

National Annex South Africa

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| Overview | Country | South Africa |
| | Funding Agency | National Research Foundation (NRF) |
| | Contact person(s) and contact details | <p><u>For specific content-related questions, please contact:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDGs Pilot Call Secretariat Ms Nombuso Madonda Email: SDGPilotcall@nrf.ac.za <p><u>For technical questions about the NRF online submission system, contact:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRF Support Desk on email: supportdesk@nrf.ac.za and tel. +27 12 481 4202 OR Mr Jan Phalane on tel. +27 12 481 4157 or email. JR.Phalane@risa.nrf.ac.za. <p><u>Office hours:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mon-Fri 9AM-4PM (SAST) |
| | Total budget available (local currency and Euro amounts) | €696,000 (approximately R13 600 00 million Rand) |
| | Amount that individual projects can request | €100 000 (approximately 1.7 million Rand) |
| | Permitted project length (in years) | 3 to 4 years |
| Eligibility | Eligible programmes/projects: | Projects that submitted successful Concept Notes in 2022 and were invited by the Call Secretariat to submit full proposals. |
| Who can apply? | Eligible applicants and institutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only working researchers/scientists residing in South Africa and affiliated with a recognised South African public higher education or research institution such as a university, university of technology or science council are eligible to apply. South African applicants must be in possession of a PhD. Researchers based at private higher education institutions are not eligible to apply under this programme. Researchers from SMEs, private companies/industries, and NGOs cannot serve as the Principal Investigator (PI) but can form part of the research consortium. NGO and/or industry/SME participants are expected to meet their participation costs in the joint project. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of human capital development, PIs are encouraged to ensure the involvement of young scientists (i.e. doctoral and postdoctoral students) and pay attention to gender equality (a balanced involvement of female and male researchers) and previously disadvantaged individuals. |
| | Other eligibility considerations | <p>These grants will be used for research under the auspices of the NRF standard grant conditions and finance policies. The money is released on acceptance of the conditions of grant both by the applicant and his/her employing institution. The funds will be awarded against a number of items such as equipment, running costs, travel costs, etc. Annual Progress Reports, submitted before the end of February of the following year, are a prerequisite for releasing subsequent years' funding. Failure to submit the Annual Progress Reports will result in the project's cancellation. These grants will fall under the NRF audit requirements of beneficiary institutions.</p> <p>This is a collaborative research grant; therefore, applicants are expected to apply as a consortium as defined in the call document. The National Research Foundation will (serve as the South African funder) to fund the associated activities of successful South African participants collaborating in (for all the successful) transnational research collaborations in accordance with the relevant NRF rules and policies.</p> |
| <p><i>What type of activities are eligible for funding?</i></p> | <p>NRF funds can be used to cover the following costs:</p> <p>Research-related costs - activities to be supported may include expenses relating to field work such as conducting interviews, surveys, laboratory experiments, research-related trips, small equipment (consumables), etc. Airfare, accommodation, ground transport and subsistence should be calculated using rates as stipulated in institutional travel policies.</p> <p>Masters, doctoral and postdoctoral research placement</p> <p>The placements should enable the postgraduate students within the project to (1) learn valuable new skills or techniques; (2) access facilities or resources not readily available at home; (3) build relationships with potential new collaborators; and (4) advance complementary collaborative research. The duration of each placement is expected to be 3-6 months, with the flexibility to split the placement into several shorter visits. Longer placements may be undertaken where this would add value, which should be justified within the</p> | |

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| | <p>application. Placements must enhance, not replace, the standard training and study support that the postgraduate students receive. These placements must be managed to fit within the original funded period of the studentship. Additional funding will not be made available through this call to support studentship extensions for those undertaking international placements. Applicants should include information about how these exchanges will be managed within their proposal.</p> <p>Knowledge sharing costs (science engagement) - supporting project-related activities, such as joint workshops, seminars, conferences, symposia, lecturer presentations, meetings, local and regional dissemination of results to relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>NRF funds can only be used to support research activities executed by the South African members of the Consortium. The following will NOT be funded from the NRF grant allocation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultant's fees, project management fees, and large equipment (costing more than R200 000). - The research costs cannot cover educational expenses (scholarships/ bursaries/ student fees, etc.). <p>Postgraduate students needing financial support are advised to apply for a scholarship through the NRF call for student support, which opens each year at the beginning of April.</p> |
| <p>Funding limits for eligible activities</p> | <p>The total amount requested from the NRF should not exceed R 566 666.00 per annum per project. Funding will be made available for a maximum of 3-4 years, to be paid in annual instalments per annum per project and exclusively for research activities commencing in 2024.</p> |
| <p>Application procedure</p> | <p>Procedure for Submitting a Full Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This call is for full proposals that must be submitted by the Project Consortium Leads electronically through the NRF-Connect system [https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za]. The deadline for submissions is Thursday, 25 May 2023 23:59 SAST. • Once uploaded on the NRF-Connect System, the Project Consortium Leads must select the "<u>National Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Collaborative Funding Call</u>" from the listed options of calls. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, South African researchers forming part of the consortia submitting full proposals and requesting funding from the NRF should also submit an application to the NRF by selecting the option: "<u>SDGs Pilot Call – National</u>". • This means that South African researchers serving as Project Consortium Leads will have to submit full proposals on behalf of the Consortium by selecting: "<u>Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Collaborative Funding Call</u> " and, thereafter, selecting: "<u>SDGs Pilot Call – National</u>" in order to submit a proposal requesting funding from the NRF as their national funder. • Please use the 'General Application Guide 2024' for assistance on the steps to follow when applying for international research grants. The link to the guide will be published on this web page: https://www.nrf.ac.za/funding/. The NRF system will open for the submission of full applications on Wednesday, 17 May 2023 and close on Friday, 9 June 2023. • DA closing date is Friday, 16 June 2023. <p>South African applicants must attach the required compulsory documents in PDF format in the following order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CVs of partner Principal Investigators. • Budgets of partner Principal Investigators. • Budget division of the South African team, particularly budget sharing between the historically advantaged and HDIs. • Signed Letters of Intent by other Research Partners not requesting funding from the NRF. The letter should specify the nature and level of support expected from the institution in terms of technical, financial and administrative contribution towards the project resources. |
| <p>Additional requirements</p> | <p>Science engagement, intellectual property, ethical considerations and protection of personal information.</p> | <p>Science Engagement</p> <p>Science engagement refers to scientific and initiative activities, events, interventions, 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. It is an overarching term for all aspects of public engagement</p> |

through suitable communication channels with science, science awareness, science education, science communication, and science outreach, aiming to develop and benefit individuals and society. The NRF supports science engagement by coordinating and implementing the Department of Science and Innovation's 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, and technology) all aspects of the innovation chain and indigenous knowledge. Therefore, researchers funded through the NRF programmes must contribute to science engagement and report the related outputs in their project's progress report.

Intellectual Property

The researchers of each country, particularly the leaders, must take adequate steps to ensure the protection and sharing of the intellectual property that could result from joint projects.

Ethical Considerations

In conjunction with the institution, it is the responsibility of the grant-holder 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 rigour 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 refer to the "Statement on Ethical Research and Scholarly Publishing Practices" on the NRF website at <https://www.nrf.ac.za/statement-on-ethical-research-and-scholarly-publishing-practices/>.

Protection of personal information

The National Research Foundation ensures compliance with the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA), Act 4 of 2013, committing to ensure the privacy of those

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| | | <p>submitting applications and proposals to the NRF on the NRF Connect (https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za/). The National Research Foundation will protect the personal information provided by applicants or a third party against misuse, loss, unauthorised access, modification, or disclosure. The Privacy Policy of the NRF outlines the practices relating to the protection of personal information and can be accessed on the NRF website at https://www.nrf.ac.za/privacy-policy.</p> |
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