



***RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT GRANTS FOR
Y-RATED RESEARCHERS***

**KNOWLEDGE FIELDS DEVELOPMENT
Framework Document**

APRIL 2017

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 FUNDING INSTRUMENT TITLE AND DESCRIPTION

- 1.1 Name
- 1.2 Description of funding instrument

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

- 3.1 Environmental scan
- 3.2 Objectives
- 3.3 NRF perspective
- 3.4 Institutional structure
- 3.5 Financing support
- 3.6 Key stakeholders
- 3.7 Information sources

4 *MODUS OPERANDI*

- 4.1 Call for proposals
- 4.2 Eligibility
- 4.3 Application assessment
- 4.4 Rules of participation
- 4.5 Timelines
- 4.6 Data management and use
- 4.7 Management of funding Instrument
- 4.8 Lines of authority

5 FINANCIALS

- 5.1 Funding model
- 5.2 Funding ranges
- 5.3 Funding support
- 5.4 Financial controls and reporting

6 MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE FUNDING INSTRUMENT

- 6.1 Reporting
- 6.2. Timeframes for funding instrument review
- 6.3 Broad terms of reference for the review of the funding instrument
- 6.4 Utilisation of the results of the review

CONTACT DETAILS

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ANNEXURE 1: Panel Assessment Scorecard

ANNEXURE 2: Proposal Grading

1. FUNDING INSTRUMENT TITLE AND DESCRIPTION

1.1 Name

RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT GRANTS FOR Y-RATED RESEARCHERS

1.2 Description of Funding Instrument

The Research Development grants for Y-Rated Researchers is a ring-fenced, once-off grants and competitive discipline-based funding instrument aimed at enhancing the efficiency of the NRF to drive our transformation consistently and strategically through supporting primarily basic 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. It also recognises the fact that the base of knowledge producers must be widened and representative. In other words the research community must be transformed and ensure continued growth. This understanding can best be developed through performing research and supporting emerging researchers who hopefully would develop into world class and research leaders in their own right. 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 and transdisciplinary research as an investment in the country's learning and knowledge production capabilities and capacities. The Research Development Grants for Y-rated Researchers is a discipline-based, once-off grants and demand-driven funding instrument. It is restricted to persons who hold a **current NRF Y-rating**. It is anticipated that the ring-fenced support of Y-rated researchers will contribute towards becoming established researchers, and in so doing strengthen the production of quality, high impact research, contributing to South Africa's global research and development output in the future.

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 Research Development Grants for Y-Rated Researchers resonates with the NRF mandate by being cognisant of the role that research plays in the innovation and the commercialisation value chain, hence the socio-economic development of the country and contributing to the development the transformed and highly skilled science and technology community. In driving this programme both the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the NRF recognise the need to deliberately provide dedicated support to emerging and promising researchers to hasten their process of establishing themselves as established researcher

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 basic research¹. In order to participate in the international system of innovation, a nation needs to

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.

understand the knowledge produced by others. Support for basic disciplinary research is thus seen as an investment in a society's learning capabilities.

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.

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 research². 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 areas. 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. The Department of Higher Education has appointed NIHSS to drive the humanities and social sciences related BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) initiatives on its behalf. The first NIHSS-BRICS workshop identified the following broad areas of common interest and cooperation. These broad themes should be addressed within the specific South African context:

- The study of violence
- Social cohesion
- Transformation and decolonization of knowledge
- Poverty
- Inequality

² ² 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.

Other topical issues in South Africa include amongst others transformation and decolonization of knowledge. The NRF should not be seen to be driving a particular research agenda however, nor attempting in any way to be “dictating” to the direction of research, but research into these specific areas 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.

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;
- Provide dedicated support to emerging and promising researchers to strengthen their research portfolio and contribute towards their achievement of established researcher status
- To advance or develop paradigms, theories and methodological innovation across the research spectrum.

3.3 NRF Perspective

The Research Development Grants for Y-Rated Researchers is a discipline-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 and supports emerging researchers. 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 Research Development Grants for Y-Rated Researchers 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 Fields Development (KFD) 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 Research Development Grants for Y-Rated Researchers is made possible through contract funding from the Department of Science and Technology (DST). Each application may request no more than R 300 000. 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.

3.6 Key stakeholders

The key stakeholders involved in the Research Development Grants for Y-Rated Researchers are persons with valid NRF Y-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 and Science Councils.

3.7 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 opens: 6 April 2017
Call closes: 31 May 2017

4.2 Eligibility

- Research Development Grants for Y-Rated Researchers grant holders may only hold **ONE** Y-Rated research grant. Prior Y-rated grant holders are **not eligible** to apply again.
- Each new Principal Investigator **may only submit ONE** application to this call.
- Y-rated Principal Investigators **must choose** between submitting an application in this funding instrument or in the Competitive Programme for Rated Researchers (CPRR). Applicants will **forfeit** their application in **this** funding instrument if they apply to CPRR.
- Full time employees at an NRF recognized research institution in South Africa, **who are eligible to apply and who hold a valid NRF Y-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 hold a valid Y-Rating may apply, on condition 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 Y-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.
- **The principal investigator will not be eligible to apply to the Research Development Grants for Y-Rated Researchers again.**

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 should forward remote reviewers that are peers in their field and have a track record of more than 10

years in their respective field. Additionally, applicants are encouraged to forward remote reviewers from across the globe for fairness and critical assessment of the application and can suggest more than 6 reviewers. 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 Online 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 Y-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.* 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 Research Development Grant for Y-Rated Researchers.

The principal investigator may submit only one Research Development Grants for Y-Rated Researchers 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 Research Development Grants for Y-Rated Researchers grants will be awarded for a period of no more than three years (2018 – 2020). Funding via this funding instrument is once off.

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 is 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 **KFD Directorate** of the NRF – Research and Innovation Support and Advancement (RISA) manages the Y-Rated 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 Research Development Grants for Y-Rated Researchers Director in the KFD Directorate manages the funding instrument. The Director responsible for this instrument reports to the Executive Director of the KFD 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 capped at R 300 000 per application. Successful applications will receive funding that accommodates research-related operating costs, including:

- 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

Science councils, public universities, museums and other NRF-recognized institutions are the primary beneficiaries of this funding instrument.

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

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. The NRF will not pay for students to undertake research. 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 50 000.

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 Research Development Grants for Y-Rated Researchers.

6.1 Reporting

The KFD Director is responsible for reporting quarterly on the contribution of the Research Development Grants for Y-Rated Researchers funding instrument to the KFD 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 funding instrument will be evaluated by an appropriate external reviewer as appointed by the RE Directorate. In consultation with this directorate, KFD 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 Research Development Grants for Y-Rated Researchers funding instrument will be determined by the KFD 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:

FOR	QUERIES
Funding instrument related queries	NRF Online application and grants management related queries
KFD	GMSA
Dr Sibusiso Mtshali E-mail: sibusiso.mtshali@nrf.ac.za Tel: 012 481 4399	Ms Pamela Mteto E-mail: pamela@nrf.ac.za Tel: 012 481 4122

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CI	Co-investigator
DST	Department of Science and Technology
GMSA	Grant Management and Systems Administration
ICSU	International Council for Science
KFD	Knowledge Fields Development
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 – Y-Rated Researchers

Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Details	Score / 4	Weight	Weighted score
Proposals	Scientific merit and feasibility	Reflect on the proposed rationale, approach and methodology. Reflect on the scientific, ethical ³ logistics and technical feasibility as proposed		50%	0.00
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
Collaboration	International, national and institutional collaborations	Are the appropriate collaborations proposed in the application? Are the roles of the proposed collaborators clearly indicated?		5%	0.00
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

³ 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.