

**CAPE HIGHER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM (CHEC) /
WESTERN CAPE GOVERNMENT (WCG)
JOINT TASK TEAM (JTT)
CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS**

2018 / 2019

1 BACKGROUND TO THIS CALL

Over the past five years, the JTT has funded (through a grant from the WCG) research projects that address the developmental priorities of the Province. The partnership between the WCG and the universities, as formalised in the Memorandum of Understanding (October 2006), has provided a structured framework for engagement where expertise, research and innovative practices can be shared for the benefit of both the Province and the universities. The JTT is the structure that oversees the research partnership as well as additional activities.

The Provincial Strategic Plan (2015) provides the goals and objectives for the province for the period from 2014-2019. There are 5 explicit provincial strategic goals and these are listed below:

- PSG1: Create Opportunities for Growth and Jobs
- PSG2: Improve Education Outcomes and Opportunities for Youth Development
- PSG3: Increase Wellness, Safety and Tackle Social Ills
- PSG4: Enable a Resilient, Sustainable, Quality and Inclusive Living Environment
- PSG5: Embed Good Governance and Integrated Service Delivery through Partnerships and Spatial Alignment

While many of the research projects funded in the earlier stages of the programme have provided useful findings and, where appropriate, have helped to inform WCG policy and practice, in the last two years closer alignment between funded projects and the research priorities of the WCG has been sought. For example, four workshops between WCG officials and university researchers were held, including a special workshop on water research in response to the current drought:

- *Planning for Resilient Growth*, focused on Provincial Strategic Goals¹ PSGs 1 and 4,
- *Building Resilient Communities – laying the foundations for youth development and wellness* PSGs 2 and 3,
- *Good governance and Integrated Service Delivery* PSG 5,
- *Water Security Workshop: Reducing Vulnerability - Developing Resilience*

¹ For further information on the PSGs see

https://www.westerncape.gov.za/text/2015/October/western_cape_provincial_strategic_plan_2014-2019.pdf.

These workshops provided opportunities for WCG officials and academics to discuss priority research areas and identify existing research. Reports on each of these workshops were distributed to participants and are available on the CHEC website (www.chec.ac.za).

2 PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS

Research proposals should focus on the following priority research areas, which were highlighted in the workshops, and which reflect topics of mutual interest for academics and the WCG:

Workshop 1: Planning for Resilient Growth (PSGs 1 and 4)

- Informal and formal economy
- Future prospects for manufacturing in the Western Cape
- Resource management – food, energy, water nexus
- Transport and transport planning
- Human settlements, including backyard dwellers
- Land use and planning
- Disaster risk management
- E-skills

Workshop 2: Building Resilient Communities – laying the foundations for youth development and wellness (PSGs 2 and 3)

- Skills development
- Health and wellness
- High-risk youth
- Youth who are not in employment, education and training (NEETs)
- Early childhood development
- Disability
- Community safety
- Substance abuse
- An emerging area of focus within this theme since this workshop is around understanding the dynamics and drivers of social disorder (violent protests)

Workshop 3: Good Governance and Integrated Service Delivery (PSG 5)

- The purpose of the Government Index and the assumptions underlying it
- Methodology, indicators and data (collection, organisation and usage) for monitoring and evaluation The challenges posed by compliance and over-regulation
- Digital governance – innovative solutions to broaden access to digital infrastructure to all communities and sites of learning
- Strategies, infrastructure and mechanisms required to broaden the adoption of and deepen participation in digital governance
- The role of intermediary organisations in facilitating the interface and interaction between government, communities and other partners
- Factors that facilitate community engagement, including conditions and training for stakeholders.

Workshop 4: Water Research entitled Reducing Vulnerability – Developing Resilience

- Economics – the cost of the drought and interventions proposed
- Social dynamics and behaviour
- Agriculture and agri-processing
- Wastewater and alternative sources
- Catchment Management and Ecological Infrastructure
- Urbanisation and Urban Catchments
- Collaboration and Partnerships for Water Security – Opportunities, Barriers and Models

3 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

3.1 Research foci

Researchers are invited to submit proposals that respond to the priority areas of the five PSGs taking into account the themes listed above. In this regard, applicants should consider the following:

- The areas of interest indicated above that emanate from the workshops
- Proposals for the evaluation of existing WCG initiatives
- Cross-cutting applications that investigate themes across various PSGs
- Collaborative initiatives (i.e. with two or more institutions working on the same project) which draw on the best expertise available in the region.

3.2 WCG Partners

It is compulsory that all proposals include an identified partner in the WCG. Should the main researcher applying for funding not already have a contact person / partner in the WCG, please contact the institutional representative on the Joint Task Team (see below) prior to completing the application template. CHEC will approach the WCG on your behalf to identify a relevant contact person.

3.3 Project outcomes

It is expected that project outcomes will focus on **both** the interests of the universities and those of the WCG. While universities may be more focused on knowledge generation and the awarding of qualifications, the WCG is particularly interested in research that will inform policy and / or the development and implementation of activities aligned to Provincial priorities. It is expected that project outcomes will provide suggestions for planning and policy development, as well as suggestions for further research.

It should also be noted that the CHEC / WCG programme offers an excellent opportunity to expose students to working with government.

3.4 Minimum requirements in proposals

All proposals must:

- Be submitted on the template provided in Appendix 1
- Include information about both the main researcher and the WCG partner

- Include a description of research approaches, activities and methods
- Explain the way(s) in which the project and its outcomes align with the WCG strategic priorities and support the advancement of knowledge in the field.
- Provide a work-plan that aligns with project objectives. The work-plan must take into account the deadlines for project deliverables and that final reports are **due by 31 January 2020**.

It may also be useful to consider Appendix 2, which contains the questions to be addressed in the adjudication process.

3.5 Budgets

This call provides for a total amount of R 400 000. In the past, the average award has been R 50 000, with some projects receiving R 100 000.

As in the 2017/ 2018 call, there will be no pre-determined allocation per university. In order to ensure both a better alignment between projects and provincial priorities and the quality of projects funded, all projects will be evaluated on overall merit.

4 APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Institutional researchers interested in applying for the CHEC / WCG funding need to submit a completed proposal (using the template) to the member of the Joint Task Team at their university for internal review by **26 October 2018**. The names and email addresses of the institutional representatives are given below:

- CPUT: Dina Burger (burgerd@cput.ac.za)
- SU: Mawethu Nyakatya (nyakatya@sun.ac.za)
- UCT: Sonwabo Ngcelwane (sonwabo.ngcelwane@uct.ac.za)
- UWC: Elizabeth Archer (earcher@uwc.ac.za)

The proposals received will be ranked by each of the universities in a process guided by the questions listed in the adjudication schedule in Appendix 3.

All proposals will then be reviewed at a JTT meeting to be held on **23 November 2018** with a view to making a final selection.

Applicants may be called upon to make a presentation to the JTT of their proposed projects.

All applicants will be notified of the outcomes of this meeting and successful applicants will be requested to submit an invoice for the approved amount to CHEC. It should be noted that the management (including expenditure) of the awards will be in terms of the policies and processes of each of the universities.

5 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A compulsory project report will be required by the end of **31 January 2020**. Note that the report is considered by both academic and non-academic audiences. The Principal Investigators are therefore advised to follow the guidelines attached in Appendix 3 when drafting this report.

In the unlikely event that no final report is received, the researchers will be expected to repay the monies allocated.

Appendix 1

Cape Higher Education Consortium (CHEC) / Western Cape Government (WCG) JOINT RESEARCH PROGRAMME Project Funding Application
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1. Main Researcher's Details

Surname		Initials		Title	
University					
Faculty		Dept. / Unit			
E-mail		Tel (office)			
		Mobile			

2. Main Provincial Partner's Details

(Please note that a provincial partner will be allocated to projects if one has not already been identified at the point of submitting the application.)

Surname		Initials		Title	
Department					
E-mail		Telephone			

3. Specify the PSG under which you are applying

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4. Provide details of your proposed research project

N.B. If the proposed research project is responding to a research issue highlighted in either of the workshops held in relation to one of the PSGs or in the research priorities set out in Appendix 1, kindly reference this in the information provided below in the template. The workshop reports can be found on the CHEC website (www.chec.ac.za).

Title:	
<i>Summarise your qualifications and experience and explain how these are relevant to the project.</i>	

Background, rationale and description of the research problem / focus area	
Describe how the project aligns with the Provincial Government Strategic Plan	
Project objectives	
Research questions	
Research design and methods	
Envisaged outputs and outcomes	
List project partners and describe their role(s) in the project	<p>(i) Western Cape Government Partners</p> <p>(ii) Other Partners</p>
Time-frame and project work plan	

5. Budget: requests

Kindly adhere to below description of budget line items		
Each and every budget ITEM should be motivated in such a way that it justifies the amount/s requested. Budget items must be fully described and aligned with the project work-plan provided in Section 3 above.		
	Description of budget line item	Amount
a.		
b.		

c.		
d.		
e.		
f.		
TOTAL		

6. Other sources of funding received / expected

Please list other sources of funding you have received and expect to receive for this project.

Please complete this table		
	Other sources of funding received for this project	Amount
a.		
b.		
c.		
d.		
e.		
f.		
TOTAL		

Appendix 2

ADJUDICATION OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS

WCG - CHEC Projects

Key questions to be addressed when assessing proposals:

1. **Background, Rationale / Motivation for project:** Is there a cogent motivation for the project?
2. **Alignment with the Province's priorities:** Will the study address an issue included under one of the PSGs? Applications with no clear alignment with PSG priorities cannot be considered for funding.
3. **Project objectives / research questions to be addressed:** Are the objectives and/or questions clear, and can they be feasibly addressed over the one year duration of the project?
4. **Research Methodology / Methods / Activities:** Do the methods align with sound research practice? Are they also aligned with the research question / objectives?
5. **Envisaged outputs and outcomes:** Will the envisaged outputs and outcomes speak to the needs of the different stakeholders, e.g. will the outputs and outcomes result in recommendations for policy development and / or programme implementation by the WCG?
6. **Time-frame and workplan:** Is the work plan realistic - and will it result in the desired outcomes?
7. **Budget:** Are budget items clearly motivated? Are there any inappropriate budget items (such as funding for augmenting salaries covered by the core establishment of the university)?

Appendix 3

Cape Higher Education Consortium (CHEC) / Western Cape Government (WCG)

JOINT RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Guidelines for Project Reports

It is requested that the following information be provided in a report of approximately 4 – 5 pages. It is important that this report be accessible to a wide audience, including academics, government officials, and practitioners.

1. COVER PAGE

Researcher's name, department / unit, faculty, university, contact addresses and phone numbers.

Title of project and the PSG in which it falls.

2. ABSTRACT

The abstract should highlight the value of the project to knowledge generation in universities and its linkages to the priorities of the WCG.

3. INTRODUCTION AND AIMS / QUESTIONS

Reference to the objectives and outcomes specified in the funding proposal should be included in this section.

4. RESEARCH APPROACH AND METHODS

A short summary of the approach and methods used should be included, but detailed descriptions of highly technical processes may be omitted.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTION

This is the most critical aspect of the report in that it needs to synthesise the findings, draw conclusions and suggest follow-up actions, e.g. for further research, policy development and implementation.

6. BUDGET

Please reflect the actual spend against the budget included in the original proposal.