

Call for applications: Human Frontier Science Programme (HFSP) Research Grants – Award Year 2027

URL: <https://www.hfsp.org/funding/hfsp-funding/research-grants>

Keywords: International collaboration, interdisciplinary research, life sciences, frontier research, early career, basic research

Funding amount and duration of funding: Awarded teams receive a fixed sum, **over three years**, depending on team size (2-member teams will receive 300,000 USD, 3-member teams 400,000 USD and 4-member teams 500,000 USD annually, if all members have their labs in different countries).

Funder deadline:

- Compulsory initiation of Letter of Intent (generate LOI ID):
17 March 2026
- Submission of Letter of Intent:
26 March 2026

Full proposals are by invitation only (mid-September 2026).

UCT Internal Deadlines

- **UCT Intention to submit deadline:** Please complete [intention-to-submit](#) form by no later than **19 March 2026**

Contact: internationalgrants@uct.ac.za

About the Funding Opportunity

The [Human Frontiers Science Program](#) aims to promote, through international collaboration, basic research that advances understanding of the complex mechanisms underlying living systems for the benefit of humankind.

Supported research may span all levels of biological organisation, including genes and molecules, intracellular networks, tissues and organs, whole organisms including cognitive functions, as well as populations and ecosystems.

The programme places strong emphasis on frontier science, interdisciplinarity and genuinely new international collaborations.

Two grant schemes are available:

Research Grants – Program (RG-Program): Supports teams of independent researchers at any career stage to develop new research directions through new collaborations. Priority is given to novel projects that extend the frontiers of the life sciences, particularly those incorporating expertise from outside traditional life sciences disciplines.

Research Grants – Early Career (RG-Early Career): Designed to support outstanding researchers in the early stages of independence to establish bold and promising new research programmes.

Eligibility Criteria

Scheme-Specific Requirements

- **Research Grants – Program (RG-Program):** Open to independent researchers at any career stage. Supports novel, frontier research through new collaborations.
- **Research Grants – Early Career (RG-Early Career):** All team members must be within 5 years of obtaining an independent position and within 10 years of their PhD at the LOI deadline. Career interruptions may extend eligibility. Applicants must have full responsibility for directing their research group.

Team Structure

Teams must comprise **2 to 4 researchers** (exceptionally 5 where strongly justified). One member is designated as the Principal Applicant and the others as Co-Applicants.

All team members must:

- Hold a PhD (or equivalent)
- Lead an independent research group
- Be able to independently direct the project and administer funds
- Postdoctoral researchers are not eligible.

HFSP prioritises new, interdisciplinary and international collaborations. Team members are expected to work in different disciplines, be based in different countries, and propose a project that is clearly distinct from their current research.

Applicants should not have an established collaboration or publication record together. More than three co-publications between team members will likely reduce competitiveness.

HFSP encourages diversity and inclusion across all applications.

Applications for applied research, including medical research typically funded by national medical research bodies, will be deemed ineligible (see [guidelines](#)).

Please read the guidelines carefully to establish whether your project falls within the funding scope of the HFSP. See also [‘Frequently asked questions’](#) and [‘Writing a letter of intent’](#) for detailed tips.

Funding amount and duration of funding:

Grants are awarded for three years (with funds usable in a fourth year).

Annual award amounts (per team):

- USD 300,000 for 2-member teams
- USD 400,000 for 3-member teams
- USD 500,000 for 4-member teams

Awards are fixed amounts. A detailed budget is not required at the Letter of Intent stage. Indirect costs are capped at 10 % of direct costs per institution.

Application Process

Applications are submitted via [ProposalCentral](#) and follow a two-stage process:

1. **Letter of Intent (LOI)**
 - Compulsory initiation of LOI (generate 7-digit LOI ID):
17 March 2026 at 09:00 (Eastern US Time)
 - Submission of LOI:
26 March 2026 (institutional approval via UCT’s electronic Research Administration (eRA) system is not necessary at this stage.)
2. **Full Proposal (by invitation only)**
 - Invited applicants will be notified in July 2026.
 - Full proposals due mid-September 2026 (this **will require** UCT eRA approval).
 - Awards announced March 2027.