



APPLICATION INTERNAL DEADLINE

4th June 2021

BACKGROUND

The South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) is pleased to announce the 2021 call for applications for funding under the **Self-Initiated Research (SIR) Grants Programme**. The SIR Programme is designed to support original research initiated by a researcher at a recognized research institution. In keeping with the SAMRC's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this call will be confined to **COVID-related research**. Applications with a strong focus on COVID-19 are therefore invited from all health-related disciplines and research types, including basic laboratory science, social science and clinical research.

SIR grants are in the amount of up to **R200 000 per year for a maximum period of three years**. These funds provide support for research expenses such as materials and consumables, support to attend scientific meetings and small items of equipment. The research should ideally be geared towards generating high quality new knowledge, new medical products, improved or enhanced medical or health practice, effective health promotion strategies or improved health policy and/or functioning of the national health systems. Applications from mid-level and established researchers must include a clear focus on capacity development.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- The primary target of the 2021 SIR call is early-stage investigators; however, applications are invited from both early-stage investigators and mid-level to established researchers.
- For both stages, the minimum qualifications are MBChB, BDS, BChD or PhD.
- For **early-stage investigators**, applicants must have secured a commitment from the host university or research institution listed in the application. Candidates must have 1-5 years conducting research or in a research post since completion of PhD, BDS, BChD or MBChB (post-graduate students are not eligible to apply).
- For **mid-level and established researchers**, applicants must have more than 5 years conducting research or in a research post since completion of PhD, BDS, BChD or MBChB. Applicants must also be in an established academic post, i.e., permanently employed, or in a long-term contract of employment (at least for the duration of the project) salaried by the university or research institution.
- Only one research proposal will be considered for funding per individual applicant and once granted, only one such grant may be held by an individual until the project has been completed.
- Please refer to the attached document (Call for applications SIR-2021) for additional criteria.

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATIONS:

Applications must be approved or validated by an authorized person in the research administration office of the institution. Please adhere to the respective internal closing dates so that your application can be considered.

HOW TO APPLY

- Applications can be submitted [online](#).
- Applicants have the following documents for their application:
 - (a) Completed SIR Grant application form (attached) including:
 - SIR Grant Budget Form
 - SIR Milestone Table
 - SIR Grant Reviewer Nomination Form
 - (b) Completed and signed SIR Grant Approval Form (attached).
 - (c) Applicant's Curriculum Vitae (maximum 5 pages, including a biographical sketch, professional work experience, qualifications, research activities and publications in the last 3 years of active research).
 - (d) Ethics Clearance Certificate or a letter indicating that the proposal has been submitted to the institution's Ethics Committee.

Please refer to the attached document (**Call for applications SIR-2021 UP FHS**) for Faculty of Health Sciences specific guidelines.

Please send a complete copy with all supporting documents, that you have submitted online to the Faculty Research Office – natasha.jeftha@up.ac.za.

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CONTACTS FOR CALL QUERIES

Faculty Contact person: Mrs Natasha Jeftha on 012 319 2378 (Natasha.jeftha@up.ac.za)

SAMRC Contact person: Mr Clive Glass on 012 938 0225 (clive.glass@mrc.ac.za)