

## PREPARATORY WORKSHOPS

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

1<sup>st</sup> DA Closing Date: Consult the General Application Guide 2024

2<sup>nd</sup> DA Closing Date: Consult the General Application Guide 2024

*Please note that the NRF Connect System will open in March 2024 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, The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and the National Research Foundation (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. IRTGs aim to train scientists and academics at different stages of their careers, with a particular emphasis on doctoral researchers. They 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 the IRTGs is the 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 their 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

South African researchers who are planning to submit an IRTG proposal, who are employed/based at any of the south African universities, have an established research cooperation with German Partners and whose plans for the IRTGs have already been consolidated may apply for the preparatory workshop.

### 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 Connect System at <https://nrfconnect.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 of the NRF. Please note that the following steps should be followed when applying for an IRTG Preparatory Workshop on the NRF Connect:

- Applications must be submitted under the *“Travel, Training and Conference Grants: Germany (IRTGs) Preparatory Workshop (2024)”*.
- All compulsory sections and the CV sections on the NRF Connect System 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 South African Principal Investigators and 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 host institutions 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 higher education institutions will be accepted.

You are encouraged to contact your research office or Designated Authority if you have any queries.

## 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/statement-on-ethical-research-and-scholarly-publishing-practices/>

## Important Dates

IRTG Preparatory Workshops can be applied for either in the 1st review cycle (1<sup>st</sup> week of February 2024 to 31 March 2024) or the 2<sup>nd</sup> review cycle (1<sup>st</sup> week of July to 31 August 2024). It is advisable to consult with DFG and the NRF on the timing of the 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)). Please contact **Katja Fettelschoß** from DFG for information on the application process. For the NRF application, please apply through the NRF Connect System at <https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za>.

## Contact details for queries:

### For the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft - DFG

Katja Fettelschoß  
Research Careers, Research Training Groups,  
Graduate Schools  
Email: [katja.fettelschoss@dfg.de](mailto:katja.fettelschoss@dfg.de)  
Tell: +49 228 885-2782.

### For the National Research Foundation - NRF

Ms. Valencia Mashiloane  
Liaison Officer:  
Knowledge Advancement and Support  
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## Scorecard for Assessment of SA-Germany IRTG Preparatory Workshops

Review Criteria	Description
<b>1</b> <b>Track Record of the Applicant (30%)</b>	<p><b>Institutional and professional/world body support</b></p> <p><b>Letter of confirmation from the DFG Germany (10%)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The letters of support should clearly state endorsement from the host institution/s and provide additional information on how they are going to assist/support the training.</li> </ul> <p><b>Supporting Documents (20%)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A list of local and international invited partners who will participate in the workshop.</li> <li>- Copy of the draft of the actual IRTG proposal to be submitted for funding consideration.</li> <li>- CVs of the South African Principal Investigators and German Principal Investigators.</li> <li>- A draft or final version of the workshop programme.</li> </ul>
<b>2.</b> <b>National and Global Relevance (20%)</b>	<p><b>Impact and collaboration of the workshop</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is there satisfactory evidence that the preparatory workshop will focus on high-quality scientific research that has the potential for socio-economic impact and this accompanied by motivation?</li> <li>- Is there evidence that the workshop will foster international partnerships and collaboration and enhance networking within the science system?</li> <li>- Is the methodology/approach of the research including the research design and framework, the use and dissemination of the research results?</li> </ul>
<b>3.</b> <b>Research Activity Plan (10%)</b>	<p><b>The proposed research plan fulfills NRF/DFG objective</b></p> <p><b>A clear plan of the central feature of the IRTGs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coordinated and joint research visits by doctoral researchers at the respective partner institutions.</li> <li>- The promotion of systematic research cooperation through joint research and qualification programmes.</li> <li>- Cooperative cross-border supervision of doctoral researchers.</li> </ul>
<b>4.</b> <b>Value Addition by Collaboration/ National Priority (10%)</b>	<p><b>Involvement of HDIs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Does the workshop involve HDI's?</li> <li>- Regional, National; and/or International Institutions</li> </ul>
<b>5.</b> <b>Human Capacity Development (25%)</b>	<p><b>Capacity building – involvement of postgraduate students</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is there participation in capacity building of postgraduate students (e.g., through poster or paper presentations) indicated?</li> <li>- Is the value addition to their capacity building well-motivated and clearly indicated?</li> </ul>
<b>6.</b> <b>Financials (5%)</b>	<p><b>Proposed Budget</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Feasibility of the proposed budget. Co-investment and other sources of funding are indicated.</li> </ul>