



science & innovation

Department:  
Science and Innovation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



National  
Research  
Foundation



Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
and International Cooperation

# ISARP

## Italy-South Africa joint Research Programme

Call for applications for joint research and mobility projects:  
2023 – 2025

**Closing Date: 31 May 2022**

(Italy: 17:00 CET/ South Africa: 23:59 SAST)

A maximum of 15 projects (5 JRP and 10 RSE) will be funded for this call

## Contents

1. Structure and aims of ISARP .....	1
2. Thematic areas of cooperation .....	2
3. Duration of the projects .....	2
4. Eligibility criteria .....	2
5. Funding regulations .....	4
6. Application procedure .....	6
7. Review process .....	7
8. Publication of results .....	9
9. Intellectual property .....	9
10. Ethical considerations .....	9
11. Submission deadline .....	10
12. Contact details .....	10
Annex 1 – Rules for projects financed by the Italian Ministry of Health .....	11
Annex 2 – Specific requirements for South African applicants .....	12

Within the framework of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Italy and the Government of the Republic of South Africa, signed in Pretoria on 15 January, 1998 and entered into force on 19 February, 2000, the Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation – Office IX of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (herein after MAECI), and the South African Department of Science and Innovation (herein after DSI) and the National Research Foundation (herein after NRF), hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”, are opening a call for proposals for a new Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the years 2023 – 2025, known as “ISARP – Italy-South Africa joint Research Programme”.

**Please Note:**

Only from the Italian side: Considering the strategic importance of the bilateral cooperation between South Africa and Italy, the Italian Ministry of Health could finance projects presented by IRCCS<sup>1</sup>, if selected in accordance with the procedure indicated in this call. Please check **Annex 1** for specific details.

## 1. Structure and aims of ISARP

ISARP offers two different funding schemes implemented on a co-funding model between Italy and South Africa. The two schemes to apply for are:

- **Joint Research Projects (JRP) Funding Scheme:** where research activities between researchers are co-funded by the two Parties. JRP grants are aimed at promoting collaborative projects with clearly defined goals involving at least one partner based in Italy and one based in South Africa. Applications should describe *ambitious* research activities and propose innovative approaches. Applicants are encouraged to ensure that their research has relevance and potential for impact beyond the academic world, such as in societal, technical, economical, or cultural realms. The research is to be carried out at the research facilities involved.
- **Research Staff Exchange (RSE) Funding Scheme:** joint research projects where only the expenses for researchers’ mobility are co-funded by the two Parties. RSE grants aim at supporting staff exchange within the context of bilateral joint research activities either self-funded or independently funded by other entities. Only expenses relating to mobility between the two countries are funded by both Parties under this scheme. This scheme is particularly indicated for emerging researchers (including postdoctoral researchers and researchers who are not older than 40-years on time of application and who have received their PhDs within the past 7-years).

Further details on each funding scheme, including priority research areas, are given in the following text.

ISARP aims to facilitate the development of sustainable institutional links between the two countries. The overall aim of this Programme is not only to build on existing, outstanding and established research partnerships but also to foster new linkages and engagements with small cohorts of young and emerging researchers for new links between South Africa and Italy. Please note that the basis of selection from both

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<sup>1</sup> Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico.

countries will be scientific excellence. However, from the South African side, excellent joint projects with a clear intention to address diversity, will be favorably considered (see **Annex 2** for further details about specific requirements for South African applicants).

The specific aims of this Programme are to:

- Support the advancement of basic and applied research.
- Contribute to scientific advancement in both countries through the funding of joint research activities in specified research fields.
- Provide an opportunity for emerging researchers in the two countries to interact through the funding of researchers' mobility in the frame of joint research activities in specified research fields.
- Contribute meaningfully to research capacity development.

## 2. Thematic areas of cooperation

Proposals, for both funding schemes, must be submitted in one of the following priority research areas:

- Agricultural biotechnologies
- Artificial intelligence and High Performance Computing (HCP)
- Astrophysics and radio astronomy
- Environmental technologies for water resources and/or integrated waste management
- Health research
- Renewable energy and community energy

Proposals outside the above-mentioned thematic areas of focus will not be considered for evaluation. Not all of the above listed research areas shall be necessarily funded, depending on the scientific quality of the submitted proposals.

## 3. Duration of the projects

The projects will be supported for a period of three years, starting in 2023 till the end of 2025.

## 4. Eligibility criteria

Each proposal under this Programme must have one main applicant based in Italy and one main applicant based in South Africa; they are the **Principal Investigators (PI)** on the Italian and South African sides respectively. They bear the main responsibility for the project including its technical and administrative coordination as well as timely delivery of scientific and financial reports. The following eligibility criteria also apply to all proposals:

- Proposals for both the JRP and RSE must be written in English.
- Proposals for both the JRP and RSE must have the same duration of the Executive Programme: 3 years (2023 – 2025).



- Each PI is allowed to submit only one proposal and apply to only one funding scheme, under penalty of exclusion.
- Additional partners based in Italy and/or in South Africa can also participate in the joint projects. Applicants are allowed to collaborate with other partners such as NGOs or companies, but no funding can be applied to these.
- Former PIs are welcome to participate in the call however, the project should not only be a continuation of the current/past project.

## ITALY

- The call is open to public or private (no-profit) research institutions.
- The PI must have Italian or any other EU nationality, legal residence in Italy, and must work in a public or private (no-profit) Italian research institution with a permanent position or a temporary position covering at least the entire duration of the proposed project.
- The PI is invited to carefully check the eligibility of the South African counterpart (see following paragraph and **Annex 2**).
- For projects presented by IRCCSs, to accelerate the eligibility check process, the Ministry of Health (MoH) will grant an eligibility clearance to the applicants before the submission of the proposals. To that end the PIs must fill out and return an eligibility check form through Workflow della Ricerca (WdR System), using ER communication code, before submitting their proposals to the MAECI. Applicants therefore must adhere to the Italian MoH regulation reported in **Annex 1**.

## SOUTH AFRICA

- 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, science council, museum or other research institutions as declared by the DSI.
- The South African applicants and co-applicants must be in possession of a PhD to be eligible.
- Private higher education institutions are not eligible to apply under this programme.
- Researchers from SMEs, private companies/industries, and NGOs cannot serve as PIs but can form part of the joint projects and will be expected to meet their own costs of participation in the joint projects. The NRF grants cannot be used to support these researchers.
- South African PIs applying under the JRP Funding Scheme and based at historically advantaged institutions are required to include, as part of the joint project, a research partner from any of the historically disadvantaged institutions (HDIs) in order to be eligible.
- Applicants based at an HDI, science council (including any of the NRF research facilities), and South Africa's two new universities (i.e. Sol Plaatje and Mpumalanga) can act as PIs and submit proposals without the involvement of and/or partnering with researchers based at historically advantaged and disadvantaged institutions if they so wish.
- Please check **Annex 2** for further details about specific requirements for South African applicants.

### Reasons for Exclusion:

- Lack of any one of the eligibility requirements listed in this Section.
- Incomplete application (including additional documents where applicable - see Section 6: "application procedure").
- Proposals submitted in different priority research areas by the collaborating PIs in the two countries.
- Proposals submitted in only one of the two Countries.

## 5. Funding regulations

Researchers should ensure that all expenses are calculated and covered in line with the rules and regulations in force in each country.

### JRP Funding Scheme

#### ITALY

Funding for projects selected and listed in the EP will be provided on a yearly basis. In particular, according to Italian law Nr. 401/90, and in accordance with the specific call issued by Office IX of the Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the PIs of the projects listed in the Executive Programme will be invited to submit a request for funding at the beginning of each year of project activity. After the end of the first year of activity, the Italian coordinators must submit an annual scientific report on the progress of their project's activities. The coordinating Institution is expected to anticipate all project expenses and will be reimbursed on a yearly basis, upon submission of the financial documents and positive evaluation of the above mentioned report. Funding for the following year will not be granted if the coordinators fail to submit this financial and scientific documentation.

The contribution granted by MAECI to "Joint Research Projects" is intended as co-funding support for the project, and therefore co-funding by the coordinating Italian Institution of approximately 50% of the total costs of the project is mandatory. Co-funding can include salaries of the involved personnel and indirect costs. Any other financial contribution from public or private, Italian or South African Institutions, will be positively evaluated.<sup>2</sup>

The average cost of a projects is approximately 60 K€/year, including co-funding by the applying institution.

For the Projected presented by IRCCSs, to accelerate the eligibility check process, the Ministry of Health will grant an eligibility clearance to the applicants before the submission of the proposals. To that end the PIs must fill out and return an eligibility check form through Workflow della Ricerca (WdR System), using ER communication code, before submitting their proposals to the MAECI. Applicants therefore must adhere to the Italian MoH regulations reported in Annex 1.

#### SOUTH AFRICA

- The total amount requested from the NRF for the JRP Funding Scheme should not exceed R1 500 000 million per project. Funding will be made available for a maximum of 3-years, to be paid in annual installments (R500 000 per year) and exclusively for activities commencing in 2023.
- These funds can be utilised for research related activities, small equipment, mobility/ travel costs of the South African research team, mini sabbaticals by South African doctoral students, science engagement activities, etc.
- The following cannot be covered by the NRF grant: consultants and project management fees, bursaries/ scholarships/ educational expenses, large equipment, overheads, salaries and/or temporary staff fees.

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<sup>2</sup> In-kind personnel costs excluded.

- Please see **Annex 2** for details on the provisions of the JRP grant.

## RSE Funding Scheme

The purpose of this Funding Scheme is to support mobility of researchers between the two countries. Research activities as such (e.g. consumables, manpower, equipment, etc.) will not be supported in this Funding Scheme. Therefore, the funds for this Funding Scheme can only be used to finance the cost of the exchange of researchers, under the principle of reciprocity.

For each project one short-term stay (up to 10 days) and one long-term stay (up to 30 days) in Italy and one short-term stay (up to 10 days) and one long-term stay (up to 30 days) in South Africa may be financed yearly. The sending Party will pay travel expenses whereas the maintenance and accommodation expenses will be funded by the hosting Party. All expenses are to be covered on the basis of the rules and regulations in force in each country.

### ITALY

The Italian Party will pay international travel expenses to researchers of the Italian team visiting South Africa and will provide visiting scientists of the South African team visiting Italy with medical insurance and with the following contribution for accommodation expenses:

- 99 €/day, from day 1 to day 10
- 25 €/day, from day 11 to day 30

Resulting in a maximum amount of 990 Euro for short-term stays and 1 490 Euro for long-term stays. Applications by South African scientists (accommodation expenses) and by Italian scientists (travel expenses) for each individual visit can be submitted online in the dedicated section of the MAECI website<sup>3</sup>, at least 35 days before the scheduled research visit. Any changes in the composition of the two research teams during the 3-year validity of the project must be communicated in advance by the Italian PI through certified e-mail address. See Section 12 below for the e-mail address to be used in this regard.

### SOUTH AFRICA

The total amount requested from the NRF should not exceed R300 000 per project. Funding will be made available for a maximum of 3-years, to be paid in annual instalments (R100 000 per year) and exclusively for visits and stays commencing in 2023. The actual costs of travel (i.e. airfares, accommodation, ground transport, subsistence, medical insurance, etc.) should be determined and calculated based on individual institutional travel policies and must be in line with the regulations in force in each country. No additional funding will be provided by the NRF under this Funding Scheme therefore, South African researchers are expected to top-up these funds should there be a need.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://web.esteri.it/ricercatori/default.asp> (for South Africa scientists' accommodation expenses)  
<http://web.esteri.it/ricercatori/ricercatoritaliani/Start.asp> (for Italian scientists' travel expenses)

## 6. Application procedure

It is up to the applicants to find their own research partners. Proposals must be received in both South Africa (NRF) and Italy (MAECI). Proposals which have not been submitted in both countries will not be considered for review and will not be considered for funding. The call process is highly competitive therefore application does not guarantee funding. The evaluation of applications should have positive ratings from both countries before consideration for funding. Both the NRF and MAECI will not be held responsible for non-submission, administration or evaluation of the application in the partner country.

### ITALY

Applications by Italian PIs are to be submitted exclusively online by filling the dedicated forms at the following link: <https://web.esteri.it/pgr/>.

Applications for the JRP Funding Scheme only must be accompanied by an endorsement letter signed by the legal representative of the applying Institution (a template is available at the URL: <https://www.esteri.it/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/fac-simile-lettera-endorsement.pdf>) or her/his delegate duly authorised by formal provision. The letter has to be uploaded in the webpage available at the link: <http://web.esteri.it/pgr/>. The letter, to be written in Italian, should acknowledge the submission and provide official acceptance of all conditions listed in the call text, including the institutional co-funding listed in the provisional budget section of the proposal. Additional information, like the strategic significance of the bilateral cooperation can also be included.

The endorsement letter mentioned for the JRP Funding Scheme above is not required for submission of proposals within the RSE Funding Scheme. Italian applicants under the RSE Funding Scheme do not have to include a budget estimate, only the number and approximate length of stays.

### SOUTH AFRICA

Applications must be submitted through an online application process to the NRF through the link: <https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za>. Please make use of the 'General Application Guide 2022' for assistance on the steps to follow when applying for international research grants. The link to the guide will be published on this web page: [https://www.nrf.ac.za/funding/nrf\\_calls](https://www.nrf.ac.za/funding/nrf_calls).

PIs **must** attach the required **compulsory documents** in PDF format in the following order:

- CVs of partner Principal Investigators.
- Budgets of partner Principal Investigators.
- Budget division of the South African team, in particular budget sharing between the historically advantaged and HDIs.

Failure to submit compulsory documents will result in the disqualification of the application and will make the entire project consortium ineligible.



## 7. Review process

Following the closing date indicated in Section 11, all submitted proposals will undergo formal eligibility check before moving to the two-step evaluation process. The first step will be performed at the national level to identify a shortlist of proposals: applications will be submitted to recognised national experts in the various fields of research represented by the proposals received. Both the South African and the Italian proposals will be assessed against the same criteria but additional, country-specific application requirements may also apply (see Annex 2 for further details about specific requirements for South African applicants).

Following the national review, the second step of the evaluation process will be performed at the bilateral level: the two Parties, through the meeting of the Joint Commission which includes representatives from both countries, will reach consensus on the final list of projects eligible for funding. The selected projects will be included in the text of the signed Executive Programme.

### **Please Note:**

Although the two Parties undertake to execute the review and selection process as quickly as possible so as to notify applicants of the results as soon as possible, the nature of the bilateral process requires the alignment of the commencement of each phase of the process with the partnering country, whose schedules may differ significantly.

### **JRP Funding Scheme**

Proposals submitted within the JRP Funding Scheme will be evaluated based on the following criteria (in brackets non-binding additional details):

- Scientific relevance and innovation (e.g. scientific importance and innovativeness of the research questions and approach; degree to which the proposal fits within the thematic focus of the call, etc.).
- Methodology and documentation (e.g. rigour of the research design: adequacy, feasibility and coherence of the research approach and methodology in view of the problem addressed; interdisciplinarity or transdisciplinarity; the proposal incorporates the scientific disciplines necessary for addressing the problem, as well as knowledge from outside the scientific community; complementarity to other research programmes or (inter)national research agendas).
- Qualification of the research teams (e.g. suitability of the research partners' expertise in relation to the research project; for the South Africa assessment only: experience in supervising postgraduate students).
- Added value of bilateral cooperation and its potential for long-term relations (e.g. potential for long-term knowledge relations; quality of the South African-Italy collaboration, including – for the South Africa assessment only – fair and equitable partnership and genuine involvement of researchers from the South African historically disadvantaged institutions).

- Active involvement of emerging researchers
- Potential for societal impact (e.g. relevance for society and potential for societal breakthroughs; suitable involvement of target groups, convincingly responding to their demand; quality of the research plan with plausible pathways to societal impact).
- Plans for the use and dissemination of the results.
- Budget adequacy with respect to methods and expected results.

Proposals involving relevant stakeholders (e.g. industry partners) in the development and execution of the research plan will be favourably considered.

## RSE Funding Scheme

Proposals submitted within RSE Funding Scheme will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Scientific relevance.
- Feasibility and practicality of the exchange programmes and general work plan.
- Qualification of the research teams.
- Bilateral added value of researchers' exchange and its potential for long-term relations.
- Strong involvement of emerging researchers.
- Potential for societal impact.
- Plans for the use and dissemination of the results.

### On the South African side only:

Proposals that reflect social inclusivity principles and aligned with the South African transformation agenda will be favourably considered.

### For both funding schemes:

- Collaborative projects with the potential to lead to future bilateral and multilateral cooperation within the South African, Italian and European research programmes will be favourably considered.
- In terms of human capacity development, joint projects that involve young scientists (i.e. doctoral students) and pay attention to gender equality (a balanced involvement of female and male researchers) will be favourably considered.
- Only from the South Africa side: in terms of the South African transformation agenda, South African applications from previously disadvantaged individuals and the involvement of historically disadvantaged higher education and research institutions will be prioritised (see Annex 2 for further details about specific requirements for the South Africa applicants).

## 8. Publication of results

Both parties commit to not provide any kind of information on successful and unsuccessful projects (including the outcomes of the formal eligibility check mentioned in Section 7 above) until the completion of the review process with the signature of the Executive Programme.

### ITALY

For the Italian Party, the list of the selected projects will be included in the official text of the signed Executive Programme that will be posted on the website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation at the following address:

[https://www.esteri.it/it/diplomazia-culturale-e-diplomazia-scientifica/cooperscientificatecnologica/programmesecutivi/accordi\\_programmi\\_culturali\\_tecnologici](https://www.esteri.it/it/diplomazia-culturale-e-diplomazia-scientifica/cooperscientificatecnologica/programmesecutivi/accordi_programmi_culturali_tecnologici)

Only the PIs of the selected projects will be directly informed by e-mail about the outcomes of the selection process.

### SOUTH AFRICA

The NRF will inform the South African applications of the outcomes of the review process. For the successful projects the NRF conditions will be detailed in the 'Conditions of Grant' Contract to be signed between the researchers and the NRF during the award process.

## 9. Intellectual property

The researchers of each country, particularly the Principal Investigators, must take adequate steps to ensure protection and sharing of the intellectual property that could result from the joint projects.

### Please Note:

Researchers of funded projects are requested to mention the support by the funders of this call when publishing the results of the funded project.

## 10. Ethical considerations

### ITALY

For projects involving experiments with animals, the status of ethics approval by the competent Ethics Committee must be provided when submitting the proposal. Please note that formal authorisation by the competent Ministry of Health is mandatory to start the activities (D.Lgs 26\_04/03/2014 and Directive 2010/63 EU). Proof of submission to the institutional OPBA (Organismo Preposto al Benessere degli Animali) is acceptable at the proposal submission stage. Projects involving experiments with human beings must be performed in accordance with the Directive 536/2014/EC. The Italian PI should include a self-declaration of adherence to the above cited rules in the Methods section of the proposal.

### SOUTH AFRICA

In conjunction with the institution, it is the responsibility of the grant-holder to ensure that all research activities carried out in or outside South Africa comply with the laws and regulations of South Africa

and/or the foreign country in which the research activities are conducted. These include all human and animal subjects, copyright and intellectual property protection, and other regulations or laws, as appropriate. A research ethics committee must review and approve the ethical and academic rigor of all research prior to the commencement of the research and acceptance of the grant. The awarded amount will not be released for payment if a copy of the required ethical clearance certificate, as indicated in the application, is not attached to the Conditions of Grant. Please also refer to the “Statement on Ethical Research and Scholarly Publishing Practices” on the NRF website <https://www.nrf.ac.za/statement-on-ethical-research-and-scholarly-publishing-practices/>.

## 11. Submission deadline

Applications for both South Africa and Italy must be submitted by **31 May 2022 (Italy: 17:00 CET/ South Africa: 23:59 SAST)**. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

- Please note that neither the NRF nor the MAECI, will be responsible for applications that were not received.
- Pls are also advised to ensure submission of their proposals by their counterparts in the partner country.

## 12. Contact details

### South Africa National Research Foundation (NRF)

#### For programme-content related queries

**Mr Teuns Phahlamohlaka**

Professional Officer: Overseas Collaborative Grants  
Knowledge Advancement and Support (KAS)  
Tel: +27 12 481 4385  
Email: [T.Phahlamohlaka@risa.nrf.ac.za](mailto:T.Phahlamohlaka@risa.nrf.ac.za)

#### For technical and grant related queries

**Mr Stephen Dlamini**

Professional Officer: Grants Management and  
Systems Administration (GMSA)  
Tel: +27 12 481 4037  
Email: [SM.Dlamini@risa.nrf.ac.za](mailto:SM.Dlamini@risa.nrf.ac.za)

### Italy Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)

#### For any inquiry concerning the present call, please contact the following email address

Office IX - Directorate General for Cultural and Economic Promotion and Innovation  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)  
E-mail: [dgsp-09bandi3@esteri.it](mailto:dgsp-09bandi3@esteri.it)

## Annex 1 – Rules for projects financed by the Italian Ministry of Health

Italy – IT-MOH Italian Ministry of Health	
<b>Specific rules</b>	Only Scientific Institutes for Research, Hospitalisation and Healthcare (IRCCS) are eligible. No academic and industrial partners are eligible. Researchers are not allowed to participate as PI/WP Leader in more than one annual call launched in the framework of different transnational calls (ERANET and/or other European Joint Actions- MAECI EPs) funded by the Italian Ministry of Health MoH. Researchers are requested to indicate the IRCCS as unique affiliated Institution and to use exclusively the IRCCS's email
<b>Eligible costs</b>	<p>Only the following costs generated throughout the duration of the project are eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personnel (only ad hoc contracts/consultants/fellowships, max 50% of the requested fund);</li> <li>• Travel costs and subsistence allowances only for Italian researchers (max 10% of the requested fund). Travel expenses and subsistence allowances are authorized only if associated with activities linked to the project;</li> <li>• Equipment (rent/leasing only, no limits), consumables (no limits), dissemination of results (publications, meetings/workshops etc. – max 1% of the requested fund);</li> <li>• Data handling and analysis (no limits);</li> <li>• Overhead (maximum 10% of the requested fund).</li> </ul> <p>Transfer of eligible funds abroad for leasing, sub-contracts, etc. is not allowed. Sub-contractors are not allowed, except in case of absolute necessity, to fund. The costs for sub-contracts shall be authorized by the IT-MoH in advance, following a detailed request. In this case, the pre-eligibility must be requested 20 working days before the deadline of the call. The requested budget must be in line with the planned activities and with that granted to the South African partner. If more than one IRCCS is involved in the Italian team, the total amount will be shared between all the beneficiary Institutions.</p>
<b>Additional documents required</b>	The Italian Ministry of Health will check for the pre-eligibility of the applicants before the submission of the pre-proposals to speed up the eligibility check process. To this end, it is mandatory that the applicants fill out and return a pre-eligibility check form (sent to all IRCCSs) through the IRCCS Scientific Directorate using the WdR System (Code ER) before the submission of their pre-proposals to the Joint Call Secretariat. The form, completed and duly signed, has to be returned at least 10 working days before the pre-proposal submission deadline. Applicants will receive a written notification of their eligibility status.
<b>Further information</b>	The pre-eligibility form can be downloaded here: <a href="http://www.salute.gov.it/imgs/C_17_pagineAree_4441_listaFile_itemName_0_file.pdf">http://www.salute.gov.it/imgs/C_17_pagineAree_4441_listaFile_itemName_0_file.pdf</a>

## Annex 2 – Specific requirements for South African applicants

### Eligible criteria for South African researchers applying under the JRP Funding Scheme:

- South African PIs applying under the JRP Funding Scheme and based at historically advantaged institutions are required to include, as part of the joint project, a research partner from any of the historically disadvantaged institutions (HDIs) in order to be eligible.
- Proposals submitted by an applicant based at a historically advantaged institution without a research partner from an HDI will be ineligible and will not be submitted for review. The research partner from an HDI in this case can serve as a co-applicant in the proposal. Please note that co-applicants are also required to be in possession of a PhD.
- Applicants based at an HDI, science council (including any of the NRF research facilities), and South Africa's two new universities (i.e. Sol Plaatje and Mpumalanga) can act as PIs and submit proposals without the involvement of and/or partnering with researchers based at historically advantaged and disadvantaged institutions if they so wish.
- Only the following eight universities will be recognised as HDI in line with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) December 2021 Ministerial Statement on university funding: University of Limpopo (UL), University of Fort Hare (UFH), University of Venda (Univen), Walter Sisulu University (WSU), University of the Western Cape (UWC), University of Zululand (UniZulu), Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT), and Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU).
- Funds for the JRP Funding Scheme can be used to cover the following costs:
  - Research-related costs:  
Activities to be supported may include expenses relating to field work such as conducting interviews, surveys, laboratory experiments, research-related trips, small equipment (consumables), etc.
  - Postdoctoral research support:  
PIs within the JRP Funding Scheme are expected to supervise and mentor postdoctoral fellows who should be allowed to conduct research, either on a pre-specified aspect of the joint project or on their own designed topic within the joint project and should be supported to publish the work. The responsibilities of the postdoctoral fellows may also include assisting the PIs with the management and administration of the joint project. Postdoctoral fellows should be prepared to become main applicants so they also take on senior responsibilities like mentoring, grant writing, and teaching.
  - Mini research sabbaticals by young researchers:  
The JRP grants can also be used to support short-term (or mini) sabbaticals by doctoral students. These mini sabbaticals should enable young researchers to (1) learn valuable new skills or techniques; (2) access facilities or resources not readily available at home; (3) build relationships with potential new collaborators; and (4) advance complementary

collaborative research. The duration of each sabbatical is expected to be 3-6 months with flexibility to split it into several shorter stays. Longer sabbaticals may be undertaken where this would add value and these should be justified within the application. The sabbaticals must enhance, not replace, the standard training and study support that doctoral students receive. The sabbaticals must be managed to fit within the original funded period of the studentship. Additional funding will not be made available through this programme or by the funders to support studentship extensions for those undertaking mini sabbaticals. Applicants should include information about how these sabbaticals will be managed within their proposal.

- Science engagement (knowledge sharing costs):  
Science engagement refers to activities, events, or interactions characterised by mutual learning and dialogue among people of varied backgrounds, scientific expertise and life experiences, who articulate and discuss their perspectives, ideas, knowledge and values. Science engagement is an overarching term for all aspects of public engagement with science, which aim to develop and benefit individuals and society. Researchers funded through the JRP Funding Scheme are therefore required to contribute to science engagement and report the related outputs. Project-related activities, such as joint workshops, seminars, conferences, symposia, lecturer presentations, meetings, local and regional dissemination of results to relevant stakeholders are therefore supported under this Funding Scheme.
- South African PIs should limit their costs for small equipment (consumables) to a maximum amount of R200 000.
- The NRF grant under the JRP Funding Scheme makes provision for the appointment of only one postdoctoral fellow per project for the duration of 2-years equivalent to the NRF Freestanding Postdoctoral Fellowship.
- The NRF grant can only be used to cover the costs associated with the mini sabbaticals by doctoral students. It is the responsibility of the PIs (and doctoral students) to secure funding for educational expenses of participating students. Doctoral students who do not have financial support are hereby advised to apply for scholarship through the NRF call for Student Support which opens the beginning of April each year.
- The NRF supports science engagement through its coordination and implementation of the Department of Science and Innovation's Science Engagement Strategy. The strategy embraces a broad understanding of science, encompassing systematic knowledge spanning natural and physical sciences, engineering sciences, medical sciences, agricultural sciences, mathematics, social sciences and humanities, technology, all aspects of the innovation chain and indigenous knowledge. South African researchers' contribution towards, and outputs as a result of, science engagement should be reported annually through Progress Reports submitted to the NRF in February each year.
- The total amount requested from the NRF for the JRP Funding Scheme should not exceed R1 500 000 million per project. Funding will be made available for a maximum of 3-years, to be paid in annual installments (R500 000 per year) and exclusively for research activities commencing in 2023. The funds per project have to be utilised as follows:

- R1 070 000 per project for research related activities, small equipment (not more than R200 000 for this item), mobility/ travel costs of the South African research team, mini sabbaticals by South African doctoral students, science engagement activities, etc.
- R430 000 for 1 postdoctoral position at R215 000 per annum for 2-years as follows:
  - ✓ R155 000 non-taxable stipend;
  - ✓ R45 000 contribution towards research costs, and
  - ✓ R15 000 compulsory institutional contribution.

### Capacity building

- Projects must demonstrate potential for promoting human capacity development, equity and redress through the involvement of young, early-stage, and/or mid-career researchers, historically disadvantaged individuals (female and disabled), and the involvement of historically disadvantaged higher education institutions.

### Impact

- Applicants are encouraged to ensure that their research have relevance and potential for impact beyond the academic world, such as in societal, technical, economical, or cultural realms. In line with this, applicants may include societal or industry partners within their projects or consider how relevant stakeholders can be involved in, or benefit from, the design and realisation of the proposed research project. These stakeholders, however, must cover their own costs of participation in the joint projects. In this regard, the NRF aims to facilitate sustainable institutional links between partnering countries by building on existing, outstanding and established research partnerships, and fostering new linkages and engagements with small cohorts of young and emerging researchers for new linkages.

### Projects follow-up and reporting

- A final scientific and financial report has to be submitted in English by both the South African and the Italian PIs no more than 3 months after the end of the project. The report has to mention outputs of the projects compared with the objectives and aims of the proposal. On an annual basis, the NRF publishes a national call for submission of 'Progress Reports' due for each financial year. The South African PIs are urged to look out for such notifications/calls.

### Protection of personal information

- The National Research Foundation ensures compliance with the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA), Act 4 of 2013, committing to ensure the privacy of those submitting applications and proposals to the NRF on the NRF Online Submission System (<https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za/>). The National Research Foundation will protect the personal information provided by applicants or the third party against misuse, loss, unauthorised access, modification, or disclosure. The Privacy Policy of the NRF outlines the practices relating to the protection of personal information and can be accessed on the NRF website at <https://www.nrf.ac.za/privacy-policy>.