

**Funding Opportunity Announcement:  
SAMRC: Self-initiated Research (SIR) Grants Programme**

The South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) is pleased to announce the 2025 call for applications for funding under the [Self-Initiated Research \(SIR\) Grants Programme](#). The SIR Programme is designed to support original research initiated by a researcher at a recognized research institution. This funding opportunity encourages research geared towards generating high quality new knowledge, new medical products, improved or enhanced medical/health practice, effective health promotion strategies or improved health policy and/or functioning of the national health systems.

Applications are invited in two different categories as follows:

1. Early-career researchers; and
2. Mid-level and established researchers.

Note: Applications from mid-level and established researchers must include a strong focus on capacity development.

For more details about this opportunity please visit the [2025 SIR Call, Guidelines and Application Process](#).

**Eligibility:**

- Applications are limited to South African citizens and permanent residents.
- Only one research proposal will be considered for funding per individual applicant.
- Preference will be given to individuals who have not previously been a recipient of a SIR grant.

**Award details:**

- R200,000 per year for a maximum period of three years. Funds to be used to support research expenses, and it is expected that the applicants already have the necessary equipment and facilities required for the proposed research.

The Faculty of Health Sciences Research Development team will be hosting an information session on Monday, **17 November 2025 (10H00-11H30)**. Please click [here](#) to register for the webinar.

**Deadlines & submission process:**

This proposal requires the PI to request institutional approval via UCT's electronic Research Administration ([eRA](#)) system, prior to submission of an online application on the SAMRC Research and Innovation Management System ([RIMS](#)). **Furthermore, please note that submission of SIR applications to the SAMRC is actioned via RIMS by UCT's Research Contracts and Innovation (RC&I) office on behalf of applicants.**

	Deadline
PI to submit a <b>SAMRC SIR pre-award approval form*</b> request to the Final Faculty Approver step on eRA no later than	<b>28 November 2025</b>
Internal review will be completed by Final Faculty Approvers	<b>01 - 04 December 2025</b>
PI to submit the application on the funder portal (RIMS), <b>after eRA approval</b> , no later than	<b>05 December 2025</b>
RC&I to action final submission on RIMS no later than	<b>12 December 2025</b>

*\*The SIR pre-award approval form has a different workflow and is directed straight to the Final Faculty Approvers. You are not required to tag or engage with your departmental Budget Reviewer around budget development.*

Please complete the [intention-to-submit](#) form if you intend applying for this call. Please note that completion of this form is for the purposes of internal support and tracking, it is not linked to funder application processes and does not commit you to applying for this opportunity.

For any queries, please contact the [Research Development Team](#)