APPLICATION DEADLINE
17th April 2018
Applications will be considered for support for travel /events taking place between 1 June to 31 December 2018

BACKGROUND
In a globalised world, the internationalisation of research is imperative for the competitiveness of any country. While international collaboration has always been an intrinsic part of the research and innovation (R&I) endeavour, the forces of competitiveness and globalisation are accelerating the scope, pace and importance of cross-border R&I, strengthened by directed partnerships both within and outside of South Africa. Stakeholders around the world are working to internationalise their R&I efforts, driven by the need to establish a global reputation, to access global knowledge and expertise, and to mobilise new resources.

Striving towards an internationally competitive science, technology and innovation system is one of the strategic performance goals of the National Research Foundation’s (NRF) Vision. The essential purpose of this intervention is to build and maintain excellence in South African research, rather than to only facilitate international collaboration. The promotion of international collaboration through the support of travel opportunities and participation in scientific events, enriched by national learning opportunities and engagements, are important mechanisms towards this goal.

The KIC instrument was therefore established to contribute to the following objectives:

- Internationalising South Africa’s research platform;
- Enhancing networking within the global science system;
- Fostering collaboration in order to improve the quality of research outputs by researchers.

Within the NRF funding context, the internationalisation of research is an intrinsic part of the current funding instruments, built into research grants awarded through programmes such as Competitive Funding for Rated Researchers, the South African Research Chairs Initiatives (SARChI), and the Centres of Excellence (CoE) Programme. Therefore, funding for KIC support are prioritised for those researchers who have not already been allocated travel support through any other current NRF grant awards.

For more information about this call can be found in the 2018 KIC guide document.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
The investment in support for travel and participation in scientific events are focused on four categories:

TRAVEL GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHERS: individual South Africa based researchers (young or established researchers) travelling either locally or internationally. The funding requested will be to support local and international travel related to research activities such as presentations of keynote lectures or papers and/or posters at conferences, seminars, symposia, workshops, etc. PhD students can apply (through their supervisors), and be recognised as young researchers (The maximum value for this category is R50 000.00)
- The application must be endorsed by HoD/Dean/Supervisor in order for Research Office to endorse it further to NRF for review
- The application must be accompanied by an official acceptance of an abstract, or confirmation of a presentation; and
- The application must be accompanied by a confirmation of the scheduled visit from the host organisation/institutions/person being visited or an official acceptance of paper to be presented, letter confirming collaboration, letter of invitation, etc.

VISITING FOREIGN RESEARCHER: South Africa-based researchers requesting funding to host research leaders from abroad for a short period (up to three weeks) in South Africa in order to enrich local expertise in their field (The maximum value is R50 000.00 )
- The application must be endorsed by HoD/Dean/Supervisor in order for Research Office to endorse it further to NRF for review
- The visiting Foreign researcher must have institutional and individual scientific relevance and it is obligatory that the invited researcher present a public lecture/seminar at the institution, or at a partner institution (involvement of other South African scientists and engagement with more than one institution other than the host is allowed); and
- The application must be accompanied by a copy of the visitor(s) CV and a copy of the provisional acceptance of the invitation from the visitor(s)
AFRICA INTERACTION: South Africa-based researchers intending to visit universities or research organisations in African countries in order to build capacity and to promote future collaboration, and/or to strengthen existing collaborations

The maximum value for this category is R75 000.00

- The application must be endorsed by HoD/Dean/Supervisor in order for Research Office to endorse it further to NRF for review;
- The applicant must be a leader in their field of research and indicate how the funding will support collaboration with partners elsewhere in Africa at the level of research, teaching, or capacity development; and
- The application must be accompanied by a copy of all invitation(s) received from host(s) and host(s) CV

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL SCIENTIFIC EVENTS: South Africa-based researchers requesting financial support to organise or host scientific events (The maximum value for this category is R150 000.00)

- The application must be endorsed by HoD/Dean/Supervisor in order for Research Office to endorse it further to NRF for review;
- A copy of the invitation to the keynote speaker(s) and a copy of provisional acceptance from the keynote speaker(s) must be included; and
- The application must be accompanied by a confirmation of the scheduled event or official acceptance of invitation, letter of invitation, etc.

A candidate for any of the above categories must read the relevant guideline before applying for the call.

- Applicant must already be in possession of a PhD. PhD students can only apply for travel grants for individuals (Supervisor must apply on their behalf)
- Students are not eligible to apply. However, student involvement in local events is highly encouraged.

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATIONS:
Please note that applications submitted outside the NRF Online Submission System will not be accepted.

HOW TO APPLY

- Applications must be submitted electronically on the NRF Online Submission System at [https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za: Knowledge, Interchange and Collaboration (KIC) 2018](https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za):
- Only one event/activity per applicant
- Applicant may not be supported for two consecutive calls
- Grants funding will be up to a maximum of R50 000. Given the competitive nature of the programme and budgetary limitations, funding is not guaranteed.
- Applicant must ensure that the Application Information Section is completed in order for Research Office to track applications during deadline reminders and afford non-submission due to server/IT problems

*Please read through the application Guide Book, attached hereto for further information regarding the application criteria.

CONTACT DETAILS:

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<tr>
<th>UP Contacts:</th>
<th>NRF Contacts:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty of Health Sciences: Ms Natasha Jeftha Faculty Grants Manager: Research Tel: 012 319 2378 Email: <a href="mailto:Natasha.jeftha@up.ac.za">Natasha.jeftha@up.ac.za</a></td>
<td>1. Busiswa Molefe Professional Officer Knowledge Advancement and Support (KAS) Tel: +27 12 481 4028 Email: <a href="mailto:busiswa@nrf.ac.za">busiswa@nrf.ac.za</a> OR 2. Tebatso Leduka Grants Management and System Administration GMSA Tel: +27 12 481 4029 Email: <a href="mailto:tebatso.leduka@nrf.ac.za">tebatso.leduka@nrf.ac.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UP Contact Person: Ms Cynthia Mamabolo Tel: 012 420 3610 email: <a href="mailto:cynthia.mamabolo@up.ac.za">cynthia.mamabolo@up.ac.za</a></td>
<td>3. Jan Phalane Professional Officer Grants Management and System Administration GMSA Tel: +27 12 481 4157 Email: <a href="mailto:kicgrants@nrf.ac.za">kicgrants@nrf.ac.za</a></td>
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