

From: [Fouche, Malene, Mrs \[mfouche@sun.ac.za\]](mailto:mfouche@sun.ac.za)
To: [Fouche, Malene, Mrs \[mfouche@sun.ac.za\]](mailto:mfouche@sun.ac.za)
Subject: Call for Applications - Sasol-NRF University Collaborative Research Grant 2022
Date: Thursday, 23 September 2021 08:57:58
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[Annexure 2_NRF-Sasol_Proposal_Template-final.docx](#)
[Sasol-NRF_University_Collaboration_Call_Guideline-final-15_Sept_2021.pdf](#)
[Annexure 1_Proposal_Evaluation_Scorecard-final.docx.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Let asb daarop dat hierdie inligting aan 'n verspreidingslys van alle US-navorsers gestuur word. Dit mag dus wees dat hierdie spesifieke oproep nie van toepassing is op u studieveld nie. Ons vertrou dat van die ander NNS oproepe wel relevant sal wees. / Please note that this information is sent to a distribution list of all SU researchers. It may, therefore, be that this specific call is not applicable to your specific research field. We trust that some of the other NRF calls will be relevant.

Dear colleagues

This is an opportunity for **Science and Engineering** researchers to apply for funding to support research in the following areas:

- CO2 capture, utilisation, conversion to chemicals and fuels (chemical or biological pathways)
- Green hydrogen and ammonia production, transport, storage and application
- Energy Storage (RSA scenario)
- Fuels Cells (stationary and mobility applications)
- Renewable Energy, Transmission & Integration
- Non-fossil-based Carbon feedstock (e.g. biomass, waste) conversion
- Air Emissions and Carbon Offsetting opportunities
- Waste Utilisation towards a Circular Economy (e.g. plastic, municipal waste, ash)
- Water Sustainability (e.g. treatment, desalination, bioprocess modelling)
- Air Emission research (e.g. source apportionment, aerosol deposition, emission factors development, and advanced detection techniques of any pollutant)
- Advanced data science supporting any of the above topics (e.g. energy systems modelling).

SASOL has confirmed that any intellectual property generated by projects funded through this call will belong to the university and the research team. Please read the attached documents carefully before embarking on your application. The internal deadline for submission of applications is **25 October 2021 at 9:00**. Please submit your completed application to both mfouche@sun.ac.za and sbrooks@sun.ac.za. The required Designated Authority (DA) letter will only be issued to those applicants who submit their fully completed applications by the internal deadline and whose applications meet the requirements set by SASOL and the NRF.

Regards
Maléne

Hierdie kennisgewing is aan u gestuur deur die Afdeling Navorsingsontwikkeling (ANO) van Universiteit Stellenbosch.

[Sit my by](#) | [Haal my af](#)

die verspreidingslys van kommunikasie rakende befondsingsgeleenthede en werksinkels.

This notice was sent to you by the Division for Research Development (DRD) of Stellenbosch University.

[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

From: Bettie de Beer <E.deBeer@risa.nrf.ac.za>

Sent: 15 September 2021 04:13 PM

Subject: Call for Applications - Sasol-NRF University Collaborative Research Grant 2022

Importance: High

Some people who received this message don't often get email from e.debeer@risa.nrf.ac.za. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Stellenbosch University network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Call for Applications

Sasol-NRF University Collaborative Research Grant 2022

Closing date for submitting applications by e-mail: 29 October 2021

Sasol and the National Research Foundation (NRF) are partnering to fund collaborative research grants in Science and Engineering that will contribute to South Africa's energy transition and green economy. This initiative will also strengthen the collaboration between industry and academia within South Africa in order to enhance research capabilities and capacity.

Proposals should be submitted by email to sasolgrants@sasol.com. The deadline for the submission of proposals is **Friday, 29 October 2021**. Successful Sasol-NRF applications will be funded from January 2022.

The Call documents are attached and also available on the NRF website.

THIS CALL IS ONLY OPEN TO APPLICANTS FROM UNIVERSITIES

NO late applications will be accepted after the closing date above

Contact persons:

NRF	Sasol
Dr Zolani Dyosi Email: Z.Dyosi@risa.nrf.ac.za	Dr Pheladi Mohlala pheladi.mohlala@sasol.com



Meiring Naude Road
Brummeria
PO Box 2600
Pretoria, 0001
South Africa
<https://www.nrf.ac.za>

Bettie de Beer
Professional Officer: Support Desk
Grants Management and Systems Administration (GMSA)
Tel: +27 12 481 4034
Email: E.deBeer@risa.nrf.ac.za

<https://www.nrf.ac.za/email-legal-notice.php>



The integrity and confidentiality of this email are governed by these terms. [Disclaimer](#)
Die integriteit en vertroulikheid van hierdie e-pos word deur die volgende bepaling bereël.
[Vrywaringsklousule](#)

Sasol-NRF University Collaborative Research Grants Evaluation Scorecard

Category	Evaluation criteria guidelines
Track record of Applicant (5%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The applicant produced research and or technology outputs that are internationally recognized in the past 5 years, aligned with the proposal. ▪ The applicant has adequate experience in the research field of the proposed research and has supervised students at Masters and Doctoral levels.
Relevance of the Proposal (30%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Soundness of research premise and degree of innovative thinking in the approach. ▪ Clear objectives to address a well-defined problem statement aligned with indicated research focus area.
Collaboration (5%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use of multi-disciplinary and/or collaborative approach (intra- and inter-university as well as other industry partners).
Proposal Feasibility (20%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sound technical approach to achieve the objectives and deliver clearly defined outputs. ▪ The research plan is realistic, with clear links between roles and responsibilities, resources, timelines, and the budget.
Potential Project Impact (30%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Industry: Is there potential for uptake of the project outputs/outcomes by industry? Is there a clear understanding of how the research would support/enable deployment of new technology within Sasol and South Africa, and a clear technology translation plan? ▪ Society: Does this solve a problem which will benefit South Africa's population?
Just Skills Transition Impact (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How does this proposal support the Just Skills Transition? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training of students ▪ Development of postdoctoral and early career researchers ▪ Diversity focus (race and gender)

PROJECT TITLE
Research Focus Area (please select one of the themes indicated on the call document)
Primary Investigator: Title, Name/Surname, Institution
<i>Contact Details: PI email and phone number</i>
<i>Co-Investigators: Title, Name/Surname, Institution</i>

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A concisely sound research proposal with a premise and degree of innovative thinking is recommended

Project Duration: <i>[provide start and end date]</i>
RATIONALE/PROJECT OUTLINE & PLAN: <i>[Outline the essence of the research concept for which you are seeking funding. Include a problem statement, objective, describe the proposed theoretical/experimental approach to address the problem.]</i>
COLLABORATION: <i>[Outline any project collaboration opportunities and linkages (multi-disciplinary, national/international, industry)]</i>
EXPECTED OUTPUTS: Scientific, technological, human resources including students.
DEFINE THE POTENTIAL BENEFIT AND IMPACT: Describe the potential for uptake of the project outputs/outcomes by industry/society.

Please limit Project Description to a maximum of 4 pages.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND MILESTONES

Please provide a high level breakdown of the project plan with key activities and milestones, using the following template.

Schedule (Timelines)	Methodology and Proposed Research Plan: milestones, activity, roles & responsibilities

POST GRADUATE STUDENT INFORMATION

Name/Surname	Institution	Field study	Level of Study	Project Title	Race	Gender

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW INFORMATION

Name/Surname	Institution	Field study	Project Title	Race	Gender

Proposed budget: Please provide a budget summary per annum for the duration of the project, using the template below. Please also provide an Excel version of this spreadsheet with your proposal documentation.

ITEM	COST (RANDS)				
	MOTIVATION	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4
STUDENTS AND FELLOWS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Masters ▪ PhD/Doctoral ▪ Postdoctoral Research Fellows 					
RUNNING COSTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ▪ 					
TRAVEL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 					
EQUIPMENT (SMALL): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ▪ 					
OTHER: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ▪ 					
TOTAL PER ANNUM COST					

OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- **Curriculum Vitae of the PI and each of the Co-PIs with the following headings (maximum 4 pages):**
 - Personal Profile: Name, Surname, Identity document number, Citizenship, Race, Gender, Contact details.
 - Employment (five years): Position, Organisation, Sector, Appointment period
 - Qualification (highest): Name of the qualification, year obtained, name of the institution)
 - Research expertise: Research domain, Field of specialisation
 - Research outputs: A summarised maximum 10 year publication record (chapters in books, peer reviewed articles, conference outputs, patents, products, etc.)
 - Student supervision record: Graduated students (Masters and PhD)
 - Any other formal recognition or prizes relevant to this application.

Open Call for Sasol-NRF University Collaborative Research Grant Guidelines for Submitting Proposals For Funding from 2022

Introduction

As part of a shared intent to enhance world class research, teaching and innovation at South African universities, Sasol and the National Research Foundation (NRF), in a strategic partnership, hereby launch an open call for research proposals. Emphasis is placed on Science and Engineering research initiatives that have the potential to support Sasol's business strategy as well as yield positive social impact. Furthermore, interdisciplinary collaborations within the university and collaborations with other institutions in the national system of innovation are especially encouraged. The partnership between Sasol and the NRF will also advance the transformation of the research enterprise, including knowledge production and human resources.

Research Focus

Sustainability is a strategic imperative for Sasol and the NRF and guides collective efforts to advance chemical and energy solutions that contribute to a thriving planet, society and enterprise. Specifically, and as a United Nations Global Compact signatory, Sasol and the NRF have an important role to play in supporting global sustainability targets which aim to address some of the world's biggest challenges, including improving health, education and responding to climate change. Achieving these goals requires collaboration between governments, academia, the private sector, non-governmental organisations and the public. Within this context, research proposals are invited in the following areas:

- CO₂ capture, utilisation, conversion to chemicals and fuels (chemical or biological pathways)
- Green hydrogen and ammonia production, transport, storage and application
- Energy Storage (RSA scenario)
- Fuels Cells (stationary and mobility applications)
- Renewable Energy, Transmission & Integration
- Non-fossil-based Carbon feedstock (e.g. biomass, waste) conversion
- Air Emissions and Carbon Offsetting opportunities
- Waste Utilisation towards a Circular Economy (e.g. plastic, municipal waste, ash)
- Water Sustainability (e.g. treatment, desalination, bioprocess modelling)
- Air Emission research (e.g. source apportionment, aerosol deposition, emission factors development, and advanced detection techniques of any pollutant)
- Advanced data science supporting any of the above topics (e.g. energy systems modelling).

Key Call Aspects

Proposal for the Sasol-NRF grant must address the following critical aspects to be considered for funding. These aspects are central to the scorecard that will be used to evaluate the submitted proposals (see Annexure 1).

- Demonstrate innovative application of Science and Engineering knowledge to address specific challenges or opportunities relating to South Africa's Green Economy and Energy Transition, and must be aligned to the research areas presented above.

- Develop innovative outputs/solutions that have a potential for commercialisation, and to upskill postgraduate students or postdoctoral fellows to support South Africa’s Just Skills Transition.

What is funded

- The total amount applied for shall not exceed R1,000,000 per grant, including a provision for student bursaries (Masters, PhD students, and postdoctoral fellows).
- NOTE: It is anticipated that approximately 15-20 projects will be funded through this Call. It is therefore important to consider the competitive nature of this programme with respect to the quality of the proposals.
- The following categories and guideline should be used to develop the project budget:

Budget categories	Suggested Maximum/ percentage of total grant
Running Costs	Guided by the figures below
Mobility/travel	not > 10%
Small equipment	not > 15%
Student bursaries and Postdoctoral Research Fellows	not > 50%
Other	

What is not funded

- Consultants; academic salaries, and any line items that are not related to research.

Postgraduate students and Postdoctoral Research Fellow support

- The support for postgraduate students involved in the Sasol-NRF projects will be in line with the [NRF Post Graduate Funding Policy](#) (page 9). The NRF Designated Authority at the university research office will provide additional guidance if required.
- On confirmation of a successful grant award, Principal Investigators (PIs) will be assisted in the identification of students and postdoctoral fellows to be involved in their projects from the pool of students who are already registered or who are eligible to register.
 - Should a PI have identified specific students attached to the approved project, the names of these students will be provided to the NRF, where after they will be requested to apply for consideration for funding, provided they are eligible to register.
 - Should a PI not have specific students already identified, students who already qualify for funding on the NRF database, and aligned with the project objectives, will be allocated to the project.
- Aligned with the Post Graduate Funding Policy, PIs should budget a provisional amount of R173 000 for each student who will be studying for a Masters degree, and R185 000 for each student who will be studying for a Doctoral degree. These amounts are full cost bursaries. Should the student(s) receive a partial cost bursary (as per the guidelines), the balance of the allocated student amount may be allocated to other project expenses.
- PIs should budget an amount of R305 000 for each Postdoctoral Research Fellow (R255 000 as a stipend, and R50 000 for research activities) according to the [NRF Postdoctoral Funding Policy](#). The names of these fellows will be provided to the NRF, where after they will be requested to apply for consideration for funding, informed by mini-project proposals aligned with the approved

project. The NRF Designated Authority at the university research office will provide additional guidance if required.

Duration of Funding

- Research projects may be funded over a period of 1 to 4 calendar years, to allow support for the full duration of MSc and PhD studies as relevant. Annual renewal of grants will be subject to adequate progress on agreed-upon deliverables and milestones.

Who is Eligible

- Academics from any South African university working in the relevant disciplines highlighted in the sections above are invited to submit proposals for the Sasol-NRF-Research Grants.
- PIs should hold a PhD in a relevant discipline, and must have at least 5 years research experience after the completion of the PhD.
- Proposals should address the research areas identified in this document.

Please note that proposals will be rejected if they do not meet all of the above eligibility criteria.

Requirements for Research Proposals

- The proposal must be developed using the application template attached in Annexure 2. All sections must be completed. An Excel file of the proposed budget needs to accompany the proposal.
- Collaborators that are included in the proposals must be informed before the proposal is finalised.
- The proposal must be converted to a pdf format prior to submission.
- A letter from the applicant institution's research office Designated Authority (DA) acknowledging that the institution is aware of the applicant's intention to submit the proposal for Sasol-NRF grant, is compulsory.
- Proposals with incomplete information and/or no DA letter will not be considered.

Submission and Timelines

- Proposals should be submitted by email to sasolgrants@sasol.com, copying their institution's DA. Receipt of proposals will be confirmed.
- The deadline for the submission of proposals is **Friday 29 October 2021**.
- All applicants will be notified about the outcome of their applications by **Friday 10 December 2021**.

Checklist of Required Documents for Submission:

- Completed proposal and CV using the attached template (Annexure 2)
- Letter of support from the NRF designated authority.
- Budget in excel format.

Evaluation of Proposals

- All proposals received will be screened for eligibility and for compulsory documentation to be submitted with the proposals.
- Proposals that are deemed not eligible or do not include all the supporting documentation will not be processed further.

Ethical Clearance

- It is the responsibility of the grantholder, 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 at the respective institution 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.

Management of the Funding Instrument

- The approved projects will be managed using the NRF processes and systems, (e.g. disbursement of funds). A steering committee that comprises Sasol and NRF management will have oversight on the implementation of the projects funded through this initiative.
- Upon receipt of the signed Conditions of Grant, the NRF will release the awarded amount for the year. Grantholders will then be required to comply with the standard NRF financial management procedures, including the submission of short mid-year and more detailed annual Progress Reports.
- The Annual Progress Reports are prerequisites for the release of the subsequent year's funding. Failure to submit a Progress Report will result in the cancellation of the grant award.
- Industrial advisors will be allocated by Sasol to each funded project, in order to support technical development of the work as appropriate, provide industrial insights into commercialisation challenges, support students and academics to develop a better understanding of industry, as well as afford access to useful networks and information.

Please direct any queries to:

SASOL: Dr. Pheladi Mohlala; Email contact: pheladi.mohlala@sasol.com
NRF: Dr. Zolani Dyosi; Email contact: Z.Dyosi@risa.nrf.ac.za