

## Call for applications: Racial Equity Special Research Grants

URL: [https://www.spencer.org/grant\\_types/racial-equity-special-research-grants](https://www.spencer.org/grant_types/racial-equity-special-research-grants)

**Keywords:** Education, Educational Research, Equal Educational Opportunity, Equal Opportunity, Inequality, Racial Issues, Racism or Race Relation, Sociology Education, Underrepresented Populations

**Funding amount:** Up to USD \$75,000 total

**Duration of funding:** 1-5 years

**Funder deadline:** Intent to Apply Form Deadline: 04 May 2026.

- **Full Proposal Deadline 01 July 2026**

**UCT Internal Deadlines:**

**UCT Intention to submit deadline:** Please complete the [intention-to-submit](#) form if you intend applying for this call.

- **UCT eRA:** Approval via UCT's electronic Research Administration (eRA) system is **REQUIRED** prior to submission to the funder.
  - Applicants should contact faculty finance/budget reviewer by no later than **03 June 2026**
  - [eRA Internal Approvals forms](#) should reach the Finance Approver by no later than **17 June 2026**

**Contacts:** Faculty of Health Sciences: [FHS.ResearchFunding@uct.ac.za](mailto:FHS.ResearchFunding@uct.ac.za) ; All Other Faculties - [internationalgrants@uct.ac.za](mailto:internationalgrants@uct.ac.za)

### About the Funding Opportunity

The Spencer Foundation's **Racial Equity Special Research Grants** support **education research** addressing racial inequality in education, aiming to disrupt systemic inequities and explore transformative approaches to enhance educational equity for underrepresented populations. The programme encourages studies in sociology, race relations, and equal opportunity to foster inclusive and equitable educational systems.

Spencer particularly encourages proposals focused on:

- youth and educator mental health that explores possibilities that promote resilience, centre healing, and foster well-being.
- innovative and community-based approaches to workforce development; and
- innovative approaches at the intersections of quantitative methods and racial equity.

See full call details [here](#)

### Eligibility Criteria

- Proposals must focus on education and contribute to understanding or disrupting racial inequality in education. Activities that are not research (e.g., curriculum development, professional development, program evaluations, scholarships, capital projects) are not eligible.
- PIs and Co-PIs must hold a doctorate or appropriate research-related professional experience. Graduate students may participate but cannot serve as PI or Co-PI.
- The PI must be affiliated with a non-profit/public institution capable of administering the award (UCT qualifies).

### Restrictions

- **Budget Limitations:** Proposed budgets are capped at **USD \$75,000** total and **may not include indirect costs**, as per Spencer policy. See [here](#)
- **Project Duration:** Projects may not exceed **5 years**.

- **Active Grant Limit:** PIs and Co-PIs may hold only one active Spencer research grant at a time. This restriction applies to individuals, not institutions; UCT may submit multiple proposals if each has a different PI/Co-PI team.
- **One Proposal at a Time:** PIs and Co-PIs may **not** submit more than one proposal at a time across the following programs:
  - Small Grants
  - Large Grants
  - Racial Equity Research Grants
  - Research-Practice Partnership Grants
 If any proposal is under review in one of these programs, the PI/Co-PI must wait for a final decision before submitting another.
- **Exception – Vision Grants:** The above restrictions do **not** apply to Spencer’s **Vision Grants**. PIs/Co-PIs may apply for a Vision Grant even if:
  - They currently hold an active Spencer research grant, **or**
  - They have another Spencer proposal under review.
 However, **projects must be distinct** across the different submissions.

## Application Process

### How to apply

Applicants must ensure all proposals go through UCT’s electronic Research Administration ([eRA](#)) system for institutional approval **before** submission to the Spencer Foundation.

### Intent to Apply (Mandatory)

- The application process begins with submitting an **Intent to Apply** form via the Spencer Foundation online portal, please visit <https://spencer.smartsimple.us/>.
- Once submitted, applicants **automatically gain access** to the Full Proposal application.

### UCT internal requirements

	Deadline
PI to initiate an eRA Proposal Approval request and alert their faculty finance office of the budgetary support needed	<b>Immediately</b>
PI to submit an eRA Proposal Approval request with a draft budget to the Budget Reviewer step on eRA at least <b>4 weeks</b> before the funder deadline	<b>03 June 2026</b>
PI to submit an eRA Proposal Approval request to the Finance Approver step on eRA at least <b>2 weeks</b> before the funder deadline	<b>17 June 2026</b>
Approval form and all supporting documents to reach RC&I via eRA at least <b>1 week</b> before the funder deadline (if applicable, if funder requires institutional sign off)	<b>24 June 2026</b>
Applicant to submit the application on the funder portal for institutional sign off <b>at least 5 working days</b> before funder deadline	<b>24 June 2026</b>
Funder deadline: Final submission actioned by RC&I via the funder’s portal.	<b>01 July 2026</b>