

Pre-Call announcement NRF EVALUATION AND RATING 2026

The 2026 NRF Call for submission of applications for [evaluation and rating](#) is now expected to open only in **January 2026**.

UCT regards the rating system as an important means of benchmarking and your participation in this process is crucial to ensuring our success as a transforming research- intensive institution.

In preparation for this call, we are issuing this notice to all re-evaluants and prospective new applicants, to encourage applicants to start updating or creating their research profiles on the [NRF Connect](#) system in the meanwhile:

1. Go to: <https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za/>.
2. Register or login in with your ORCID.
3. Sign in with your institutional email address or ORCID and login
4. Access through your institution "University of Cape Town"
5. Click on SYNC NOW to Migrate your NRF Online Submission CV data to NRF Connect.
6. Create or update under "MY CV"

Please use the [UCT application guide](#), which contains the rating template at the end, if you wish to begin drafting your narrative sections. Please note that the rating template on NRF Connect will only be accessible once the call has officially opened.

Recordings of previous rating seminars and workshops can be accessed [here](#).

UCT Libraries Bibliometrics Working Group

Please [view this document](#) for the support available from the UCT Libraries Bibliometrics Working Group who can provide the relevant evidence required in the narrative section of the rating application.

They will be processing requests up until **15 December 2025 at 12pm** and will resume the bibliometrics services on **12 January 2026**.

Researchers are invited to submit their requests via the online NRF Rating support request [form](#)

UCT internal review and tentative deadlines

More details will be announced as soon as the NRF call has opened. Our process includes internal review of all applications by an expert panel of rated researchers, together with feedback and assistance as needed.

The NRF will provide a once-off incentive funding award on a successful new rating and renewal.

Queries and support

In the meantime, you are welcome to contact Mbasa Mguye (Mbasa.Mguye@uct.ac.za) in the Research Office, should you wish to discuss any aspect of the rating process.

Please visit our website for more information: <https://uct.ac.za/research-support-hub/accreditation-evaluation-nrf-ratings/nrf-rating-application-process>

For technical assistance with NRF Connect please contact the NRF Support Desk at Supportdesk@nrf.ac.za (available from Monday to Friday between 08:00 and 16:30).