

APPLICATION DEADLINE**15 April 2019****BACKGROUND**

The CSUR 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.

Although this 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. Even though funding priority will be given to top scoring applicants, the NRF will also take into consideration the strategic imperatives such as transformation when making funding decision. 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 CSUR 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 Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (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.

Social Sciences, Law and Humanities applications are encouraged, just like those in the natural sciences, engineering and health science that have traditionally been supported.

2.2 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.

2.3 NRF Perspective

The CSUR 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 CSUR 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.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- CSUR grant holders will only qualify for ONE CSUR grant cycle (3 years). Thereafter, they will be expected to enter the rated stream and or apply for funding to other NRF instruments such as Competitive Programme for Rated Researchers (CPRR). Current or previous CSUR grant holders are ineligible for further CSUR funding. Funding in this round will support successful applications for a maximum period of 3 years, 2020 – 2022.
- Each new Principal Investigator may only submit ONE CSUR application to this call. However, a researcher may participate either as a co-investigator or collaborator in more than one project. Postdoctoral fellows, students, technical and support staff are NOT eligible to apply.
- Full time employees at an NRF recognized research institution in South Africa, who are eligible to apply and who do not hold a valid NRF rating at the time of application, are invited to apply.
- NRF unrated part-time employees on contract at an NRF recognized research institution (as defined above) in South Africa who do not currently hold a CSUR grant may apply, on condition their appointment at the South African institution is for (at least) the duration of the project applied for. 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 fulfil a very specific function for the latter does not qualify for support
- Successful unrated applicants will be eligible for funding for the duration of their awarded grant, to a maximum period of 3 years. The grant allocation will be allowed to run for the duration of the award, even if the principal investigator is awarded an NRF rating during this period. Once rated, the principal investigator will be expected to enter the CPRR funding stream.
- Retired unrated academics/researchers, provided that they meet all set criteria as stipulated below:
 - are resident in SA; or 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.

Previous CSUR applicants who were successful in the past but were not awarded funding due to not awarded funding due to insufficient funds can also re-apply taking into account the feedback provided by the review panel.

HOW TO APPLY

All application materials must be submitted electronically via the NRF's Submission system at <https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/>
Please contact [Natasha Jeftha](#) if you have any queries.

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

15 April 2019