



NRF/ STINT Joint Science and Technology Research Collaboration

2018 Call for Joint Research Project Proposals

Closing date: 12 September 2018

A maximum of 10 joint projects will be funded for this call

The National Research Foundation (NRF) and the Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 13 April 2015. 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 South African and Swedish 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 all 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 can be submitted in all academic disciplines.

Please Note:

In terms of human capital development, South African applications from historically disadvantaged researchers are encouraged, as is the involvement of historically disadvantaged higher education institutions.

Duration of projects

The projects will be supported for a period of three years.

Who may apply?

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. 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. Commercial institutions and private education institutions are not eligible to apply under this Programme.

Sweden:

Instructions for the Swedish applicants are available on the STINT website.

How do I apply?

The onus is on the applicant to find their own research partner. An application must designate two principal investigators, one in South Africa and one in Sweden, who will bear the main responsibility for the project, including its technical and administrative coordination as well as scientific and financial reporting. Proposals must be received in both South Africa and Sweden. Proposals which have only been received in either South Africa or Sweden, 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 and STINT will not be held responsible for non-submission, administration or evaluation of the application in the partner country.

South Africa:

Applicants can apply by following the steps below:

- Applications must be submitted electronically to the NRF on the NRF Online Submission System at <https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/>
- Register/Login using your ID/passport number and password.
- Go to “My Applications” and select “Create Application”.
- Select the call for which you are applying: **NRF/ STINT 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 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 the university research office if you have any queries.

Sweden:

Instructions for the Swedish applicants are available on the STINT website.

Which activities may I apply for?

The purpose of this call is to support the research projects and mobility of researchers, scientists, post-doctoral researchers and doctoral students between the two countries. Funding will be made available for the following joint research activities undertaken as part of the joint research project:

- Joint workshops, seminars or networking events: holding meetings of equal numbers of researchers from each side alternately in South Africa and Sweden.
- Joint research: this collaboration includes visits and exchanges of leading and young scientists, technical personnel or other experts on general or specific subjects.
- Industrial research and development work.

Please Note:

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

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

All other expenses, including operational running costs and research materials, may be financed from the allocation accorded in terms of this call. Up to 10% of the funds may be used for consumables. Should the allocated funds allow, researchers may also make use of these for joint publication cost.

Funding Limits

Funding will be available for a maximum of three years for **3-year collaborative research projects** jointly developed and completed by researchers on both sides. In both countries, all the approved projects will obtain 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.

How much should I apply for?

South Africa:

The total amount applied for from the NRF should not exceed R900 000. Funding will be made available for a maximum of three years, to be paid in annual installments (R300 000 per year) and exclusively for research activities commencing in 2019. Please also note that the requested amounts do not necessarily imply that this amount will be awarded upon selection for funding. Researchers should also include the cost of attending both the kick off (in 2019 in South Africa) and the concluding (at the end of the 3-year Programme in Sweden) workshops in their budget request.

Sweden:

Funding limits from the Swedish side are available on the STINT website.

Please Note:

- Should you be successful you will be funded only for the activities within the scope of this guideline.
- Scientific and financial reporting on the project is **OBLIGATORY**.
- Only a maximum of 10 joint projects will be funded for this call.

How are applications evaluated?

Depending on specific national rules and procedures:

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

- Scientific and technical merit
- Suitability and feasibility
- International significance
- Value addition by the collaboration / national priority
- Possible impact of the research / national priority
- Student involvement / capacity building.

Following local evaluation, a shortlist of projects to be funded will be constituted through consultations between the NRF and STINT based on the results of the evaluations done in both countries. Please note

that, although the two funding agencies undertake to execute the evaluation 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. As such applicants are urged not to expect notification by a certain date, nor to make concrete logistical arrangements before having been thus notified.

Project follow-up and reporting

- A final scientific and financial report has to be submitted in English by both the South African and the Swedish PIs no more than 3 months after the end of the project.
- Please note that successful submission of the first annual report is an OBLIGATORY condition of funding in subsequent years.
- All project reports must mention project outputs as compared to the objectives and aims of the proposal.
- The funders reserves the right to make the final reports available to researchers within and outside this Programme in similar disciplines.
- The joint publications by researchers must mention the support from the funders (i.e. NRF and STINT).

Intellectual property

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

When is the closing date for applications?

Applications for both South Africa and Sweden must be submitted by **12 September 2018**. Applications received after this date will not be considered for funding. Please note that neither the NRF nor STINT will be held responsible for applications that were not received. Researchers are also advised to ensure that their research partners' applications are submitted and have also been received in the partner country.

Where can I obtain more information?

For South Africa (NRF)	For Sweden (STINT)
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