

## Reminder: Call for Applications: NRF EVALUATION AND RATING – 2024

### Extended UCT Internal closing dates:

- Applications received between 25 January and 19 February 2024 will receive feedback in the second week of March 2024

**NRF system closing date: 29 February 2024, 16h30**

More information: <http://www.researchsupport.uct.ac.za/nrf-ratings>

**Applications are invited for the next cycle of NRF evaluation and rating. This call applies both to researchers who are applying for re-evaluation and first-time applicants.** The NRF does not accept applications submitted directly by applicants; therefore, UCT can only endorse applications which are submitted via the internal review process.

The rating of individuals is based primarily on the *quality and impact* of their research outputs over the past eight years (1 January 2016 – 31 December 2023), taking into consideration the evaluation made by local and international peers who are requested to critically scrutinize the research completed during the assessment period. Applications are submitted by "established" researchers with a solid track record (categories C, B and A), or by "younger" researchers who show potential of becoming established within a five-year period (Y) or becoming future leaders in their field (P).

### How to start a rating application

- Applications are submitted online at <https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za>.
- Applicants can access various NRF Connect user guides and manuals to help navigate the online application process. Please visit [www.nrf.ac.za/nrf-connect/nrf-connect-documents](http://www.nrf.ac.za/nrf-connect/nrf-connect-documents).
- NEW NRF CONNECT TOOL: NRF Connect users will now be able to import Research Output Records from NRF Online Submission, ORCID and Scopus into NRF Connect. Please following these [instructions](#) or contact the [NRF Support Desk](#) for assistance.
- 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

- 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 one of the internal submission dates for their applications:
  - Applications received between 21 November 2023 and 8 January 2024 will receive feedback by end of January.
  - Applications received between 9 January and 19 January 2024 will receive feedback before mid-February 2024.
  - **Applications received between 25 January and 19 February 2024 will receive feedback in the second week of March 2024**
  - Late applications may be considered – please liaise with the Research Office to discuss.

### 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.
- Successful ratings effective from 1 January 2025 will qualify for UCT Seed Funding. The UCT Seed Award, together with the amount forthcoming from the NRF Incentive Funding based on rating outcomes, would be comparable to what researchers would have received for a single year, prior to the change in NRF funding policy.

### 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 <http://www.researchsupport.uct.ac.za/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 2017, 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. Request for support must be made to the relevant [Faculty Principal Librarians](#).

### Contact persons

- **UCT Research Office**  
Mrs Amanda Raman  
[Amanda.Raman@uct.ac.za](mailto:Amanda.Raman@uct.ac.za)

Mr Mbasa Mguye  
[Mbasa.Mguye@uct.ac.za](mailto:Mbasa.Mguye@uct.ac.za) or 021 650 7925

Visit our Research Office website: <http://www.researchsupport.uct.ac.za/nrf-ratings>

- **For technical support with NRF Connect**  
Mrs Alison Witbooi  
[Alison.Witbooi@uct.ac.za](mailto:Alison.Witbooi@uct.ac.za)

NRF Support Desk  
Tel: 012 481 4202 | | [supportdesk@nrf.ac.za](mailto:supportdesk@nrf.ac.za)