



***COMPETITIVE PROGRAMME FOR
RATED RESEARCHERS (CPRR)***

**KNOWLEDGE ADVANCEMENT AND SUPPORT
Framework Document**

APRIL 2018

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1. FUNDING INSTRUMENT TITLE AND DESCRIPTION

1.1 Name

COMPETITIVE PROGRAMME FOR RATED RESEARCHERS

1.2 Description of Funding Instrument

The Competitive Programme for Rated Researchers (CPRR) is a highly competitive discipline-based funding instrument which supports both basic and applied research as the foundation of knowledge production in the disciplines of the Humanities, Social and Natural sciences.

As a competitive funding instrument, the chief eligibility criteria are:

- **A valid National Research Foundation (NRF) rating of the principal applicant;**
- **Scientific merit and quality of the research proposal**

Although the funding instrument ostensibly has a broad and non-directed theme and structure, funding will be prioritised to the top scoring applications within each broad-field/discipline that are not supported through other NRF funding instruments, such as African Origin Platforms, South African Research Chairs Initiative, Global Change Grand Challenge, South African National Antarctic Programme, *etc.* The emphasis will be on basic and as appropriate, applied research in disciplinary fields, and will allow for multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary enquiry along the basic-applied research continuum.

Other than in the case of dedicated or ring fenced funding that support identified fields, disciplines and funding instruments, the NRF through CPRR does not drive and does not plan to drive a particular research agenda, nor attempt in any way to “dictate” the direction of research, but research into national priorities like those identified through BRICS partnership would be of particular interest in the context of making a contribution to wider system objectives. Having said this, it should be noted that the NRF has not top-sliced funds to specifically fund the BRICS issues.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The NRF recognises that in order for South Africa to be internationally competitive and to meaningfully contribute to the global economy, the country must have the capability to understand the knowledge produced by others. This understanding can best be developed through producing knowledge and translating existing knowledge. Publicly funded basic and applied research is viewed as a source of new ideas, opportunities, methods, and most importantly, the means through which problem solvers can be trained. Basic research is considered critical for innovation and potentially, international competitiveness.

The NRF views support for basic disciplinary, multi- and transdisciplinary research as an investment in the country’s learning and knowledge production capabilities and capacities. The CPRR is a discipline-and transdisciplinary based, and demand-driven funding instrument. It is restricted to persons who hold a **current NRF rating**. It is anticipated that these individuals, as established researchers, will continue to produce quality, high impact research, contributing to South Africa’s global research and development output.

3 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The mandate of the NRF is to support and promote research through funding, human resource development and the provision of the necessary research facilities so as to facilitate the creation of knowledge, innovation and development in all fields of science and technology, including indigenous knowledge and thereby to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of all the people of the Republic (NRF Act, 1998). In support of its purpose, the NRF recently launched the *NRF Strategy 2020* that aims at contributing to the development of, a *vibrant and globally connected national system of innovation*, and anchored by five Strategic Outcomes, namely:

- An internationally competitive, transformed and representative research system;
- Leading-edge research and infrastructure platforms;
- A reputable and influential agency shaping the science and technology system;
- Scientifically literate and engaged society; and
- A skilled, committed and representative NRF and technical workforce

3.1 Environmental scan

The CPRR resonates with the NRF mandate by being cognisant of the role that research plays in the innovation and the commercialisation value chain, and hence the socio-economic development of the country.

While it is recognised that the innovation value chain requires basic, strategic and applied research, the emphasis in *this* funding instrument will primarily be on the support of both basic research and applied research¹. In order to participate in an international system of innovation, a nation needs to produce knowledge and understand the knowledge produced by others. Support for basic disciplinary research is thus seen as an investment in a society's learning capabilities (Salter and Martin, 2001).

At the same time, this funding instrument acknowledges that basic and applied research are a continuum and inter-dependent (ICSU, 2004) and that increasingly, the notion of "frontier research" is gaining purchase internationally, as it transcends the distinction of basic and applied research and refers to leading edge research which is risky and often across different disciplines.

Social Sciences, Law and Humanities applications are encouraged, just like those in the natural sciences, engineering and health science that have traditionally been supported. The NRF continues to support self-initiated bottom-up research ideas and research that address national strategic initiatives as reflected in national strategies like the National Development Plan, the 10-year Innovation Plan and those that are embedded in our geographic advantage

¹ The *Frascati Manual* (OECD, 2002) defines **Basic research** as experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundation of phenomena and observable facts, without any particular application or use in view. It further defines **Applied research** as also original investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge. It is, however directed primarily towards a specific practical aim or objective.

areas. At the International level the NRF is keen to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Africa Agenda 2063 priorities. In respect to the social sciences and humanities however, the NRF would like to highlight the fact that it is supportive and committed to working closely with the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) on the advancement of social sciences and the humanities scholarship in South Africa.

3.2 Objectives

The objectives of the funding instrument are:

- To contribute to the development of a sound fundamental basis to scientific and scholarly endeavour in South Africa, in the Humanities, Natural and Social Science disciplines;
- To contribute to knowledge production across the research spectrum;
- To achieve world-class research and to develop the associated human capacity; and
- To advance or develop paradigms, theories and methodological innovation across the research spectrum.

3.3 NRF Perspective

The CPRR is a discipline- and transdisciplinary based, demand-driven funding instrument that focuses on basic disciplinary and cross-disciplinary research, while allowing (where appropriate) for the “continuum of knowledge” approach alluded to above. This is in line with the NRF’s view that support for basic disciplinary research is an investment in South Africa’s learning capabilities. The CPRR directly, and in part, addresses the following strategic objectives of the *NRF Strategy 2020*:

- Promote globally competitive research and innovation;
- Enhance strategic international engagement; and
- Entrench science engagement.

3.4 Institutional structure

The strategic direction and outcomes of the funding instrument are managed by the Knowledge Advancement and Support (KAS) Directorate. The Reviews and Evaluation (RE) Directorate is responsible for the review processes up to the recommendations of grant awards. The Grants Management and Systems Administration (GMSA) Directorate’s responsibilities include posting of the research call, disbursement of grant funds and ensuring adherence to the conditions of the grant.

3.5 Financing support

The CPRR is made possible through the NRF’s Parliamentary Core Funding. As a demand driven funding instrument, there is no limit to the amount an applicant can request. However, the financial requests need to be in line with requirements and accurately reflect the financial needs of the proposed work. **Excessive budget requests are not well received by the review panels.** Applications will be scored according to a scorecard (see **Annexure 1**), and

the top scoring applications within broad-field/discipline groupings and panels will be supported until the available resources are exhausted. The financial requirements of the top scoring applications within each broad-field/discipline will determine the final number of applications supported.

3.6 Science engagement

The NRF supports science engagement through its coordination and implementation of the Department of Science and Technology'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. Within this context, 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, science awareness, science education, science communication and science outreach, which aim to develop and benefit individuals and society. Researchers funded through the NRF programmes are required to contribute to science engagement and report the related outputs in their project's Annual Performance Report.

3.7 Key stakeholders

The key stakeholders involved in the CPRR are persons with valid NRF rating based at public research institutions that are recognised by directive of the Minister of Science and Technology. These include mainly, Public Universities, Museums, Institutes National Research Facilities and Science Councils.

3.8 Information sources

The value of basic scientific research, 2004. International Council for Science (ICSU)
Accessed 03/01/2017

<http://www.icsu.org/publications/icsu-position-statements/value-scientific-research/the-value-of-basic-scientific-research-dec-2004>

Frascati Manual: Proposed standard practice for surveys on Research and Experimental Development, 2002. OECD, Paris

http://www.dcc.ac.uk/sites/default/files/documents/resource/DMP/DMP_Checklist_2013.pdf

The ministerial guidelines for improving equity in the distribution of DST/NRF bursaries and fellowships, 2013. The Department of Science and Technology, Republic of South Africa.

National Research Foundation Strategy 2020. National Research Foundation, Pretoria, South Africa.

4 **MODUS OPERANDI**

4.1 **Call for proposals**

All application materials **must** be submitted electronically via the NRF's Submission system at <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za>

All applications **must** be endorsed by the research office of the principal applicant before submission to the NRF. It is the responsibility of each applicant to familiarise himself / herself with the **internal closing dates**, set by institution in order to meet the NRF closing date.

Incomplete OR late submissions will not be accepted.

Call closes: 14 May 2018

4.2 **Eligibility**

- CPRR grantholders may only hold **ONE** CPRR grant at a time. CPRR grantholders with current grant awards that run beyond the end of [the calendar year] 2018 are **ineligible** for funding in this round. CPRR grantholders with current grant awards that run to the end of 2018 are **eligible** for funding in this round. Funding in this round will support successful applications for a maximum period of 3 years, 2019 – 2021.
- Each new Principal Investigator **may only submit ONE** CPRR application to this call. However, a researcher may participate either as a co-investigator or collaborator in more than one project.
- Full time employees at an NRF recognized research institution in South Africa, **who are eligible to apply and who hold a valid NRF rating at the time of application**, are invited to apply.
- NRF rated part-time employees on contract at an NRF recognized research institution (as defined above) in South Africa who do not currently hold a CPRR grant may apply, but on condition that their appointment at the South African institution is for (at least) the duration of the project applied for in the submission. The length of the contract should be stated in the application form. The primary employment of the individual concerned must be at that institution. A contract researcher appointed at a research institution on behalf of a third party to fulfill a very specific function for the latter does not qualify for support.
- Successful rated applicants will be eligible for funding **for the duration of their awarded grant**, to a maximum of 3 years. The grant allocation will be allowed to run the duration of the award, even if the principal investigator loses his/her rating status during this period. However, once the grant period has expired, the principal investigator will not be able to reapply to CPRR until re-rating is obtained.

- Retired academics/researchers, provided that they meet all set criteria as stipulated below:
 - hold a current and valid NRF rating;
 - are resident in SA;
 - are formally affiliated to a South African Higher Education Institution (e.g., appointed as an emeritus professor, honorary research associate/professor, supernumerary/contract employee);
 - are active researchers with a distinguished track record in research and postgraduate student supervision;
 - are actively mentoring/training postgraduate students/young research staff and
 - the institution ensures that a minimum of reasonable time (6 months minimum) is spent at the facility for the purpose of research and research capacity development.

4.3 Application assessment

The assessment of applications will be guided by a Panel Assessment Scorecard (**see Annexure 1**), and scored according to the Proposal Grading (**see Annexure 2**). Application assessment will occur by way of a two-tiered process:

- **Remote peer review**

The remote peer reviewers will be specialists in the ambit of the respective proposals. Requests for written reviews will be solicited electronically, or through appropriate media / means from peers located at remote locations from the NRF. Applicants will be requested to provide between 6 to 10 possible reviewers. It is in the applicant's best interest to ensure that the selected reviewers are aware of the submission and are thus likely to respond. It is also in the applicant's best interest to ensure that selected reviewers have no possible conflict of interest in submitting a review; as such review reports are dismissed without consideration. On average, a 30% response rate is achieved by the NRF in requesting postal peer reviews.

- **Panel-peer review**

The adjudication panel will be broadly constituted to include senior academics, selected based both on their respective knowledge fields and their research standing. The panel meeting will be held at central location or by way of tele- or video-conferencing. Panel members will deliberate on submitted written reviews and will be expected to offer their own expert opinions.

NB: Applicants **must ensure that their Curriculum Vitae are updated on the NRF Submission system at**

<https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za>

These Curriculum Vitae are used in the assessment processes, and incomplete or outdated inputs will disadvantage the application.

4.4 Rules of participation

a) Principal Investigator

Only rated researchers based at NRF recognized research institutions in South Africa (as defined above) are eligible to apply as principal investigators (PI) in this funding instrument.

The principal investigator (*i.e.* the applicant) must be an active researcher who takes intellectual responsibility for the project, its conception, any strategic decisions required in its pursuit, and the communication of results. The PI must have the capacity to make a serious commitment to the project and cannot assume the role of a supplier of resources for work that will largely be placed in the hands of others. The PI will take responsibility for the management and administration of resources allocated to the grant award, and for the meeting of reporting requirements.

The principal investigator may not hold a current CPRR grant.

The principal investigator may submit only one CPRR application to this call for proposals.

The research team may also include:

b) Co-investigators

A co-investigator (CI) is an active researcher who provides significant commitment, intellectual input and relevant expertise into the design and implementation of the research application. The CI will be involved in all or at least some well-defined research activities within the scope of the application. Only South Africa-based co-investigators will be eligible for funding in successful grant applications.

It is important to note that post-doctoral fellows, students, technical and support staff DO NOT qualify as co-investigators

c) Research Associates / Collaborators

These individuals or groups make a relatively small, but meaningful contribution to the research endeavours outlined in the application, but do not participate in the research design. They are not considered a part of the core research team, and are not eligible to receive NRF funds from the grant if the team's application is successful.

4.5 Timelines

The CPRR grants will be awarded for a period of no more than three years (2018 – 2020). Successful applicants who wish to apply for further funding upon completion of a three-year funding cycle may submit new grant applications in the 2018 call for proposals.

4.6 Data management and use

A data management Plan (DMP) is a formal document that describes the data you expect to acquire or generate during the course of a research project, how you will manage, describe, analyze, and store those data, and what mechanisms (including digital data storage) you will use at the end of your project to share and preserve your data.

Research data sharing that underlies the findings reported in a journal article/ conference paper/thesis as set out in the NRF Open Access Statement.

The findings reported in a journal article or conference paper should be deposited in accordance with the NRF Open Access Statement. It is acknowledged that some data generated are more sensitive than others. Before initiating the research, it is the grant holders' responsibility to consider the following: confidentiality, ethics, security and copyright. Possible data sharing challenges should be considered in the DMP with solutions to optimise data sharing.

Researchers should note that publicly funded research data should be in the public domain, with free and open access, by default. Collaborators and co-investigators in the research project should be informed by the applicant that due to public funding and funder mandate, one is expected to share research data as openly as possible. The Data Management Plan should indicate which data will be shared. If (some) research data is to be restricted, an appropriate statement in the DMP and subsequent publication should explain why access to data is restricted.

The National Research Foundation has adopted and is given permission to use the [DCC Checklist for Data Management Plan](http://www.dcc.ac.uk/sites/default/files/documents/resource/DMP/DMP_Checklist_2013.pdf), and this can be used as a guide for developing the DMP. (http://www.dcc.ac.uk/sites/default/files/documents/resource/DMP/DMP_Checklist_2013.pdf)

4.7 Management of funding instrument

The **KAS Directorate** of the NRF – Research and Innovation Support and Advancement (RISA) manages the CPRR funding instrument, and is responsible for:

- Strategic oversight and management of the funding instrument;
- Conceptualizing and developing the funding instrument;
- Coordinating and facilitating activities of the funding instrument;
- Compiling funding instrument research and evaluation reports;
- Stakeholder engagement; and
- Ensuring that the funding instruments delivers on its intended goal(s).

The **RE Directorate** of the NRF – RISA is responsible for managing the adjudication process including:

- sourcing of reviewers both for remote reviews and panels;
- managing the peer review process;
- organizing and managing the review panels as and where appropriate;
- providing feed-back as appropriate; and
- awarding of grants

The **GMSA Directorate** of the NRF – RISA is responsible for

- Managing the call process, that is,
 - Posting the call;
 - Receiving and assessing applications eligibility;
- Coordinating and facilitating the granting processes
- Managing the granting including the administration of awards;
- Administering grant payments; and
- Ensuring adherence to conditions of grants

4.8 Lines of authority

The CPRR Director in the KAS Directorate manages the funding instrument. The Director responsible for this instrument reports to the Executive Director of the KAS Directorate. Directors from RE and GMSA manage the review and granting processes. The Directors in both RE and GMSA report to their respective Executive Directors

5 FINANCIALS

5.1 Funding model

The grants of this funding instrument are to be primarily used for **research purposes** and for the development of associated human resources under the auspices of the NRF standard grant and finance policies. The money is released upon acceptance of the conditions of grant, both by the applicant and his/her employing institution. These grants will fall under the NRF audit requirements of beneficiary institutions.

5.2 Funding ranges

The allocation of funds is demand driven, and as such there is no maximum or minimum proposal request. The number of applications that will be supported overall will depend on the availability of resources and the financial requirements of those successful applications. If successful applications have high financial requirements, fewer applications will be supported.

Successful applications will receive funding that accommodates the following budget items:

- a) Grant holder-linked student support

- b) Staff development grants
- c) Research-related operating costs, including:

- Sabbaticals
- Materials and Supplies
- Travel and subsistence
- Research / Technical / *Ad hoc* Assistants
- Research Equipment

The application assessment process will consider proposed budget items in terms of cost, risk and reward ratios. Decisions relating to budget items will also be governed by the overall funding instrument funds available for the period. Awards will be made in line with the NRF funding rules and guidelines as outlined in **Section 5.3**.

5.3 Funding support

The NRF funds the CPRR funding instrument on an ongoing basis. Science councils, public universities, museums national research facilities and other NRF-recognized institutions are the primary beneficiaries of this funding instrument. The NRF has systems in place to ensure that there is no double-dipping for projects that are already funded by the Medical Research Council, and those funded by the National Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences.

a) Grant holder-linked student support

Grant holder-linked student support will be awarded in accordance with eligibility criteria as detailed in the **Ministerial Guidelines for Improving Equity in the Distribution of DST/NRF Bursaries and Fellowships** (January 2013). The distribution for these bursaries is targeted at the ratios:

- Final year Undergraduate and Honours/BTech student assistantships: 100% SA citizens with a minimum ratio² of 1:1 for Black³ and White participants;
- Masters bursaries: 90% to South Africans and 10% to candidates from other African countries;
- Doctoral bursaries: 80:15:5, SA: Other African: Rest of the World; and
- Postdoctoral bursaries: Open to all who undertake research in South Africa.

The equity distribution for these bursaries is targeted at the ratio:

- 80% Black
- 55% Female
- 4% Disabled

² With the emphasis on Black students

³ Inclusive of Africans, Indians and Coloureds

Values of Student Assistantships

- Honours / BTech (Full-time) R60 000 pa for one year

Values of Bursaries & Fellowships

- Masters degree (Full-time) R90 000 pa for two years
- Doctoral degree (Full-time) R120 000 pa for three years
- Postdoctoral (*pro rata* per month) R220 000 pa for two years

b) Staff development grants

Applicants may apply for Staff Development grants for South African **staff members** at their own and other institutions, and who are not NRF grant-holders in their own right. These staff members must be registered for either a Masters or Doctoral degree, supervised by the applicant or a co-investigator of the application and must be directly involved in the NRF approved project. These grants can be used to contribute towards the operating costs for research undertaken at the supervisor's facility, as well as the cost of travel and accommodation to enable staff members to meet with (co)supervisors. Grants usually range between R 15,000 and R 30,000 depending on the nature of the research and the proximity of the student in relation to the supervisor. Applicants themselves are **not** eligible for Staff Development Grants. The maximum period of support is three years for a Masters degree and five years for a Doctoral degree.

c) Research-related operating costs

These costs include materials and supplies, travel (including conferences) and subsistence, equipment and research/technical/*ad hoc* assistance and sabbaticals to other research organisations and institutions of higher learning may be included within the context of the project applications. These costs should be justified and commensurate with the planned outputs, as they will be assessed on this basis. The amount awarded within this framework can be used at the discretion of the applicant.

General guidelines

Sabbaticals

Sabbaticals will be considered for a period from two to six months. The maximum sabbatical amount requested should not exceed R 80,000 for six months. Funding for sabbaticals of less than six months will be reduced pro-rata. Only principal investigators and co-investigators are eligible to apply for sabbatical funding.

Materials and Supplies

Generally, the NRF does not provide financial support for:

- Basic office equipment including computers and consumables unless the computer is required for the research itself.

- Basic office stationery, photocopying costs, printing costs unless these items form part of the research tools.
- Journal publication costs, journal subscription costs and book costs.
- Telephone, fax and internet costs.

Travel and subsistence

- International conference attendance: Generally the NRF restricts this amount to R 25,000 per person to a maximum of R 50,000 per application per year for a team application i.e. for principal investigators and co-investigators (local only) and local post-graduate students.
- International visits: These will be considered on a case by case basis. Such visits must be integral to the research plan and strong motivations should accompany these requests. Realistic funding allocations will be based on the requested activities. Only outgoing visits will be considered depending on the availability of funding.
- Local conference attendance: Generally the NRF restricts expenditure against this item to R 5,000 per person (all costs). Support for local conference attendance could be requested for all listed co-investigators and post-graduate students. The applicant should clearly motivate for the benefit to attend more than one local conference per annum, and for the number of people attending each local conference.
- Local travel: The NRF does not stipulate any rate for mileage as this will depend on the rate which varies per institution/organisation. Applicants are requested to provide details of this rate as well as the estimated distance to be travelled within the given year.
- Local accommodation costs should not exceed a 3* establishment

Research / Technical / Ad hoc Assistants

- This instrument **does not provide funding for salaries.**
- Requests for research/technical/ad hoc assistance should be treated with caution. Generally the NRF would encourage applicants to engage students to undertake the research rather than employing research consultants. This guideline however does not apply when specific and/or highly specialised research/technical expertise is required. This should be **CLEARLY** motivated for in the application.

Administrative assistance does not qualify as technical assistance.

Research Equipment

Funding for equipment will be limited to R 200 000 per application. Requisitions for large equipment items (> R 200,000) should be submitted through the NRF's Equipment Programme.

d) Funding to cater for disabilities

Additional funding support to cater for disability will be allocated to people with disabilities as specified in the Code of Good Practice on Employment of People with Disabilities as in the Employment Equity Act No 55 of 1998.

5.4 Financial control and reporting

Upon receipt of the signed Conditions of Grant letter, 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 an Annual Progress Report. These are to be submitted before the end of March of the following year, and are a prerequisite for the release of the subsequent year's funding. Failure to submit an Annual Progress Report will result in the cancellation of the grant award.

6 MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE FUNDING INSTRUMENT

The NRF is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the CPRR.

6.1 Reporting

The KAS Director is responsible for reporting quarterly on the contribution of the CPRR funding instrument to the KAS Directorate's Key Performance Indicators. In addition, the Director is responsible for reviewing and reporting on the progress of the funding instrument.

6.2. Timeframes for funding instrument review

The CPRR funding instrument will be evaluated by an appropriate external reviewer as appointed by the RE Directorate. In consultation with this directorate, KAS will agree to and set timeframes for the review in line with existing guidelines.

6.3 Broad terms of reference for the funding instrument review

The broad terms of reference for the programme review of the CPRR funding instrument will be determined by the KAS Directorate prior to the evaluation taking place, and in accordance with tenets set in the RE Directorate's Guidelines

6.4 Utilisation of funding instrument review findings and recommendations

The results of the evaluation will be used in line with the purpose set in the Terms of Reference for the evaluation, as well as for instrument improvement and development.

Please direct all enquiries to:

Funding instrument related queries	NRF Online application and grants management related queries
Dr Sibusiso Mtshali Director: Knowledge Advancement and Support Tel: 012 481 4399 E-mail: sibusiso.mtshali@nrf.ac.za	Ms Jane Mabena Professional Officer: GMSA Tel: 012 481 4067 E-mail: jane.mabena@nrf.ac.za Ms Lerato Thokoane Liaison Officer: GMSA Tel: 012 481 4327 E-mail: lerato.thokoane@nrf.ac.za

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CI	Co-investigator
CPRR	Competitive Programme for Rated Researchers
DST	Department of Science and Technology
GMSA	Grant Management and Systems Administration
ICSU	International Council for Science
KAS	Knowledge Advancement and Support
NIHSS	National Institute for the Humanities and Social Science
NRF	National Research Foundation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PI	Principal Investigator
RE	Reviews and Evaluation
RISA	Research and Innovation Support and Advancement

ANNEXURE 1: Panel Assessment Scorecard – Rated Researchers

Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Details	Score / 4	Weight	Weighted score
Proposals	Scientific merit and feasibility	Reflect on the proposed rationale, approach and methodology.		45%	0.00
		Reflect on the scientific, ethical ⁴ logistics and technical feasibility as proposed			
Track record of the applicant	Past research	Reflect on past contributions to knowledge production (e.g. journal articles, book chapters, designs, performances, etc.)		5%	0.00
Equity	Of applicant	Race / Gender		15%	0.00
	Of students supervised	M and D degrees.		5%	0.00
Collaboration	International, national and institutional collaborations	Are the appropriate collaborations proposed in the application?		5%	0.00
		Are the roles of the proposed collaborators clearly indicated?			
Impacts	Impact on knowledge production	Will the proposed work significantly advance discovery and understanding in the field?		10%	0.00
	Wider impact	Has the possibility for economic, societal or environmental impact been appropriately embedded in the proposal? Is it clear how such impact will be measured?		5%	0.00
Data management and use	Data management plan	A data management plan (DMP) is a formal document that describes the data you expect to acquire or generate during the course of a research project, how you will manage, describe, analyze, and store those data, and what mechanisms (including digital data storage) you will use at the end of your project to share and preserve your data.		10%	
Totals				100%	0.00

⁴ Ethical considerations and clearances for grant proposals are the responsibility of the research institute and/or institution of the applicant. Where such ethical considerations and clearances are required, grant applicants will be expected to submit to the NRF signed statements and/or copies of clearance certificates before any grant funds are released.

ANNEXURE 2: Proposal Grading

Score	Meaning of score	Notes
4	Excellent	Application demonstrates evidence of outstanding performance across all the stated criteria, as determined by the panel and relative to the knowledge field under consideration
3	Above average	Application demonstrates evidence of above average performance across all the stated criteria, as determined by the panel and relative to the knowledge field under consideration
2	Average	Application demonstrates evidence of average performance across all the stated criteria, as determined by the panel and relative to the knowledge field under consideration
1	Below average	Application demonstrates evidence of below average performance across all the stated criteria, as determined by panel and relative to knowledge field under consideration
0	Poor	There are major shortcomings or flaws as relates to the scientific / scholarly merit and feasibility of the proposed work, as determined by the panel.

Context:

Proposal grading is done with sensitivity to the context within which each application is submitted. The score of each criterion for each application will be contextualised to accommodate variability in such things as knowledge fields, institutional capacity, etc. Should a criterion not be applicable to a specific application (e.g. plans for digital data storage; collaborations; etc.), the weighting of that specific criteria will be made to equal zero, and the overall score normalised.