



Knowledge, Interchange and Collaboration (KIC)

Scientific Events/ Travel Grants

2017 – First Call

Closing date: 26 April 2017

CONTEXT

In a globalised world, the internationalisation of research is imperative for the competitiveness of any country. While international collaboration has always been an intrinsic part of the research and innovation (R&I) endeavour, the forces of competitiveness and globalisation are accelerating the scope, pace and importance of cross-border R&I, strengthened by directed partnerships both within and outside of South Africa. Stakeholders around the world are working to internationalise their R&I efforts, driven by the need to establish a global reputation, to access global knowledge and expertise, and to mobilise new resources.

Striving towards an internationally competitive science, technology and innovation system is one of the strategic performance goals of the National Research Foundation's (NRF) Vision. The essential purpose of this intervention is to build and maintain excellence in South African research, rather than to only facilitate international collaboration. The promotion of international collaboration through the support of travel opportunities and participation in scientific events, enriched by national learning opportunities and engagements, are important mechanisms towards this goal.

The Knowledge, Interchange and Collaboration (KIC) programme was therefore established to contribute to the following objectives:

- internationalising South Africa's research platform;
- enhancing networking within the global science system;
- fostering collaboration in order to improve the quality of research outputs by researchers.

Within the NRF funding context, the internationalisation of research is an intrinsic part of the current funding instruments, built into research grants awarded through programmes such as Competitive Funding for Rated Researchers, the South African Research Chairs Initiatives (SARChI), and the Centres of Excellence (CoE) Programme. **Therefore, funding for KIC support is prioritised for those researchers who have not already been allocated support through any other current NRF grant awards.**

TYPES OF SUPPORT

The investment in support for travel and participation in scientific events are focused on four categories:

- **Travel Grants for Individual Researchers:** The applicants in this category are individual South Africa-based researchers (emerging or established researchers) travelling either locally or internationally. The funding requested will be to support local and international travel related to research activities such as presentations of keynote lectures or papers and/or posters at conferences, seminars, symposia, workshops as well as visiting research infrastructure. PhD students can apply (through their supervisors), and be recognised as emerging researchers.

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- **Visiting Foreign Researchers:** The applicants in this category are South Africa-based researchers requesting funding to host research leaders from abroad for a short period (up to three weeks) in South Africa in order to enrich local expertise in their field.
 - **Africa Interaction:** The applicants in this category are South Africa-based researchers intending to visit universities or research organisations in African countries in order to build capacity and to promote future collaboration, and/or to strengthen existing collaborations.
 - **Support for Local Scientific Events:** The applicants in this category are South Africa-based researchers requesting financial support to organise or host scientific events.

CATEGORY DETAILS

Travel Grants for Individual Researchers

This investment area supports three categories:

- PhD students (at a minimum in the second year of research).
- Emerging and developing researchers (younger than 40 years), including postdocs.
- Established researchers.

Purpose

The main purpose of this category is to support:

- Travel by researchers employed by qualifying institutions (as indicated in sections below) and PhD students (supervisors to apply) registered in South Africa to local conferences, workshops, symposiums, and congresses.
- Travel by researchers employed by qualifying institutions and PhD students registered in South Africa to conferences, workshops, symposiums, congresses abroad. **Please note that only Supervisors may apply on behalf of PhD students.**

Criteria

Applications meeting the following criteria will be prioritised:

- Illustrated value to be derived from participation in the event and the potential of new initiatives;
- Use networking to influence strategic direction in areas of national importance;
- The application must be accompanied by an official acceptance of an abstract, or confirmation of a presentation;
- The NRF will consider supporting visits to foreign institutions only if the events (conference and visit) are held concurrently, and in the same vicinity;
- **Applications that do not have all required supporting documents including an Acceptance Letter to the scientific event by the time of submission will be disqualified and will not be taken up for evaluation by the NRF.**

Grants for Visiting Foreign Researchers

Purpose

The main purpose of this category is to enable local researchers to invite foreign researchers to spend time in South Africa in order to enrich local expertise in their field, promote future collaboration and/or strengthen existing collaboration.

Criteria

- Visits by researchers with institutional and individual scientific relevance;
- The invited researcher must be a leader in their field of research;
- Illustrated value to be derived from the visit and the possibility of the start of new initiatives;
- Involvement of other South African scientists and engagement with more than one institution other than the host/applicant;
- It is obligatory that the invited researcher present a public lecture/seminar at the institution, or at a partner institution;
- A copy of the invitation to the visitor(s) and a copy of the provisional acceptance of the invitation from the visitor(s) must be included;
- **Applications that do not have all required supporting documents by the time of submission will be disqualified and will not be taken up for evaluation by the NRF.**

Africa Interaction

Purpose

The main purpose of this category is to enable researchers in South Africa to build capacity and to establish or strengthen academic collaboration with one or more partners based at universities or research institutions in Africa.

Criteria

- The applicant must be a leader in their field of research;
- The applicant must indicate how the funding will support collaboration with partners elsewhere in Africa at the level of research, teaching, or capacity development;
- Copies of invitation(s) received from host(s) must be included;
- **Applications that do not have all required supporting documents by the time of submission will be disqualified and will not be taken up for evaluation by the NRF.**

Support for Local Scientific Events

Purpose

The main purpose of this category is to promote excellence in research through financial support for international research events hosted in South Africa such as conferences and workshops. The term “conference” is used in its broadest sense and includes all types of scientific meetings including symposia, congresses, colloquia, and workshops.

Criteria

Applications meeting the following criteria will be prioritised:

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- Events in this category applied for must have international involvement (plenary speaker[s] or international participation), must involve South African students, and have oral and/or poster presentations;
 - The event proposal must clearly define the overall objectives and programme of activities;
 - The event should be a platform aimed at creating new contacts in its area of expertise/ discipline and may be connected to other networks;
 - The event should offer the potential of establishing institutional cooperation in relevant areas;
 - A copy of the invitation to the keynote speaker(s) and a copy of provisional acceptance of invitation from the keynote speaker(s) must be included;
 - A student attendance register is required to be made available during the event according to the format as shown in the application form. This should include detailed information providing name, department, institution, study level and demographics;
 - The funding will cover invited international keynote speaker's air travel and accommodation, and publication of conference proceedings or abstract books*.
 - **Applications that do not have all required supporting documents by the time of submission will be disqualified and will not be taken up for evaluation by the NRF.**

***Items such as venue hire, audio-visual equipment hire, honoraria, student assistance, administration costs or refreshments will not qualify for consideration.**

WHO MAY APPLY

PhD students (through their supervisors) registered at public South African institutions, and all researchers who are full-time employees or on a fixed-term contract at any of the following institutions are eligible to apply:

- South African universities /universities of technology;
- Recognised national research institutions such as the national facilities;
- Museums;
- Science councils.

The applicants must be in possession of at least a PhD degree. **Students and researchers from private/commercial institutions are not eligible to apply.** Student involvement in local events is highly encouraged.

WHICH ACTIVITIES MAY I APPLY FOR?

Category	Item
Travel Grants for Individual Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flights ▪ Visa costs ▪ Accommodation ▪ Conference registration fees
Visiting Foreign Researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flights ▪ Accommodation ▪ Ground transport
Africa Interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flights ▪ Visa costs ▪ Accommodation ▪ Ground transport
Local Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flights ▪ Accommodation ▪ Publication of conference proceedings, abstract or books

PROCESSING AND DECISIONS

In line with the NRF's endeavour for a fair and objective granting process, all applications are subjected to the following:

- Applications will be considered for support for travel /events taking place between **1 June 2017 to 31 December 2017**;
- An applicant can only submit multiple applications provided they are applying on behalf of their PhD students;
- Applicants will not be supported for two consecutive calls;
- Applications need to be endorsed by the applicant's Institutional Research Office. The application must be accompanied by a confirmation of the scheduled visit from the host organisation/institution/person being visited or an official acceptance of conference presentation/poster, whichever might be applicable;
- A panel consisting of external and internal reviewers will assess and select application according to the stipulated criteria;
- **Travel grant funding will be up to a maximum of ZAR50 000 for mobility and ZAR100 000 for conference support.**
- **KIC awards will not cover all expenses requested, and co-investment from own/ other sources are essential. This should be clearly indicated in the application;**
- Given the competitive nature of the programme and budgetary limitations, funding is not guaranteed.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications should be submitted electronically on the NRF Online Submission System at <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za/>
- Register/Login using your ID/passport number and password
- Go to My Applications and select Create new application
- Select the call for which you are applying for: **Knowledge, Interchange and Collaboration (KIC) 2017 – Round 1**
- Complete all sections of the application
- Please attach the necessary documents in **PDF format**
- Should you not follow the guidelines for attaching the necessary supporting documents, your application may not be considered
- Remember to **submit** your application on completion
- Complete applications will go to the host university/ institution for verification before being forwarded to the NRF for further processing
- Incomplete applications will not be considered
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered (please refer to the call document for details on eligibility for the KIC call <http://www.nrf.ac.za>)
- Please contact the institutional research office if you have any queries
- **All applications for KIC grants should be submitted by 26 April 2017. No application will be accepted beyond this date.**
- The NRF will not be held liable for server/IT problems experienced by any institution for non-submission of applications.
- **Applications submitted as hard copies or by email will not be accepted and will automatically be disqualified.**

Criteria for Assessing Applications

Criteria used to assess proposals for funding:

1. Track record of Applicant

Priority

- PhD students;
- Emerging researchers (early career);
- Established researchers with a high publication record.

2. Nature of visit / Purpose of event

Priority

- Travel to African countries;
- Strong motivation with clear indication for potential societal Impact; national importance and expected outcomes;

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- Benefits to the host / the broader SA research community / value-adding initiatives;
 - Benefits of participating in the event;

3. Financial

Priority

- Feasibility of proposed budget;
- Co-investment and other source of funding.

4. Transformation

Priority

- HDIs;
- Equity and redress
 - Black Female at HDIs High score
 - Black Female at HAIs High score
 - Black Male/ White Female at HDIs
 - Black Male/ White Female at HAIs
 - White Male at HDIs
 - White Male at HAIs
 - White Male at HAIs Low score

Feedback to the applicants

The entire process of applications after the call closing date entails screening of all applications for eligibility, taking eligible applications to the review panel, announcing of the outcomes and awarding of grants. This process could take up 8 weeks from the call closing date.

Feedback will be communicated to all the institutions via their Designated Authorities in the form of a list / spreadsheet of all successful and unsuccessful applicants per institution.

Acceptance of Grant Conditions (AoC)

An appropriate hard copy of the AoC will accompany each formal letter of award. This should be signed by both the grant holder and the Designated Authority at the institution. The AoC should be returned to the NRF within 30 days of receipt. Failure to comply may result in the NRF cancelling the award. Funding can only be disbursed once signed AoC are received.

Reporting and Payments

- NRF support should be acknowledged in all publications (including World Wide Web pages) and presentations (oral or poster). Use of the NRF logo should be according to the branding policies of the organisation (contact Mr Thabiso Nkone at thabiso.nkone@nrf.ac.za for further details).

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- A student attendance register is required to be made available during the event, and should include detailed information providing name, department, institution, study level and demographics.
 - An online reporting template will be available throughout the duration of the grant.
 - **Applicants who have not submitted previous conference reports to NRF will not be considered for future funding.**
 - Grant payments will be made directly to the institution of the applicant.

Contacts

All queries or comments about this call should be addressed to:

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