



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: SUBCOMMITTEE A FUNDING FOR THE RESEARCH PROJECTS OF NEWLY APPOINTED STAFF MEMBERS

A. Eligibility

Newly appointed full time staff in the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences, Education, Law, Theology, Economic and Management Sciences and Military Science, **appointed during the past 12 months or that will be appointed soon**, may apply. Staff members from support divisions are also eligible to apply. While both permanent and contract staff members may apply, applications from permanent staff members will enjoy preference. Applications from contract staff members will only be considered if the relevant dean confirms that the department concerned has included the applicant in its personnel plan, with the intention of a permanent appointment at the end of his/her contract.

B. Funding of research projects

The research project should be part of the research programme of the applicant. The scope of the project should be such that it can be completed within one year. Research programmes typically are directed towards the acquisition of knowledge and problem solving with regard to a *broad research theme or problem*. The programme could comprise a number of *interconnected research projects* that are structured according to a plan and scheduled over a longer period of time for the partial or entire solution of the broad problem. The specific aim of this funding opportunity is to provide new staff members with the opportunity to establish their research at SU.

C. Term

The funds will be made available as soon as it is granted and can be carried forward for a maximum of one year.

D. Criteria

Applications will receive consideration on the basis of:

1. FORMAL REQUIREMENTS

- 1.1 Has all relevant information as requested on the suggested application form been made available?
- 1.2 Has the departmental chairperson or his/her delegate made a recommendation?

2. SUBSTANTIVE CRITERIA

2.1 The applicant's record of research:

Does/do the applicant/(s) have a national/international record in research? (The quantity, as well as quality of research outputs will be considered during the evaluation of an applicant's research record.) Has the applicant been evaluated by the NRF?

2.2 Scientific quality of the application:

Is the suggested research project of outstanding quality? (Has the problem been stated clearly; what is the significance of the *objectives*; is the suggested *methodology* the most appropriate; what *value* will the investigation have for the field of study and can it be realised; which research outputs are envisaged?)

2.3 Research capacity building pertaining to the application

Will the project contribute to the development of research capacity among young researchers?

3. CRITERIA OF DESIRABILITY

In instances where good applications compete strongly for limited funding, the following additional criteria will be applied when the decision is finally made:

- 3.1 Will the research project promote regional and national research co-operation?
- 3.2 Will the research project yield advantages for the University, the local or the national community?
- 3.3 Will the research project utilise other sources of funding, where available?

E. Allocation of funds

The allocation of funds to applicants/projects that meet the above criteria is subject to the availability of funds. The maximum grant amount will be published on the DRD website. The committee retains the right to make a partial allocation or no allocation at all, even if the application is regarded as worthy of support.

F. Guidelines for prospective applicants

1. The *form* on which the application must be submitted, is available *by e-mail* – from Shannon Faro (sbrooks@sun.ac.za) and on the website of the Division for Research Development.
2. The way in which the sub-committee deals with research budgets has a degree of flexibility, i.e. only broad guidelines will be applied. Applicants are free to specify specific needs for a proposed project.
3. The 'investment' of research funds will be evaluated on the basis of a final report at the end of the relevant year.
4. Only *one* research project of a particular researcher can be funded for a specific period. Applicants who currently receive co-funding for their NRF Thuthuka grants are thus excluded from this call.

G. Allocation procedures and priorities

Research Sub-Committee A processes all applications according to an established procedure. Evaluators are assigned from among the members of the committee, when this is possible, but usually not from within the same department as the applicant. Evaluators may consult any expert for the evaluation of the application. Evaluators make a recommendation to the committee, but the final decision is taken by the whole committee. Committee members are required to declare any conflict of interest. Applications are arranged according to three categories: supportable, supportable with minor adjustments, or not supportable. In both latter instances the applicant is given feedback with the purpose of enabling such an applicant to submit a supportable application at a future date.

H. Closing date

The next closing date for these applications will be provided on the DRD website. No late applications will be considered. The committee has a limited budget to support these applications and once the available funds have been allocated, the call will be closed for the year.