



Republic of Tunisia



Ministry of Higher Education
and Scientific Research

SOUTH AFRICA / TUNISIA JOINT CALL

FOR RESEARCH-DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PROPOSALS 2019

CLOSING DATE: 13 July 2018

Funding purpose and legal basis

The Government of Tunisia and the Republic of South Africa signed an Agreement for cooperation in Science and Technology on September 16, 2010. The two countries have agreed to jointly support researchers from public universities and research institutes on an equal and mutually beneficial basis to enhance scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries.

Funding recipients

An application must designate two principal investigators, one in Tunisia and the other in South Africa, who will bear the main responsibility for the project, including its technical and administrative coordination as well as scientific and financial reporting. The onus is on the applicant to find their research partner.

Tunisia: The Principal Investigator (PI) and other investigators in Tunisia must be scientists/faculty members, working in regular capacity in recognised public research institutions like Universities, Academic Institutes and National Research & Development Centres/Institutes.

South Africa: This call is open to all employed 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.

N.B. The involvement of SMEs is strongly recommended.

Priority/research area

For this call, applied research projects falling within the following areas/disciplines will be considered:

- Human and Social Sciences,
- Biosciences (water, food, agriculture, health and indigenous knowledge)
- Information and Communication Technologies (artificial intelligence)
- Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency

Financial support

During this call, funding will only be made available for conducting joint research projects in the following scopes:

- Consumables
- International travel
- Accommodation
- Subsistence
- Publication costs
- Organisation of workshop
- A maximum of 15% of the total budget can be used for the purchase of small equipment and consumables

Duration

Funding will be available for a **maximum of three years, starting in January 2019**, with funds to be used exclusively for approved project activities. Bursaries/scholarships, project management fees, consultant fees and VAT will not be accommodated under this programme.

Please note that researchers from the sending country will be responsible for their own international travel and the hosting costs (accommodation and ground travel) will be a responsibility of the hosting party.

How much should I apply for?

Tunisian budget: Each project will be funded up to **60 000** TND per year for a maximum period of three years (maximum total budget will be **180 000** TND).

South African budget: Each project will be funded up to **300 000** ZAR per year for a maximum period of three years (maximum total budget will be **900 000** ZAR).

Researchers should, therefore, note that two separate budgets would be required for each project.

How are applications evaluated?

Following the closing date indicated below, applications will be assessed separately by the Tunisian MHESR and the National Research Foundation (NRF) based on the following criteria:

- Compliance of the project with content-related focus areas
- Track record of the applicant
- Quality of the proposal / scientific merit and originality of the project
- Potential for promoting equity and redress/capacity building
- Value-added collaboration
- Socio-economic impact aligned with the national research priorities.

(Note that proposals demonstrating strong elements of capacity building, particularly among **historically disadvantaged institutions**, will be favourably regarded by the South African side). Following these assessments, projects will be shortlisted for funding through mutual consultations between Tunisian MHESR and NRF based on the results of the evaluations accomplished by both countries.

Note that funding will become available only after both funding agencies have completed their respective national procedures.

How do I apply?

In Tunisia:

Proposals:

- **Applicants can apply for the SA/Tunisia Science and Technology Collaboration 2019 by obtaining application forms directly from MHESR**
- Remember to complete all sections of the application
- Please attach the necessary documents in **PDF file in the following order: CV of both research teams and the Letter of Intent exchanged between the Principal Investigators of the project.**
- Complete applications will go to the host university for verification before being forwarded to the MHESR for further processing
- Incomplete applications will not be considered
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria, will not be considered (please refer to call document for details on eligibility for the Tunisia-SA call)

Submission:

1. One hard copy of the proposal must be submitted to the following address:

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
General Directorate of Scientific Research
Address : Avenue Ouled Haffouz
Tunis, 1030 TUNISIA
Tel: +216 71 835 351
Fax: +216 71 835 351/ 71 833 450

2. An electronic copy of the proposal must be submitted at partenariat.scientifique@gmail.com

In South Africa:

Applicants can apply by following the steps below:

- Applications must be submitted through an online application process to the National Research Foundation (NRF).
- **Applicants can apply for the SA/Tunisia Science and Technology Collaboration 2019 by accessing the link: <https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/> .**
- Register/Login using your ID/passport number and password.
- Go to “My Applications” – “Create Application”
- Select the call for which you are applying for: **SA/Tunisia Science and Technology Collaboration 2019.**
- Remember to complete all sections of the application.
Please attach the necessary documents in **PDF file in the following order: CV of partner, Budget of partner and the signed page of partner.**
- Should you not follow the guidelines for attaching the necessary documents, your application will not be considered.
- Remember to **submit** your application on completion.
- Complete 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 will not be considered (Please refer to the above eligibility criteria).
- Please contact the institutional research office or equivalent, if you have any queries.

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

NOTE:

No Tunisian application will be accepted in South Africa, and no South African application will be accepted in Tunisia.

Researchers must ensure that applications have been submitted in both Tunisia and South Africa. Applicants who do not adhere to this criterion will be disqualified. The MHESR and NRF will not be held responsible for non-submission of applications in the relevant country.

This Joint Call is highly competitive, and therefore an application does not guarantee funding. The availability of funds and evaluation from both countries should be positive for the applications to be considered for funding.

When is the closing date for applications?

All applications must be submitted to MHESR-Tunisia and NRF-SA by **13 July 2018**.

Where can I obtain more information?

<p>For Tunisia:</p> <p>Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research</p> <p>General Directorate of Scientific Research Director of Programmes and Scientific Partnership</p> <p>Avenue Ouled Haffouz, Tunis 1030, TUNISIA Tel/Fax: 71 835 351 Mobile : 98 669 759 Email: partenariat.scientifique@gmail.com</p>	<p>For South Africa:</p> <p>National Research Foundation <i>For content related queries:</i> Ms Kholofelo Mampeule Knowledge Advancement and Support Tel: +27 (0) 12 481 4298 Email: kholofelo.mampeule@nrf.ac.za</p> <p><i>For technical queries:</i> Mr Jan Phalane: GMSA Tel: +27 (0) 12 481 4157 Email: jan.phalane@nrf.ac.za</p>
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