

APPLICATION DEADLINE

27 April 2018

BACKGROUND

South Africa joined the [International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis \(IIASA\)](#) in 2007 as its National Member Organisation (NMO) through the [National Research Foundation \(NRF\)](#), supported by the [Department of Science and Technology \(DST\)](#). Since becoming a member, a range of research and capacity building activities have been developed by South African research partners and IIASA. The most notable activity was the Southern African Young Scientists Summer Programme (SA-YSSP). Building on the successes of the SA-YSSP, the DST and NRF took a strategic decision to continue investing in and expanding activities around systems analysis under the [Southern African Systems Analysis Centre \(SASAC\)](#) initiative. The SASAC initiative is focused in the following areas:

- A dedicated bursary programme for South African PhD students based at South African universities to complete their studies with a supervisor experienced in systems analysis. For the 2018 intake, a total of 30 PhD students have enrolled;
- A two-month Systems Analysis Capacity Development Programme for these early stage PhD students, hosted at the University of the Western Cape and Stellenbosch University respectively;
- **A high-level systems analysis capacity strengthening programme** for emerging researchers; and
- An early postgraduate education programme aimed at developing a systems analysis component or module into selected Honours'-level programmes at designated institutions in South Africa.

The objectives of this funding instrument are to:

- Build a new cohort of systems thinkers with the capacity to initiate new projects and supervise postgraduate students;
- Strengthen and extend collaborative links between the South African research community and IIASA NMO countries;
- Allow all collaborating scientists, and especially the participating scientists, to learn from the experience of their colleagues;
- Foster innovative systems analysis research in South Africa and Africa; and
- Publish manuscripts in the selected research areas of the participants.

The three-week SASAC High-level Capacity Strengthening Programme will be held in South Africa at the University of the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg) during 20 August to 07 September 2018.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible to participate in this programme, applicants must:

- Be postdoctoral fellows, novice supervisors, or early-career academics;
- Outline the value to be derived from participation in the programme and the potential for establishing new research projects which involve systems thinking;
- Have the ability to work independently and interact with other scientists;
- Be fluent in English and have the ability to communicate in a scientific environment;
- Be willing to participate in a range of scientific approaches related to systems analysis; and
- Have completed research which is in a near-ready state for publication.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for funding in 2018 must be submitted through the [NRF Online Submission System](#). Further instructions on the application process are available in the 2018 Application and Funding Guide for SASAC High-Level Capacity Strengthening Programme which must be used in conjunction with the framework document.

Each application must also include the following attachments (in the application on the NRF Online Submission System) in PDF format:

- Copy of Passport or ID document (for South African citizens/permanent residents);

- A full Curriculum Vitae including a list of recent publications;
- Line manager or supervisor letter of reference
- A draft manuscript

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