



science
& technology

Department:
Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



National
Research
Foundation

ICSU-South Africa Scientific Events/ Travel Grants

2018 – First Call

Closing date: 19 April 2018

Only members of national ICSU committees are eligible to apply

1. INTRODUCTION

The International Council for Science (ICSU) is a non-governmental organisation with a global membership of national scientific bodies (121 members, representing 141 countries) and International Scientific Unions (31 members). ICSU has 17 Interdisciplinary Bodies, established with various strategic partners that address major issues of relevance to both science and society.

ICSU was created to strengthen international science for the benefit of society. This is in line with the strategic performance goals set in the National Research Foundation's (NRF) Vision - striving towards an internationally competitive science, technology and innovation system.

NB: On 26 October, 2017 in Taipei, a merger of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) forged a new organisation, with an overwhelming majority of the organisations voting in favour of the merger. This became after an important recommendation of the 2014 External Review of ICSU referred to the need for bodies such as ICSU and ISSC "to accelerate their partnering relationship, as there are few major science policy issues whose framing can do without major social science input." In response to this recommendation, the Executive bodies of both Councils initiated a process to propose to their members that the two Councils should merge to form a single international organisation for the social and natural sciences.

2. SOUTH AFRICAN ICSU SECRETARIAT

The South African ICSU Secretariat serves the South African scientific community and most of the ICSU scientific unions and affiliates to which South Africa adheres. In 1992 the ICSU National Board of SA was appointed to advise the NRF, as the national adhering organisation to ICSU, on matters pertaining to international cooperation with ICSU and ICSU bodies. The goal of the National Board is to promote effective South African involvement in the organisation of the ICSU network. South Africa is also a national member, *via* the NRF, of a number of ICSU Unions and Associates. There are 30 South African National Committees/Unions affiliated to ICSU (refer to Annex 1).

The SA ICSU Secretariat provides support and organisational services for the ICSU National Board of SA, and to the SA ICSU National Committees to advance South Africa's participation in international platforms. The total membership of these committees is in excess of 200 scientists. Approximately 100 South Africans serve on ICSU-related commissions and working groups. The ICSU programme in South Africa was established to achieve the following objectives:

- Internationalise the research platform;
- Enhance networking within the science system;
- Foster collaboration in order to improve the quality of research outputs by researchers;
- Increase the number of SA scientists in the international arena.

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) through the NRF contributes ICSU membership dues.

3. TYPES OF GRANTS

The ICSU grants are unique in that **applicants are members of national ICSU committees**. The two types of ICSU grants supported by the NRF are:

1. **Travel Grants:** This investment area is divided into two categories:
 - a. Travel by South African researchers to participate in ICSU-related international conferences, workshops, and relevant meetings.
 - b. Support of ICSU-related conferences and workshops held in South Africa.
2. **Event Support:** The support for hosting of ICSU-related events in South Africa.

3.1 Travel Grants

Purpose

To support international travel related to ICSU research activities such as the presentation and publication of papers and posters, and for hosting experts from abroad.

Eligibility Criteria

- Be a member of an ICSU committee or a member of ICSU-related working groups, task groups or commissions;
- Capacity building delegates (presently completing a PhD or recently completed a PhD) appointed to the SA committee of a specific Union. Up to two capacity building delegates will be eligible to apply per year;
- Only one event/activity per applicant will be supported per calendar year, and on a competitive basis;
- A maximum of three delegates will be funded to attend a specific ICSU events;
- Delegates will be funded for a maximum of five days;
- Applications are considered on a value-add, representative and strategic basis;
- Funding is subject to availability of funds;
- Additional funding for the same events from other NRF instruments will not be considered;
- For visiting experts, it is important that the scholar also engage with specifically historically disadvantaged institutions in the form of additional lectures, study visits, or student engagement. This should be clearly indicated in the application;
- Applicant should clearly indicate financial contributions from other sources. Co-investment from own/ other sources is a minimum requirement.

3.2 Event Support Grants

Purpose

To promote excellence in research through financial support for hosting international research events such as conferences, workshops and colloquia in South Africa, related to ICSU.

Eligibility Criteria

- The DST, the NRF and the ICSU National Board should be consulted before bidding for General Assemblies, Congresses or related events to be held in SA; for large conferences, the DST/NRF Conference Fund is an alternative option to consider.

- The event must have international involvement (plenary speaker[s] or international participation), and may have oral or poster presentations. Organisers are encouraged to involve South African students in the event.
- The funding may be utilised for venue and mobility costs related to the event (e.g. invited keynote speaker’s air travel and accommodation), or specific publication costs related to, or as a result of, the event.
- Due to budget constraints, support for events is only limited to those categories indicated below. Activities such as audio-visual equipment hire, honoraria, student assistance, administration costs or refreshments will not qualify for consideration.
- Applicant should clearly indicate financial contributions from other sources. Co-investment from own/ other sources is a minimum requirement.

Summary of ICSU Supported Activities

Category	Item
Travel Grants for Individual Researchers	Flights (economy) Accommodation Conference registration fees Subsistence (a maximum of €50 equivalent per day)
Foreign Research Fellowship	Flights (economy) Accommodation Ground transport
Local Events	Flights (economy) Accommodation Venue hire Ground transport Cost for publishing ICSU related articles including: newsletters, peer reviewed articles and books.

4. APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications should be submitted on the NRF Online Submission System at <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za/>
- Register/Login using your ID/passport number and password
- Go to “My Applications” – Select “Create Application”
- Select the call you are applying for: **ICSU Grants for Travel and Hosting Events 2018 - First call**
- Complete all sections of the application
- Please attach the necessary documents in **PDF format**
- Should you not follow the guidelines for attaching the necessary supporting documents, your application may not be considered
- Remember to **submit** your application on completion
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.

5. REVIEW PROCESS

In line with the NRF's endeavour for a fair and objective granting process, all applications are subjected to the following:

- All grant applications should be submitted to the NRF electronically via an online application.
- For ICSU members at qualifying institutions, the NRF Designated Authority (DA) need to sign off and validate the application, as per usual NRF application procedure.
- In ALL cases (as well as for those members not attached to an institution), please enter the contact details and a letter of support of your Head of Department and/or Chairperson of the specific committee. The latter is to ensure alignment, fairness and consistency with applications.
- Applicants should upload an invitation letter from the host organisation/institution/person being visited or an official acceptance of conference presentation/poster, or a letter from the SA ICSU Secretariat informing the delegates of their appointment as National Voting Delegate or Capacity Building Delegate, whichever might be applicable.
- Applications are reviewed by a NRF panel in consultation with a relevant ICSU Committee Chairperson.
- ICSU reviewers will make recommendations concerning the merit of applications under review including the budget request, in the form of written comments.
- **Given budgetary limitations, funding is not guaranteed. It is important to note that the applicant should clearly indicate financial contributions from other sources. No exceptions will be considered.**
- This call is for activities taking place during the period **1 June 2018 and 31 December 2018**.
- The next call will be launched in July 2018 for activities taking place in the second half of 2018 and the first part of 2019.

6. REPORTING

Following the event, applicants must submit conference reports, proof of travel in the form of boarding passes and accommodation receipts. The report of the event should be submitted to the NRF no later than 21 days after the event. The report should be endorsed by the Chairperson of the applicable committee. Should the Chairperson of a Committee provide a report, it should be endorsed by the Chairperson of the National Board. Applicants who have not submitted previous conference reports to the NRF will not be considered for funding again.

The NRF support should be acknowledged in all publications and presentations (oral or poster). Use of the NRF logo should be according to the branding policies of the organisation, and can be obtained from the contact persons below.

CONTACTS

Ms Busiswa Molefe Professional Officer: KAS Telephone: +27 12 481 4028 Email: busiswa@nrf.ac.za	Mr Stephen Dlamini Professional Officer: GMSA Telephone: +27 12 481 4037 Email: dlamini@nrf.ac.za
--	---

ANNEX 1 – ICSU COMMITTEES

1. The South African National Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA)
2. The National Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) & the Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP)
3. The International Astronomical Union (IAU)
4. The National Committee of the International Cartographic Association (ICA)
5. The South African National Committee for the International Geographical Union (IGU)
6. The South African National Committee for International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA)
7. The International Union of Crystallography (IUCr)
8. The International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG)
9. The South African National Committee of the International Union of Geological Science (IUGS) and the International Correlation Programme (IGCP)
10. The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)
11. The South African National Committee of the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS)
12. South Africa's National Committee for International Union of Psychological Studies (IUPsyS)
13. The National Committee for the International Union of Nutrition Sciences (IUNS) and the International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFOST)
14. The International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (IUTAM)
15. The South African Committee of the International Mathematics Union (IMU)
16. The International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS)
17. The Science Committee on Ocean Research (SCOR)
18. The International Union of Radio Science (URSI)
19. International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR)
20. The International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP)
21. The International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS)
22. The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)
23. The International Brain Research Organization (IBRO)
24. The International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS)
25. International Union of Forestry Research Organization (IUFRO)
26. Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE)
27. International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB)
28. International Water Association (IWA)
29. International Council for Scientific and Technological Information (ICSTI)
30. International Council on Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS)