

Call Announcement

NRF EVALUATION AND RATING – 2026

Important Dates

- **UCT Internal Closing dates:**
 - Applications received between 31 December 2025, and 6 February 2026 will receive feedback by 27 February 2026
 - Applications received between 7 February, and 6 March will receive feedback by 3 April 2026
 - Late applications received between 7 March, and 31 March (by 16:30) will receive feedback by 20 April 2026
- **NRF System Closing Date:**
 - 31 March 2026 at 16:30 (no later)

How to start a rating application

- Applications are submitted online via NRF Connect at <https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za>.
- Register or login in with your ORCID.
 - Sign in with your institutional email address or ORCID and login
 - Access through your institution “**University of Cape Town**”
 - Click on “**VERIFY**” to migrate your NRF Online Submission CV data to NRF Connect.
 - Update “**MY CV**”
- Create an application
 - On the menu, click on Applications under “**MY APPLICATIONS**”
 - Under the list of categories, click the + sign next to **Rating**
 - Click on **Create** to start the application.
- Complete all the sections.
- Click on the **SUBMIT** button.

The [UCT Application Guide and Template](#) may be used to prepare the key narratives required for the application. The final text should be transferred to the online system, to complete the submission.

Prospective applicants are required to familiarise themselves with the [NRF Rating Call documents](#) which include application requirements.

UCT internal review of rating applications

- All applications are reviewed internally prior to submission to the NRF in order to assist with strengthening submissions, advising on rating readiness where required, and to provide an institutional recommended rating which is a requirement of the NRF.
- Applicants have the option of choosing any of the internal submission dates listed above.

Advantages of being rated

- The rating is used as a **national indicator of excellence** and is to the advantage of your faculty and the University in terms of benchmarking.

- It is a measurement of your academic profile and may be considered when applying for promotion and/or **career advancement** opportunities in academia.
- A successful rating allows one the option of applying for **incentive funding** for rated researchers from the NRF, the amount of which is directly proportional to the researcher's rating, and to apply to NRF funding programmes which are ringfenced for rated researchers. This is however conditional on the NRF having enough funds for this purpose.

General Comments

- Eligibility: In general, all researchers who are employed and remunerated on a full-time, long-term or part-time contract basis at UCT may apply to be rated (refer to eligibility criteria at <https://uct.ac.za/research-support-hub/accreditation-evaluation-nrf-ratings/nrf-rating-application-process>).
- Postdoctoral fellows must please first check their eligibility before completing an application.
- Applicants are welcome to contact the Research Office to establish their rating-readiness.
- If you are a young researcher and completed your PhD in 2020, you will need to apply now in order to be considered for rating in the Y category (40 years and younger) or P category (normally 35 years and younger) as eligibility is established by applying no more than five years after your PhD graduation.
- Bibliometrics support for applications is provided by UCT Libraries. Services resumed on **12 January 2026**, and applicants are encouraged to submit their requests using the online NRF Rating support request [form](#).
- Recordings of previous rating seminars and workshops can also be accessed [here](#).

Contact persons

- **UCT Research Office**

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Visit our Research Office website: <https://uct.ac.za/research-support-hub/accreditation-evaluation/nrf-ratings>

- **NRF Support Desk**

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