



NRF-FAPESP

Collaborative Research (CORE) Programme

Call for applications for joint research and mobility projects:
2025 – 2028

Closing Date: 31 March 2025

(South Africa: 23:59 SAST/ State of São Paulo: 18:59 UTC -3)

A maximum of 8 projects (3 Joint Research and 5 Research Mobility) will be funded for this call

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1. Background and Context

In early 2023, the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa and the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) renewed its bilateral cooperation by entering into a 5-year inter-agency agreement for supporting scientific collaborative activities between South African researchers and researchers based in the State of São Paulo in Brazil. This Call for Application serves as the second Joint Call under this renewed agreement. The first Joint Call centered around supporting International Scientific Seminars (ISS) as an initial stage towards the implementation of this agreement. The aim of the ISS was to fund the organisation of small 3-day scientific meetings to bring together groups of Early Career Researchers and Established Researchers from South Africa and the State of São Paulo for the purpose of scientific discussions, to promote collaboration and knowledge transfer by encouraging interaction within the wider research community. The sole purpose of the meetings was to initiate and encourage scientific networking by bringing together small groups of researchers from South Africa and the State of São Paulo to develop new and enduring partnerships. At the end of the scientific meetings applicants were expected to come up with a clear joint research project that could be submitted for a multi-year funding support.

This second Joint Call, known as the **CORE** Programme, builds upon the first Joint Call and focuses on supporting **Collaborative Research** (CORE) activities between South African researchers and researchers based in the State of São Paulo. Therefore, those researchers that received support under the ISS Call are also eligible to apply under the CORE Programme. There are two funding streams under the CORE Programme. Eligible researchers can either apply for the (1) Research Mobility Funding Scheme or the (2) Joint Research for Societal and Scientific Impact Funding Scheme.

2. Aim, Objectives and Structure of the CORE Programme

CORE Programme aims to (1) facilitate the development of sustainable institutional links between the two countries and (2) generate innovative approaches, solutions and society-wide results that would otherwise not have been possible. This Programme brings together Established Researchers and Early Career Researchers to develop joint solutions to the challenges faced by both countries. The overall aim of this Programme is not only to build on existing, outstanding and established research partnerships but also to foster new linkages and engagements with small cohorts of young and emerging researchers for new links between South Africa and the State of São Paulo. Please note that the basis of selection from both countries will be scientific excellence. However, from the South African side, excellent joint projects with a clear intention to address diversity, will be favorably considered (see [Annex 2](#) for further details about specific requirements for South African applicants). The overall objectives of the Programme are to:

- contribute to scientific advancement in both countries by funding joint research projects in specified research fields;
- contribute meaningfully to research capacity development;
- build and connect knowledge to increase the scientific and societal impact of research;

- explore new development pathways; and
- find new ways to accelerate transitions towards sustainable development.

As indicated above, the CORE Programme offers two different funding schemes implemented on a co-funding model between the NRF and FAPESP. The two funding schemes to apply for are:

- **Research Mobility Funding Scheme:** research projects where only the expenses for researchers' mobility are co-funded by NRF and FAPESP. The Research Mobility grants aim at supporting exchanges within the context of joint research activities either self-funded or independently funded by other entities. Only expenses relating to mobility between the two countries will be funded under this scheme. This scheme is particularly targeted towards emerging researchers (including postdoctoral researchers and researchers who are not older than 40-years at the time of application and who have received their PhDs within the past 7-years).
- **Joint Research for Societal and Scientific Impact Funding Scheme:** where research activities between researchers are co-funded by the NRF and FAPESP. The Joint Research grants are aimed at promoting collaborative projects with clearly defined goals involving a research team based in South Africa and another based in the State of São Paulo. Applications should describe *ambitious* research activities and propose innovative approaches. Applicants are encouraged to ensure that their research has relevance and potential for impact beyond the academic world, such as in societal, technical, economical, or cultural realms. The research is to be carried out at the research facilities involved.

Further details on each funding scheme, including priority research areas, are given in the following text.

3. Thematic areas of cooperation

Proposals under the **Joint Research for Societal and Scientific Impact Funding Scheme** must be submitted in one or a combination of the following priority research areas:

- Emerging perspectives on the state of democracy and citizenship in South Africa and Brazil
- Race, gender and social inequalities
- Social violence
- Crime, policing and public safety
- Space, place, built environment and identity in townships, informal settlements and favelas
- Indigenous knowledge systems and environmental sustainability
- Arts and culture and the ethics of being human
- Digital archiving/digital curation and heritage

Proposals outside the above-mentioned thematic areas of focus will not be considered for evaluation. It is not feasible to fund all the above listed research areas therefore, funding will be dependent on the scientific quality of the submitted proposals.

Proposals under the **Research Mobility Funding Scheme** can be submitted in any research discipline.

4. Duration of the projects

Projects under the **Joint Research for Societal and Scientific Impact Funding Scheme** will be supported for a maximum period of 36 months (3-years), starting in 2025.

Projects under the **Research Mobility Funding Scheme** will be supported for a maximum period of 24 months (2-years) starting in 2025.

The projects **must** have the same duration on both sides.

5. Eligibility criteria

Each proposal under the CORE Programme must have one main applicant based in South Africa and one main applicant based in the State of São Paulo; they are the **Principal Investigators (PI)** on the South African and the Brazilian sides respectively. They bear the main responsibility for the project including its technical and administrative coordination as well as timely delivery of scientific and financial reports.

The following eligibility criteria apply to proposals under both the Research Mobility Funding Scheme and the Joint Research for Societal and Scientific Impact Funding Scheme:

- Proposals for both funding schemes must be written in English.
- Proposals for **Joint Research for Societal and Scientific Impact Funding Scheme** must have the same duration of the CORE Programme, i.e. 36 months (three years) starting in 2025.
- Exchanges under the Research Mobility Funding Scheme must be carried out within 24 months (i.e. two years) starting in 2025.
- Each PI is allowed to submit only one proposal and apply to only one funding scheme, under penalty of exclusion.
- Additional partners based in South Africa and/or in the State of São Paulo (or other Brazilian states) can also participate in the joint projects. Applicants are allowed to collaborate with other partners such as NGOs or companies, but no funding can be applied to these.
- Former PIs (those who were supported under the first call) are welcome to participate in this CORE Programme.

NRF

- This call is open to working researchers residing in South Africa and affiliated with a recognised higher education or research institution such as a university, university of technology, science council, museum or other research institutions as declared by the DSI.
- The South African applicants and co-applicants must be in possession of a PhD to be eligible.
- Private higher education institutions are not eligible to apply under this Programme.
- Researchers from SMEs, private companies/industries, and NGOs cannot serve as PIs but can form part of the joint projects and will be expected to meet their own costs of participation in the joint projects. The NRF grants cannot be used to support these researchers.
- South African PIs applying under the **Joint Research for Societal and Scientific Impact Funding Scheme** and based at historically advantaged institutions are required to include, as part of the

joint project, a research partner from any of the historically disadvantaged institutions (HDIs) in order to be eligible. However, applicants based at an HDI, science council (including any of the NRF research facilities), and South Africa's two new universities (i.e. Sol Plaatje and Mpumalanga) can act as PIs and submit proposals without the involvement of and/or partnering with researchers based at historically advantaged and disadvantaged institutions if they so wish.

- Please check [Annex 1](#) for further details about specific requirements for South African applicants.

FAPESP

- Researchers eligible for FAPESP's funding under the scope of this Call must be employees of public or private Higher Education or Research Institutions in the State of São Paulo and must meet the FAPESP eligibility requirements for the [Auxílio à Pesquisa Regular \(fapesp.br.\)](#)
- Proposals applying under the **Joint Research for Societal and Scientific Impact Funding Scheme** by the São Paulo state PI to FAPESP will be processed according to the rules and guidelines of the Regular Research Grant (www.fapesp.br/apr).
- Researchers from SMEs, private companies/industries, government, NGOs and investigators not affiliated with cannot serve as PIs but can form part of the joint projects and will be expected to meet their own costs of participation in the joint projects. The FAPESP grants cannot be used to support these researchers.

Reasons for Exclusion:

- Lack of any one of the eligibility requirements listed in this Section.
- Incomplete application (including additional documents where applicable - see Section 6: "application procedure").
- Proposals submitted only to one of both funding agencies (NRF or FAPESP).
- Proposals submitted in different priority research areas by the collaborating PIs in the two countries (specifically for the **Joint Research for Societal and Scientific Impact Funding Scheme**).

6. Funding regulations

Researchers should ensure that all expenses are calculated and covered in line with the rules and regulations in force from each funding agency.

Research Mobility Funding Scheme

The purpose of this Funding Scheme is to support mobility of researchers between South Africa and the state of São Paulo. Research activities will not be supported in this Funding Scheme.

The funds for this Funding Scheme can only be used to finance the cost of the exchange of researchers, under the principle of reciprocity. These include: travel costs (air tickets, ground transport, accommodation, living expenses and travel insurance), organising joint workshops, seminars, symposia, etc.

NRF

The total amount requested from the NRF should not exceed R600 000 per project.

- Funding will be made available for a maximum of 2-years, to be paid in annual instalments (R300 000 per year) and exclusively for visits and stays commencing in 2025.
- The actual costs of travel (i.e. airfares, accommodation, ground transport, subsistence, medical insurance, etc.) should be determined and calculated based on individual institutional travel policies and must be in line with the regulations in force in each country.
- No additional funding will be provided by the NRF under this Funding Scheme therefore, South African researchers are expected to top-up these funds should there be a need.

FAPESP

The maximum amount to be requested from FAPESP is R\$ 400,000.00 and may include:

- Travel costs, including air tickets, accommodation, living expenses and travel insurance;
- Consumables, services and low-cost research equipment; and
- The cost of workshops held in São Paulo State, Brazil.

Fellowships, Direct Research Infrastructure Costs and Fringe Benefits are not eligible for funding in this Funding Scheme.

Joint Research for Societal and Scientific Impact Funding Scheme

The research conducted in this Funding Scheme should have relevance and potential for impact beyond the academic world, such as in societal, technical, economical or cultural realms. Societal impact is never solely an outcome of knowledge and insight from research. Furthermore, societal impact is often only realised in the years after a research project has been concluded. This is why, in addition to having a societal or industry partner within the consortium, consortia should consider how relevant stakeholders can be involved in, or benefit from, the design and realisation of the proposed research project.

To further enhance the potential for impact of the proposed research, the application should state how approaches for achieving impact are integrated in the research design and conducted by the consortium in engagement with end users, such as practitioners, policymakers, NGOs, etc. To this end, applicants are asked to include an Impact Plan that sets out the potential for impact of the proposed research. The Impact Plan approach to knowledge utilisation should be integrated into the research design and serves as an aid to increase the impact potential of the proposed research.

The Impact Plan consists of the following elements:

- *Productive interactions*: Exchanges between researchers and stakeholders in which knowledge is produced and valued that is both scientifically robust and socially relevant. Examples of productive interactions are: formulation of research questions and approaches jointly with potential end-users (co-design), joint execution of research projects and interactive dialogue on research results (co-creation). Interactions can be direct/personal, indirect or financial. The quantity as well as quality of the productive interactions forms an indicator for the potential for societal impact.

- The *Impact Pathway*: is the visualisation of the change process following from research execution. It makes explicit how the research activities will lead to results (output) and how exchange of knowledge and the uptake of research output will contribute to desired changes in behaviour, relationships, actions and activities of partners and stakeholders (outcome) that are considered essential to achieving the desired impact.
- A *Strategic Activity Planning* spells out how the proposed productive interactions contribute to achieving outcomes. Outputs do not automatically lead to outcomes, thus strategies are needed of the research consortium to plan and monitor how their efforts will enhance the potential for outcomes. This planning should include specific activities for:
 - *Stakeholder engagement*: Who are the relevant stakeholders to engage with according to context analysis, how are the productive interactions organised and when?;
 - *Communication strategy*: How are engagement dialogues organised and results exchanged and translated, and whose responsibility is it?;
 - *Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning*: How are results of activities monitored and evaluated, such that assumptions can be tested and activities adjusted accordingly and whose responsibility is it?;
 - *Capacity strengthening*: How are required capacities (of consortium partners and stakeholders) strengthened in order to achieve the outcomes, how is this organised and whose responsibility is it?

NRF

The total amount requested from the NRF for the **Joint Research for Societal and Scientific Impact Funding Scheme** should not exceed R1 600 000 million per project. Funding will be made available for a maximum of 3-years, to be paid in annual installments and exclusively for activities commencing in 2025. These funds can be utilised for research related activities, small equipment, mobility of the South African research team, mini sabbaticals by South African doctoral students, science engagement activities, etc. Please see [Annex 1](#) for details on the provisions of the Joint Research for Societal and Scientific Impact Funding Scheme.

FAPESP

The maximum total amount requested from FAPESP for the **Joint Research for Societal and Scientific Impact Funding Scheme** is R\$600.000 per project for a duration of 3-years, following the rules of [Auxílio à Pesquisa Regular \(fapesp.br\)](#)

7. Application procedure

It is up to the applicants to find their own research partners. Proposals must be received by both the NRF and FAPESP. Proposals which have not been submitted in both countries will not be considered for review and will not be considered for funding. The call process is highly competitive therefore application does not guarantee funding. The evaluation of applications should have positive ratings from both countries before consideration for funding. Both the NRF and FAPESP will not be held responsible for non-submission, administration or evaluation of the application in the partner country.

NRF

Applications must be submitted through an online application process to the NRF through the link: <https://nrconnect.nrf.ac.za>.

Please make use of the 'General Application Guide 2024' for assistance on the steps to follow when applying for international research grants. The link to the guide can be accessed on this web page: <https://www.nrf.ac.za/nrf-call-for-proposals-for-funding-in-2024-and-2025/>.

Pls **must** attach the required **compulsory documents** in PDF format in the following order:

- CVs of partner Principal Investigators.
- Budgets of partner Principal Investigators.
- Budget division of the South African team, in particular budget sharing between the historically advantaged and HDIs.

Failure to submit compulsory documents will result in the disqualification of the application and will make the entire project consortium ineligible.

FAPESP

The applicant from the state of São Paulo must submit the proposal exclusively through the SAGe system.

The pathways are:

- Nova Proposta Inicial > + Outras Linhas de Fomento > + Acordos de Cooperação > + NRF - National Research Foundation > + NRF - Projeto de Pesquisa - Regular > + Chamada de Propostas (2024);
Nova Proposta Inicial > + Outras Linhas de Fomento > + Acordos de Cooperação > + NRF - National Research Foundation > + NRF – Projeto de Pesquisa – Mobilidade > + Chamada de Propostas (2024)

Please bear in mind that:

1. It is necessary that the **PI from South Africa and all co-PIs from the state of São Paulo** are registered in the SAGe system and confirm their participation in the proposal.
 - Researchers who do not have a SAGe registration must initially do so by accessing the SAGe page at www.fapesp.br/sage, clicking No registration? and filling in the requested data. It is not enough to just register as a user. After accessing the system it is necessary to complete the mandatory registration data, marked with “*”.
 - Researchers already registered must login to SAGe with their usual identification and password to access the system.
2. When submitting the proposal, pay attention to the mandatory completion of all items marked with *. It is necessary to submit the proposal at the end. A saved proposal does not mean that it is a submitted proposal.
3. In case of doubts, on the SAGe home page there is a the link to the Manuals that can be used and, on the Manuals page, seek clarifications in the list Manuals de Apoio aos Pesquisadores. The system also provides an English version with manuals for user registration and confirmation of participation in proposals.

IMPORTANT: It is strongly recommended to complete and submit the proposal in the system well in advance and that the researcher periodically checks the pending proposals using the "Validate" option in SAGE. This can be done repeatedly as the proposal is constructed, allowing all necessary arrangements for submission to be made on time. When selecting the "Validate" option, the SAGE system will present the pending issues that impede the submission of the proposal considering the items that were inserted. In case of doubts about the use of SAGE, in addition to the Manuals, FAPESP also provides assistance through the Converse with FAPESP service at <http://fapesp.br/converse>.

8. Review process

Following the closing date, all submitted proposals will undergo formal eligibility check before moving to the two-step evaluation process. The first step will be performed at the national level to identify a shortlist of proposals: applications will be submitted to recognised national experts in the various fields of research represented by the proposals received. Both the NRF and FAPESP proposals will be assessed against the same criteria but additional, country-specific application requirements may also apply.

Following the national review, the second step of the evaluation process will be performed at the bilateral level: the two Parties, through a joint technical meeting which includes representatives from both funding agencies, will reach consensus on the final list of projects to fund based on the recommendations by the national reviews.

Please Note:

Although the two Parties undertake to execute the review and selection process as quickly as possible so as to notify applicants of the results as soon as possible, the nature of the bilateral process requires the alignment of the commencement of each phase of the process with the partnering country, whose schedules may differ significantly.

Research Mobility Funding Scheme

Proposals submitted within the Research Mobility Funding Scheme will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Alignment with national priorities in each country.
- Feasibility and practicality of the exchange programmes and general work plan.
- Qualification of the research teams.
- Feasibility of continuing the partnership beyond the 2-year funding period of this scheme.
- On the South African side only: Proposals that reflect social inclusivity principles and aligned with the South African transformation agenda will be favourably considered.

Joint Research for Societal and Scientific Impact Funding Scheme

Proposals submitted within the JRP Funding Scheme will be evaluated based on the following criteria (in brackets non-binding additional details):

- Scientific relevance and innovation (e.g. scientific importance and innovativeness of the research questions and approach; degree to which the proposal fits within the thematic focus of the call, etc.).
- Methodology (e.g. rigour of the research design: adequacy, feasibility and coherence of the research approach and methodology in view of the problem addressed; interdisciplinarity or transdisciplinarity; the proposal incorporates the scientific disciplines necessary for addressing the problem, as well as knowledge from outside the scientific community; complementarity to other research programmes or (inter)national research agendas).
- Qualification of the research teams (e.g. suitability of the research partners' expertise in relation to the research project; experience in supervising postgraduate students; etc.).
- Added value of bilateral cooperation and its potential for long-term relations (e.g. potential for long-term knowledge relations; quality of the South African-State of São Paulo collaboration, including – for the South Africa assessment only – fair and equitable partnership and genuine involvement of researchers from the South African historically disadvantaged institutions).
- Active involvement of the next generation/early career researchers (e.g. involvement of postgraduate students for capacity development).
- Potential for societal impact (e.g. relevance for society and potential for societal breakthroughs; suitable involvement of target groups, convincingly responding to their demand; quality of the research plan with plausible pathways to societal impact).
- Plans for the use and dissemination of the results.
- Budget adequacy with respect to methods and expected results.

Proposals involving relevant stakeholders (e.g. policymakers, NGOs, local communities, etc.) in the development and execution of the research plan will be favourably considered.

9. Publication of results

Both parties commit to not provide any kind of information on successful and unsuccessful projects (including the outcomes of the formal eligibility check mentioned in Section 7 above) until the completion of the review process with the signature of the Executive Programme.

NRF

The NRF will inform the South African applications of the outcomes of the review process. For the successful projects the NRF conditions will be detailed in the ‘*Conditions of Grant*’ Contract to be signed between the researchers and the NRF during the award process.

FAPESP

FAPESP will inform the São Paulo state applications of the outcomes of the review process through the SAGE system.

10. Intellectual property

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

Please Note:

Researchers of funded projects are requested to mention the support by the funders of this call when publishing the results of the funded project.

11. Ethical considerations

NRF

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 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 <https://www.nrf.ac.za/statement-on-ethical-research-and-scholarly-publishing-practices/>.

12. Submission deadline

Applications for both NRF and FAPESP must be submitted by **31 March 2025 (South Africa: 23:59 SAST/ State of São Paulo: 18:59 UTC -3)**. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

- Please note that neither the NRF nor FAPESP, will be responsible for applications that were not received.
- PIs are also advised to ensure submission of their proposals by their counterparts in the partner country.



13. Contact details

South Africa, National Research Foundation (NRF)

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Annex 1 – Specific requirements for South African applicants

Eligible criteria for South African researchers applying under the JRP Funding Scheme:

- South African PIs applying under the JRP Funding Scheme and based at historically advantaged institutions are required to include, as part of the joint project, a research partner from any of the historically disadvantaged institutions (HDIs) in order to be eligible.
- Proposals submitted by an applicant based at a historically advantaged institution without a research partner from an HDI will be ineligible and will not be submitted for review. The research partner from an HDI in this case can serve as a co-applicant in the proposal. Please note that co-applicants are also required to be in possession of a PhD.
- Applicants based at an HDI, science council (including any of the NRF research facilities), and South Africa's two new universities (i.e. Sol Plaatje and Mpumalanga) can act as PIs and submit proposals without the involvement of and/or partnering with researchers based at historically advantaged and disadvantaged institutions if they so wish.
- Only the following eight universities will be recognised as HDI in line with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) December 2021 Ministerial Statement on university funding: University of Limpopo (UL), University of Fort Hare (UFH), University of Venda (Univen), Walter Sisulu University (WSU), University of the Western Cape (UWC), University of Zululand (UniZulu), Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT), and Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU).
- Funds for the Joint Research for Societal and Scientific Impact Funding Scheme can be used to cover the following costs:
 - 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.
 - Postdoctoral research support:
PIs within the JRP Funding Scheme are expected to supervise and mentor postdoctoral fellows who should be allowed to conduct research, either on a pre-specified aspect of the joint project or on their own designed topic within the joint project and should be supported to publish the work. The responsibilities of the postdoctoral fellows may also include assisting the PIs with the management and administration of the joint project. Postdoctoral fellows should be prepared to become main applicants so they also take on senior responsibilities like mentoring, grant writing, and teaching.

- Mini research sabbaticals by young researchers:
The JRP grants can also be used to support short-term (or mini) sabbaticals by doctoral students. These mini sabbaticals should enable young researchers 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 sabbatical is expected to be 3-6 months with flexibility to split it into several shorter stays. Longer sabbaticals may be undertaken where this would add value and these should be justified within the application. The sabbaticals must enhance, not replace, the standard training and study support that doctoral students receive. The sabbaticals must be managed to fit within the original funded period of the studentship. Additional funding will not be made available through this programme or by the funders to support studentship extensions for those undertaking mini sabbaticals. Applicants should include information about how these sabbaticals will be managed within their proposal.

- Science engagement (knowledge sharing costs):
Science engagement refers to activities, events, 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. Science engagement is an overarching term for all aspects of public engagement with science, which aim to develop and benefit individuals and society. Researchers funded through the JRP Funding Scheme are therefore required to contribute to science engagement and report the related outputs. Project-related activities, such as joint workshops, seminars, conferences, symposia, lecturer presentations, meetings, local and regional dissemination of results to relevant stakeholders are therefore supported under this Funding Scheme.

- South African PIs should limit their costs for small equipment (consumables) to a maximum amount of R200 000.

- The NRF grant under the Joint Research for Societal and Scientific Impact Funding Scheme makes provision for the appointment of only one postdoctoral fellow per project for the duration of 2-years equivalent to the NRF Freestanding Postdoctoral Fellowship.

- The NRF grant can only be used to cover the costs associated with the mini sabbaticals by doctoral students. It is the responsibility of the PIs (and doctoral students) to secure funding for educational expenses of participating students. Doctoral students who do not have financial support are hereby advised to apply for scholarship through the NRF call for Student Support which opens the beginning of April each year.

- The NRF supports science engagement through its coordination and implementation of the Department of Science and Innovation's Science 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, technology, all aspects of the innovation chain and indigenous

knowledge. South African researchers' contribution towards, and outputs as a result of, science engagement should be reported annually through Progress Reports submitted to the NRF in February each year.

The total amount requested from the NRF should not exceed R1 600 000 per consortia project. Funding will be made available for a maximum of 3 years, to be paid in annual instalments and exclusively for research activities commencing in 2025. The funds per consortia project have to be utilised as follows:

- R1 600 000 per consortia project for research activities, mobility costs of the research team, doctoral research placements, small equipment, knowledge sharing costs, etc.
- R430 000 for 1 postdoctoral position at R215 000 per annum for 2-years (R155 000 non-taxable stipend, R45 000 contribution towards research costs, and R15 000 compulsory institutional contribution).

Capacity building

Projects must demonstrate potential for promoting human capacity development, equity and redress through the involvement of young, early-stage, and/or mid-career researchers, historically disadvantaged individuals (female and disabled), and the involvement of historically disadvantaged higher education institutions.

Impact

Applicants are encouraged to ensure that their research have relevance and potential for impact beyond the academic world, such as in societal, technical, economical, or cultural realms. In line with this, applicants may include societal or industry partners within their projects or consider how relevant stakeholders can be involved in, or benefit from, the design and realisation of the proposed research project. These stakeholders, however, must cover their own costs of participation in the joint projects. In this regard, the NRF aims to facilitate sustainable institutional links between partnering countries by building on existing, outstanding and established research partnerships, and fostering new linkages and engagements with small cohorts of young and emerging researchers for new linkages.

Projects follow-up and reporting

A final scientific and financial report has to be submitted in English by both the South African and the Brazilian PIs no more than 3 months after the end of the project. The report has to mention outputs of the projects compared with the objectives and aims of the proposal. On an annual basis, the NRF publishes a national call for submission of 'Progress Reports' due for each financial year. The South African PIs are urged to look out for such notifications/calls.

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 submitting applications and proposals to the NRF on the NRF Online Submission System (<https://nrconnect.nrf.ac.za/>). The National Research Foundation will protect the personal information provided by applicants or the 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>.