

SARChI Trilateral Call 2018

Africa - UK Trilateral Call

Closing Date: 20 July 2018

Background

The Newton Fund is implemented in South Africa through a bilateral agreement between the Department of Science and Technology of South Africa (DST- SA) and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy of the United Kingdom (BEIS- UK). The fund aims to build SA-UK country collaborations centred on shared research and innovation challenges which have direct relevance to Newton partner countries' social welfare and economic development. The SARChI Bilateral and Trilateral Research Chairs activity is supported by the Department of Science and Technology through the National Research Foundation (NRF) and is intended to support collaboration between Research and Academic Centres of Excellence in SA-UK and across Africa.

This Trilateral Chair call builds on the strengths and successes of the SARChI and SA-UK Bilateral Research Chairs Programme and seeks to extend the positive impacts and outcomes of this initiative to other leading and established researchers and research centres of excellence across Africa. The aim is to build long term research collaborations with established researchers in the 3 countries, whilst also providing opportunities for mentoring and mobility of Early-Career and Emerging Researchers who are mentored and supervised by the Research Chairs and/or Leading and Established Researchers. The core team, made up of Principals Investigators (PI's) from each country, should be able to split their research time between the UK (20 %), South Africa (20 %) and country C (10% approx.), over the duration of the project.

Objectives

- Build research capacity across Africa by enabling mobility of African students and technical support staff to SARChI Research Chairs in South Africa, UK and in country C
- Provide mentorship and support PhD co-supervision
- Contribute towards increasing the output of PhD's in South Africa
- Build new links between SA-UK-other African higher education and research institutions

Project Duration

- This initiative is modelled on the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI), the chair will be awarded as a Tier 1 chair for the period of 5 years. Continuation of the funding of the chair post the 5 year period, will be based on good performance reviews and the availability of funds from sponsors.

Proposal Guidelines:

- The aim of the call is to promote applied research in the listed thematic areas below, for the benefit of society. The initiative is founded on the principal of 'Science for Society' and aims to fund projects that will yield societal benefits and have the potential for commercialization and the drive of the African agenda in the 4th industrialization era.
- The grant provides for funding for a tier 1 SARChI chair, to enable trilateral collaboration and mobility of researchers in selected thematic areas

- The value of collaboration must be evident, e.g., sharing of equipment not readily available in home country or having achieved an advanced stage of proposed research / technology development in area of common interest
- Proposals should be well defined, with specific timeframes and outputs for joint collaboration
- the core team should have an agreement on joint IP or options to purchase IP reflected in support letters from participating institutions
- Where possible, a Community of Practice element would add value, that is, preference will also be given to proposals where the trilateral collaboration would benefit the development of a research network or support collaboration with other institutions through symposia which enables the sharing of best practices in a wider forum
- Proposals may also be multi- / inter-disciplinary, that is, the collaborating researchers can be addressing a common theme but using different approaches.

Budget

The NRF and the UK British Council will provide matched funding to support the research and mobility activities of the chair. The NRF will fund the South African Principal Investigator, and the UK British Council will fund the British and part fund the other African country Principal Investigators. Applications which involve other Newton Funded and ODA eligible African countries (Egypt and Kenya), as well as other African countries which the NRF has active bilateral agreements with. Researchers from other African countries who can secure funding for the collaboration will be given preference.

Please see Appendix B for list of countries whom the NRF has active Bilaterals with.

Themes

With the rapid transformation of technology, the world finds itself in the 4th Industrialisation era. The era is characterised by the intuitive use of technology and human beings to achieve sustainable economic development. The era requires the combination of elements such as the internet, robotics, machines, biotechnology, nanotechnology and artificial intelligence to bring about smart solutions for societal benefit. It is within this context and era, which has prompted society to rethink how production can be improved using technology.

This chair is envisaged to be a key driver in advancing knowledge that is innovative and responsive to the requirements of the 4th industrialisation era. It is expected that the chair will encompass an innovative approach in addressing societal problems in order to meet the social and economic needs of a growing global population. Grants are intended to support areas relevant to the economic development and social welfare of partner countries and should demonstrate how they will benefit the wider research and innovation community in South Africa, the wider African continent and the UK.

Proposals will be welcomed in the following areas which focus on the following priorities:

1. Food Security

- Animal and Plants
- Underutilized crops

- Value Chain, post-harvest, production technologies etc.
- Water
- Land management
- Agricultural and biotech

2. Sustainable and Renewable Energy

- Especially for rural communities
- Can include greener oil and gas

5. Manufacturing for SMEs

- Systems Automation
- Production costs
- Value Addition (e.g. Sugar)
- Agro-processing
- Competitiveness in key sectors

6. Governance and conflict resolution related to development

7. Cross-Cutting Themes

- Social Sciences Interface
- Technical skills
- Big data
- Basic sciences
- Education
- Innovation & Entrepreneurship skills
- Gender Mainstreaming

Proposals which are characteristic of the following will be prioritised;

- Emerging / cutting-edge research areas (e.g. Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, Machine Learning, coastal innovations / blue economy)
- Research which will contribute to developing capacity for Innovation and the translation of research to innovation (technology transfer/ technology commercialization) .

Eligibility

- The core team of the trilateral chair must be led by three Principal investigators, the South African lead applicant should be eligible to be a Chair holder. In the UK / and the second African country, Principal Investigators should be Research Chair-holders or leading and/or established researchers (see EU definition). An application must designate three co-principal investigators: one residing in South Africa, one residing in the UK, and one residing from the third country.
- Each country should have an existing, well-developed research programme in the area of mutual interest / priority

- Should include proposals which involves the mobility of students at Honours, Masters and PhD levels between the three countries
- The applicant from the UK and the third country must be an established researcher at a recognized university or at a recognized research institute (in place for at least three years) and must demonstrate ability and an institutional affiliation that could support his or her work during and post the end of the award.
- The UK and SA institutions should have the capacity to administer the grant
- The proposal must contribute significantly to training of postgraduate students and/or postdoctoral fellows as part of the overall capacity development of emerging and early career researchers
- Preference will be given to applicants where there is a Memorandum of Understanding between the participating higher education / research institutions (regarding co-funding in kind e.g. the use of equipment, provision of venues, or other income in kind / co-creation)
- There should be an understanding between the participating universities regarding the sharing of IP
- **Applications are invited in particular from historically disadvantaged HEI's (SA)**
- Preference will also be given to applications from teams reflecting equality, equity, diversity and inclusivity.

Application process

- The NRF will manage the applications through its existing online system – NRF Online Submission System (<https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/>).
- Applications must involve a South African Research Chair, a UK Leading and/or Established Researcher and a third Leading and/or Established Researcher from another African country. The application should be completed jointly, but can be submitted on the application system by either researcher, provided they have a profile on the NRF Online Submission System.
- There will be a 1-stage administrative review conducted jointly by an equally represented review committee nominated by the British Council and the NRF to ensure that requirements are met, followed by a peer-review process managed by the British Council and the NRF, whereby recommendations for funding will be made.
- The final decision to fund projects will be made jointly by the British Council and the NRF.
- **Additional required documentation for the application includes:**
 - **If applicable, letters from the university or research organisation indicating a desire to seek out support for the work of the applicant in the third African country beyond the duration of the grant.**
 - **A letter from the UK co-investigator indicating that he or she are aware of the application, in order to confirm that it is a joint application.**
 - **A budget using the template provided**

Should you have any further queries, kindly contact:

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Appendix A

Eligible costs

Grants are intended to contribute to the direct costs of establishing and operating your collaboration, (i.e. costs directly related to implementing activities contained in the proposal). Grants can cover:

Category	Type	Percentage limits	Notes
Human Resources costs	Staff costs for personnel working directly on the grant-funded project: salaries and fees of temporary research and research assistant personnel, and other staff recruited to work on the project, for example data collection staff in partner country.	None See country-specific guidance for more details	This includes on-costs such as superannuation, and national insurance payments. Indirect costs cannot be covered and are assumed to be contributed by the principal institutions.
	A proportion of staff costs for permanent staff of lead institutions.	Limited to 30% of total human resources costs funded by the grant	This includes on-costs such as superannuation, and national insurance payments. If you would be unable to deliver your proposed project without a higher contribution to permanent staff costs, please contact UK-InstitutionalLinks@britishcouncil.org with a justification and we will consider your case. Please note that we would normally limit this to the stated 30% of HR costs of institutions.

Category	Type	Percentage limits	Notes
Other research related costs	Essential research equipment for use on the project.	Limited to 30% of total grant (unless specified in Appendix 1).	<p>If the applicant requests more than 30% of the total budget requested under this category, the project will be considered ineligible.</p> <p>Permission must be obtained from British Council before the purchase of equipment over £5,000 if the application is successful. Criteria are normally:</p> <p>Equipment is essential to delivery of the project and cannot be expected to be provided by institutions</p> <p>Equipment will be used in the partner country and will remain there on project completion.</p>
	Consumables		
	Specialist software licences essential to the collaboration.		
	Access fees to facilities or library services		
Operational Costs	Travel (economy class) and subsistence costs to the UK and partner countries.	None See country specific guidance	In line with British Council policies and the criteria detailed in Appendix 1.
	Visa fees, vaccinations and medical insurance for travel essential to collaboration, to the UK and partner countries.		

Category	Type	Percentage limits	Notes
	Costs of meetings, training events and seminars integral to the collaboration.		This can include short-term room hire, hire of audio-visual equipment (projectors, etc.) and stationery supplies (flip-charts, etc.) Attendance at events which are not part of the project, included in the proposal, will only be funded exceptionally, and only if the collaborators will be presenting the project.
	Basic catering costs associated with events or meetings directly related to the collaboration.		
Communications costs	Publication costs directly related to the collaboration	None (see country specific guidance)	This includes web page development by external providers, if appropriate We particularly encourage open access publishing
	Use of telecommunications such as video / audio / web conferencing		
Other costs	Bank charges for transfer of funds from the Lead Institution to other Partners		Note that for-profit organisations are only eligible to receive funds for travel associated costs.

Ineligible costs

Grants cannot cover:

- Full economic costs (FECs)
- Institutional overheads, administration fees and other indirect costs (applicable only to the UK)
- Costs of staff based in commercial or for-profit organisations
- Costs of permanent staff in Associated Partner organisations
- Purchase or rental of standard office equipment (except specialist equipment essential to the research). This includes:

- IT hardware – laptops, personal computers, tablets, smart phones, Mac workstations, computer parts and peripherals, etc. Any standard hardware which would routinely be used by researchers and academics will not be funded.
- Office software.
- Desks, chairs, filing cabinets, photocopiers, printers, fax machines.
- Mobile phone rental or purchase.
- Costs related to writing up, promoting or disseminating previous research.
- Attendance at conferences or other events unless this is to present outputs and outcomes of the project.
- Patents costs.
- Costs relating to the construction, procurement or rental of physical infrastructure, (e.g. office buildings, laboratory facilities). It is expected that any rooms and facilities essential for the routine operation of collaboration are provided as an in-kind contribution by the participating institutions. These can be detailed as an in-kind contribution in the budget breakdown.
- Entertainment costs such as:
 - Gifts
 - Alcohol
 - Restaurant bills or hospitality costs for personnel not directly participating in the project.
 - Excessive restaurant costs
 - Excessive taxi fares
- Other indirect costs not listed in the above table or detailed in Appendix A above.

APPENDIX B

The chair is intended to leverage from existing relations between researchers already collaborating with other researchers in the UK or the other African Countries.

List of Countries with active cooperation agreements with the DST/NRF

1. Angola
2. Mozambique
3. Namibia
4. Zambia
5. Senegal
6. Ethiopia
7. Kenya
8. Tunisia
9. Egypt
10. Côte d'Ivoire
11. Burkina Faso
12. Ghana
13. Zimbabwe
14. Rwanda
15. Malawi
16. Tanzania
17. Uganda
18. Algeria

Institutions from Country C who have their Science Granting Councils (SGC) participating in the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI) are encouraged to seek financial support from their SGC towards the programme. A letter of support should be attached to the application.

SGCI Participating African Science Granting Councils

Eastern Africa

1. **Ethiopia**
Ministry of Science and Technology
2. **Kenya**
National Research Fund
National Commission of Science and Technology and Innovation
3. **Rwanda**
National Council for Science and Technology
4. **Tanzania**
Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology
5. **Uganda**
Uganda National Council for Science and Technology

Southern Africa

6. **Botswana**
Ministry of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology
7. **Malawi**
National Commission for Science and Technology
8. **Mozambique**
Fundo Nacional de Investigaçã
9. **Namibia**
National Commission on Research Science and Technology
10. **Zambia**
National Science and Technology Council
11. **Zimbabwe**
Research Council of Zimbabwe

Western Africa

12. **Burkina Faso**
Fonds National de la Recherche et de l'Innovation pour le Developpement
13. **Côte d'Ivoire**
Programme d'Appui Stratégique à la Recherche Scientifique
14. **Ghana**
Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation
15. **Senegal**
Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur, de la Recherche et de l'Innovation

APPENDIX C

Guidelines for Application

First Step (to be completed by applicant)

- Register on NRF Online Submission System if not registered already (<https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za/nrfmkii/>)
- Log in with ID/Passport number and password
- Go to My Applications – Create Application
- Click on the Apply button on the right of the relevant call
- Please read the NRF Call Information Documents before you start with the application
- Complete the CV sections, Details of Proposals Submitted for Hosting of Research Chairs, Host University and University support sections.
- Upon saving the University Support section, the system will send an e-mail to the DVC/Head of Department who has been listed.

Second step (to be completed by DVC/Head of Department)

- The DVC/Head of Department will receive an e-mail with a link to complete some sections of the application.
- Once the abovementioned sections have been completed, the Final Submit button will be activated.
- The DVC/Head of Department should click on Final Submit.
- This information will then be displayed in the application.

Note: The following documents should be obtained from the DVC/Head of Department for uploading on the system by the applicant:

- University Research Strategy.
- Programme and Qualification Mix.
- Details of Research Outputs – *full details of the research outputs in support of the DVC/Head of Department's numbers should be provided.*
- Details of Students - *full details of the students in support of the DVC/Head of Department's numbers should be provided.*
- DVC endorsement – *Letter in support of the application.*

Third step (to be completed by applicant)

- The applicant will then be able to complete the rest of the proposal.
- Applicants should upload the documents received from the DVC/Head of Department under Attachments.
- Once all the compulsory fields have been completed, the Final Submit button will be activated.
- Press Final Submit.

NOTE

- It is important to note that the applicant will not be able to click on the final submit button at the end of the application if the DVC/Head of Department has not completed the 2nd step of the application.
- **In the case where the DVC/Head of Department needs to amend the relevant section in step 2, the applicant needs to resubmit the “University Support” section to re-initiate the process (by editing and saving the section without changing anything).**