

## PREPARATORY WORKSHOPS

### NRF/ DFG PARTNERSHIP ON INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH TRAINING GROUPS (IRTGs)

**Consult the General Application Guide 2022 for Closing Dates**

*Please note that the NRF Online Submission System will open on the 8<sup>st</sup> of February 2021 for submission of applications. Researchers **must** consult their institutions for internal closing dates.*

#### Background and Description of IRTGs

For new South African-German IRTG initiatives, DFG and the NRF provide for the possibility to support International Research Training Groups (IRTGs) which are structured doctoral programmes run by German universities in conjunction with universities or research institutions abroad. They are funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). As bilateral collaborations, they train scientists and academics at different stages of their careers, with a particular emphasis on doctoral researchers. IRTGs promote systematic research cooperation through joint research and qualification programmes as well as through cooperative cross-border supervision of doctoral researchers.

A central feature of International Research Training Groups is coordinated and joint research visits by doctoral researchers at the respective partner institutions. IRTGs can only be established by a university, university of technology or an equivalent higher education institution which has the legal right to confer doctoral degrees (hereafter referred to as “Higher Education Institutions – HEIs”).

#### IRTG Preparatory Workshops

DFG and the NRF provide for the possibility to support a joint workshop for the preparation of an IRTG proposal. Funding can be granted only if research cooperation is already established and plans for the IRTG have already been consolidated. Funding for the joint workshops may either be applied for prior to the submission of an IRTG draft proposal or after positive evaluation of an IRTG draft proposal but prior to submission of an IRTG full proposal.

From the South African side:

- The NRF will support the South African researchers’ participation at a maximum amount of R50 000 for 1 workshop per IRTG.
- An IRTG that is resubmitting its proposal after a negative evaluation is not eligible to apply for a preparatory workshop. Meaning that researchers may not apply for an IRTG workshop for the second time if the proposal was rejected on the first attempt.
- An IRTG that previously received NRF funding support for a preparatory workshop, but failed to submit their full proposals, are not eligible to apply for another preparatory workshop.

- The preparatory workshop can be held in either South Africa or in Germany.
- Please note that the NRF will fund a workshop provided that the workshop has also been approved by the DFG. Therefore, from the South African side, applications for the preparatory workshop must be accompanied by a letter from the DFG confirming that the workshop has also been approved and will be financially supported from the German side.

### Eligible researchers who may apply for an IRTG preparatory workshop

Only South African researchers planning to apply for the NRF/ DFG (IRTGs) programme are eligible to apply. Applying researchers should be employed/based at a public South African university, and should already have established cooperation with the German Partners with consolidated plans for an IRTG.

### Applying for an IRTG preparatory workshop

To apply for an IRTG Preparatory Workshop, researchers should submit their applications electronically to the NRF via the NRF Online Submission System at <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za>. A Preparatory Workshop can be applied for in the 1<sup>st</sup> review cycle or the 2<sup>nd</sup> review cycle. Please note that the following steps should be followed when applying for an IRTG Preparatory Workshop on the NRF Online Submission System:

- Applications must be submitted under the *“Travel, Training and Conference Grants: Germany (IRTGs) Preparatory Workshop”*.
- All compulsory sections as well as the non-compulsory sections relevant to you must be completed in full.
- Required compulsory documents should be attached in PDF format in the following order:
  - A Supporting letter from the DFG confirming that the workshop has been approved and will be financially supported from the German side.
  - A list of local and international invited partners who will participate in the workshop.
  - Copy of the draft of the actual IRTG proposal to be submitted for funding consideration.
  - CVs of the German Principal Investigators.
  - A draft or final version of the workshop programme.
- Failure to submit compulsory documents will result in the disqualification of the application.
- Complete applications will go to the applicant’s institution for verification before being forwarded to the NRF for further processing.
- Applications submitted outside the NRF Online Submission System will not be accepted.
- 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 NRF recognized research institutions will be accepted.
- You are encouraged to contact your research office or Designated Authority if you have any queries.
- After submission of the application for an IRTG Preparatory Workshop on the NRF Online Submission System, kindly communicate with Mr Lebogang Mpetle at [Lebogang.Mpetle@nrf.ac.za](mailto:Lebogang.Mpetle@nrf.ac.za) to notify him of your application for further processing.

## Ethical Clearance

It is the responsibility of the grantholder, 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>.

## Important Dates

IRTG Preparatory Workshops can be applied for throughout the year either in the Review Period 1 (8 February to 31 March 2021) or Review Period 2 (1 June to 31 August 2021), it is advisable to consult with DFG and the NRF on the timing of submission.

## Further Detailed Information

Funding for IRTG **Preparatory Workshops** is requested from DFG according to form 1.306en ([http://www.dfg.de/formulare/1\\_306/1\\_306\\_en.pdf](http://www.dfg.de/formulare/1_306/1_306_en.pdf)). For the NRF application, please apply through the NRF Online Submission System at <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za>.

## Contact details for queries:

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### For the National Research Foundation - NRF

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