

Call for applications: EQT Foundation: Critical Mineral Substitutes for the Green Transition

URL: <https://url.za.mimecastprotect.com/s/bC3UCr0qw9iARMYvkF7f2l4rbXJ>

Funding amount: €25,000 to €100,000

Funder deadline: 25 February 2026

UCT Internal Deadlines

- Please complete the [intention-to-submit](#) form if you intend applying for this call by **18 February 2026**
- **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 **18 February 2026**
 - [eRA Internal Approvals forms](#)

Contacts: internationalgrants@uct.ac.za

About the Funding Opportunity

The EQT Foundation has launched a Science Grant funding opportunity focused on **critical mineral substitutes for the green transition**. The call supports breakthrough scientific research with strong translational potential that can reduce or replace the use of critical minerals in key green technologies.

The Foundation is particularly interested in high-impact, applied research that can contribute to more sustainable and resilient energy systems, including areas such as energy storage, renewable energy technologies, advanced materials, rare-earth-free systems, and circular approaches that reduce reliance on virgin critical minerals.

Funding is intended to be catalytic, supporting early-stage research with a credible pathway toward real-world application and impact.

Eligibility Criteria

This opportunity is best suited to UCT researchers who:

- Are working in **materials science, chemistry, engineering, physics, or related applied fields**.
- Are developing **alternatives to, or significant reductions in, the use of critical minerals** in technologies supporting the green transition (e.g. energy storage, renewable energy systems, power electronics, magnets, or circular material solutions).
- Have research with a **strong applied or translational focus**, including a credible pathway toward real-world use or impact.
- Are interested in **high-risk, high-impact science** with potential for scalability beyond the laboratory.
- Please note that EQT Foundation accepts a maximum of 10% overhead. Read FAQs [here](#)

Projects that are primarily theoretical or exploratory, without a clear link to material substitution or downstream application, may be less competitive.

Application Process

Applications must be submitted directly to the EQT Foundation via the [online application form](#) application form available on the funder's website.

Please note that UCT institutional approval via the electronic Research Administration ([eRA](#)) system must be completed prior to submission to the funder. Applicants are therefore required to initiate and complete the relevant eRA Proposal Approval process before submitting their application on the [EQT Foundation portal](#).

Given the proximity of the funder deadline, the standard internal timelines are not applicable in full for this call, applicants are strongly encouraged to engage with their Faculty Finance Office as early as possible to facilitate timely budget review and institutional approval.

Funder deadline: **25 February 2026**