The South Africa/France PROTEA Programme is a bilateral incentive Programme dedicated to strengthening the South Africa/French collaborative research. It is co-funded by both the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Higher Education and Research from the French side, and the National Research Foundation from the South African side. The development of the PROTEA Programme was based on a shared conviction regarding the importance of science, technology and innovation in building and sustaining a knowledge-based economy. It is a financial instrument supporting mobility and training of “incoming and outgoing” researchers, contributing to the development of new partnerships and to the strengthening of advanced scientific and technological exchanges between research institutions in South Africa and France. It therefore provides a springboard for initiating, developing and expanding research projects.

This Programme aims to:
- contribute to scientific advancement in both countries by funding researchers’ mobility in the frame of joint research projects in specified research fields
- provide an opportunity for researchers to cooperate in an international setting and to develop their scientific careers, especially for early-stage, mid-career as well as female researchers
- support the advancement of basic and applied research
- contribute meaningfully to research capacity development

The call is open to all scientific disciplines and thematic areas, including social sciences as well as the humanities.

PLEASE NOTE:
Joint projects with the potential to lead to future bilateral and multilateral co-operations within the French, South African and European research programmes will be favourably considered. Also, the joint projects by young scientists and those that pay particular attention to a balanced involvement of female and male researchers (gender equality) will be positively considered and will receive a higher rating.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- An application must designate two Principal Investigators (PIs), one in South Africa and one in France, who will bear the main responsibility for the project, including its technical and administrative coordination as well as scientific and financial reporting.
- Project proposals submitted by early-stage or mid-career researchers as well as project proposals with involvement of PhD/doctoral students and/or female researchers will be prioritised for funding by both sides.
- The focus of the Programme lies on new international partnerships. Therefore, follow-up proposals with the same research partners will not be prioritised for funding (if they have already been funded under this Programme).

This call is open to working researchers residing in South Africa and affiliated with a recognised higher education or research institution such as a university, university of technology or science council. Commercial institutions and private education institutions are not eligible to apply under this programme. The South African applicant must be in possession of a PhD. In terms of human capital development, South African applications from previously disadvantaged individuals and the involvement of historically disadvantaged higher education and research institutions will be prioritised.

HOW TO APPLY

The onus is on the applicant to find their own research partner. Proposals must be received in both South Africa and France. Proposals which have only been received in either South Africa or France, but not both, will not be considered for funding. The
call process is highly competitive; therefore submission of an application does not guarantee funding. The availability of funds and the evaluation of applications from both countries should be positive for projects to be considered for funding. The NRF will not be held responsible for non-submission, administration or evaluation of the application in the partner country.

Applicants can apply by following the steps below:

- Applications must be submitted through an online application process to the NRF.
- Register/Login using your ID number and password.
- Go to “My applications” and select “create new application”.
- Select the call for which you are applying for: SA/France PROTEA Call for Proposals 2019.
- Remember to complete all sections of the application as indicated on the online application form.
- Please attach the necessary documents in PDF file in the following order: CV of partner, budget of partner and the signed page of the partner.
- Remember to submit your application on completion.
- Completed applications will go to the host institution for verification before being forwarded to the NRF for further processing.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in this document will not be considered.
- Applications submitted outside the NRF Online Submission System will not be accepted.
- No hard copies will be accepted and will automatically be disqualified by the NRF.
- Only applications endorsed by the research office or its equivalent at higher education or research institutions will be accepted.

Please contact Natasha Jeftha if you have any queries.

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

4 June 2018