • Venue hire • Refreshments • Organisation of virtual events • Outreach and dissemination of ISC related activities
ISC National Committee support grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosting of annual national committees, including virtual meetings. • Outreach and dissemination of ISC related activities.

4. APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications should be submitted on the NRF Online Submission System at <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za/>
- Register/Login using your ID/passport number and password
- Go to “My Applications” – Select “Create Application”
- Select the call you are applying for: **ISC Grants for Travel and Hosting Events**
- Complete all sections of the application
- Please attach the necessary documents in **PDF format**

- Should you not follow the guidelines for attaching the necessary supporting documents, your application may not be considered
- Remember to **submit** your application on completion
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.

5. REVIEW PROCESS

In line with the NRF's endeavour for a fair and objective granting process, all applications are subjected to the following:

- All grant applications should be submitted to the NRF electronically via an online application.
- For ICS members at qualifying institutions, the NRF Designated Authority (DA) need to sign off and validate the application, as per usual NRF application procedure.
- In **ALL** cases (as well as for those members not attached to an institution), please enter the contact details and a letter of support of your Head of Department and/or Chairperson of the specific committee. The latter is to ensure alignment, fairness and consistency with applications.
- Applicants should upload an invitation letter from the host organisation/institution/person being visited or an official acceptance of conference presentation/poster, or a letter from the SA ISC Secretariat informing the delegates of their appointment as National Voting Delegate or Capacity Building Delegate, whichever might be applicable.
- Applications are reviewed by NRF panel in consultation with a relevant ISC Committee Chairperson.
- ISC reviewers will make recommendations concerning the merit of applications under review including the budget request, in the form of written comments.
- **Given budgetary limitations, funding is not guaranteed. It is important to note that the applicant should clearly indicate financial contributions from other sources. No exceptions will be considered.**
- This call is for activities taking place during the period: **1 June 2021 to 31 December 2021**
- The next call will be launched in February 2022.

6. REPORTING

Following the event, applicants must submit conference reports, proof of travel in the form of boarding passes and accommodation receipts. The report of the event should be submitted to the NRF no later than 30 days after the event. The report should be endorsed by the Chairperson of the applicable committee. Should the Chairperson of a Committee provide a report, it should be endorsed by the Chairperson of the National Board. Applicants who have not submitted previous conference reports to the NRF will not be considered for funding again. The NRF support should be acknowledged in all publications and presentations (oral or poster). Use of the NRF logo should be according to the branding policies of the organisation, and can be obtained from the contact persons below.

7. CONTACTS

<p>Ms Busiswa Molefe Professional Officer: KAS Telephone: +27 12 481 4028 Email: busiswa@nrf.ac.za</p>	<p>Ms Mpai Motsei Professional Officer: GMSA Telephone: +27 12 481 4078 Email: Mpai.Motsei@nrf.ac.za</p>
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ANNEX 1 – ICS COMMITTEES

1. The South African National Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA)
2. The National Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) & the Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP)
3. The International Astronomical Union (IAU)
4. The National Committee of the International Cartographic Association (ICA)
5. The South African National Committee for the International Geographical Union (IGU)
6. The South African National Committee for International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA)
7. The International Union of Crystallography (IUCr)
8. The International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG)
9. The South African National Committee of the International Union of Geological Science (IUGS) and the International Correlation Programme (IGCP)
10. The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)
11. The South African National Committee of the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS)
12. South Africa's National Committee for International Union of Psychological Studies (IUPsyS)
13. The National Committee for the International Union of Nutrition Sciences (IUNS) and the International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFOST)
14. The International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (IUTAM)
15. The South African Committee of the International Mathematics Union (IMU)
16. The International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS)
17. The Science Committee on Ocean Research (SCOR)
18. The International Union of Radio Science (URSI)
19. International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR)The International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP)
20. The International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS)
21. The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)
22. The International Brain Research Organization (IBRO)
23. The International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS)
24. International Union of Forestry Research Organization (IUFRO)
25. Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE)]
26. International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB)
27. International Water Association (IWA)
28. International Council for Scientific and Technological Information (ICSTI)
29. International Council on Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS)