

South Africa/ South Korea Joint Science and Technology Research Programme

2018 Call for Joint Research Project Proposals

Closing Date: 20 July 2018

A maximum of 4 joint projects will be funded for this call

Both the NRF South Africa and the NRF South Korea were appointed as the implementing agencies for the SA/ South Korea bilateral agreement in the fields of science and technology signed on 24 February 2004. The principle objective of the partnership is to foster scientific and technological cooperation by facilitating brain circulation between the two countries. The parties support joint research projects, human capital development, and student and staff exchanges between the South African and South Korean universities and research institutions.

Aims of the programme

This Programme aims to:

- contribute to scientific advancement in both countries through the funding of joint research activities 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; and
- contribute meaningfully to research capacity development.

Areas of cooperation

Joint research proposals may be submitted in the following designated thematic areas:

- Health sciences
- Information and communication technology
- Hydrogen fuel cell
- Quantum machine and quantum technology

Please note for South Africa:

Joint projects with the potential to lead to future bilateral and multilateral co-operations will be favourably considered. Also, the joint projects that involve young scientists and pay attention to a balanced involvement of female and male researchers (gender equality) will be positively considered and will receive a higher rating.

Duration of projects

The projects will be supported for a period of two years (projects starting December 2018/ January 2019).

Who may apply?

Each proposal under this Programme must have one main applicant based in South Africa and one main applicant based in South Korea; they are the **Principal Investigators (PIs)** on the South African and South Korean sides respectively. The PIs bear the main responsibility for the project including its technical and administrative coordination as well as timely delivery of scientific and financial reports.

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 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.

South Korea:

The eligible applicants will be defined in accordance with the national regulations of the Korean side.

How do I apply?

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

South Africa:

South African PIs can apply by following the steps below:

- Applications must be submitted through an online application process to the NRF by accessing the link: <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za/>
- Register/Login using your ID number and password.
- Go to “My Applications” and select “Create Application”.
- Select the call for which you are applying: **South Africa/South Korea Call for Joint Research Proposals 2019**.
- Remember to complete all sections of the application as indicated on the online application form.
- Please attach the necessary documents in PDF format in the following order: CV and the budget of partner.
- Failure to submit compulsory documents will result in the disqualification of the application.
- 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 your institution’s research office if you have any queries.

South Korea:

Applications submitted outside the NRF Submission system will not be accepted. Applicants must apply through an online application process to the NRF by accessing the link: <http://ernd.nrf.re.kr/>. 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.

Which activities may I apply for?

According to the South Africa / South Korea agreement, funding will be made available for the following joint research activities:

- **Research-related costs** - activities to be supported may include expenses relating to field work such as conducting interviews, research-related trips, and research equipment (small equipment) – 20% of the budget is allowed for small equipment, consumables and accessories, publication related costs, etc.
- **Exchange programmes** - mobility of researchers, postdocs and doctoral students between the two countries.
- **Knowledge sharing costs** - in support of project-related activities, such as joint workshops, seminars, conferences, symposia, lecturer presentations, meetings, local and regional dissemination of results to relevant stakeholders.

South Africa:

*The following will **NOT** be funded by the NRF South Africa from the grant:*

- Consultant’s fees
- Educational expenses (scholarships and/or bursaries, etc.)
- Large equipment
- Project management fees
- Salaries and temporary staff fees.

South Korea:

The budget for this program should be calculated in accordance with the national regulations of the Korean side.

Funding limits

Funding will be available for a maximum of two years for collaborative research projects jointly developed and completed by researchers on both sides. In both countries, all the approved projects will get funding support from the two parties in terms of the cost of activities mentioned above. Apart from the financial support from the two parties, institutions and universities in both countries are encouraged to solicit other funding resources.

South Africa:

The total amount requested from the NRF should not exceed **R500 000** per project. Funding will be made available for a maximum of two years, to be paid in annual installments of R250 000 per year and exclusively for research activities commencing in 2019.

South Korea:

The total amount of funding is 100,000,000KRW per project for two years. This means that each Korean PI receives 50,000,000KRW per project a year.

How are applications evaluated?

South Africa:

Following the closing date indicated below, applications will be submitted to recognized national experts in the various fields of research represented by the proposals received. These experts will evaluate each proposal based on the following criteria:

- Scientific quality of the intended research project including feasibility of the joint research plan and adequacy of the scientific method
- Alignment with national priorities
- Reasonableness of the described further cooperation perspective
- Project proposals submitted by early-stage or mid-career researchers, project proposals with the involvement of doctoral students, early-stage or female researchers, or researchers from previously-disadvantaged communities in South Africa will be highly favoured and will receive additional points.

South Korea:

The evaluation criteria will be devised in accordance with the national regulation of the Korean side.

Following local evaluation, a shortlist of projects to be funded will be constituted in consultation with the NRF South Korea based on the results of the evaluations done in both countries. The NRF undertakes to execute the evaluation and selection process as quickly as possible so as to notify applicants of the results timeously. As such applicants are urged not to expect notification by a certain date, nor to make concrete logistical arrangements before having been thus notified. The nature of the bilateral process requires both parties to align the commencement of each phase of the process with their foreign partners.

Project follow-up and reporting

South Africa:

- A final scientific and financial report has to be submitted in English by the South African project leaders 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.
- The joint publications by researchers has to mention the support from the funders.

South Korea:

The PI has an obligation to submit all relevant administrative duties in accordance with the national regulations.

Intellectual Property

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

Closing date for applications

Applications must be submitted by **20 July 2018**. Applications received after this date will not be considered for funding. Researchers are also advised to ensure that their research partners' applications are submitted and have also been received in the partner country in time. Both the NRF South Africa and the NRF South Korea will not be held responsible for applications that were not received.

Contact details for queries and further information.

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