NRF Call: Knowledge, Interchange and Collaboration (KIC) – Period 1

For Scientific Events / Travel taking place between
01 July and 31 December 2025

UCT Internal deadline: Thursday, 27 March 2025
NRF system deadline: Monday, 31 March 2025 @ 09h00

Please direct all queries to Zam Ndzotyana (zam.ndzotyana@uct.ac.za)

Notice

Applicants should only apply for travel and hosting of a physical meeting if they are confident and can show strong evidence that such meetings can and/or will take place. It must be noted upfront that no carry forwards will be allowed for postponed or cancelled events.

The NRF is however cognisant that some virtual gatherings may require financial support for hosting and/or registration fee, attendance/participation, and therefore applications for such support accompanied by strong motivation and evidence will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Funding for KIC support is for researchers and PhD students with no allocated travel support through any other current NRF funding.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible
- UCT researchers in possession of a PhD degree are eligible to apply provided that they are formally affiliated to UCT. Staff on contract must be appointed to the end of the funding period (December 2025) and must submit a progress report on conclusion of the grant. If the applicant's contract is not valid for the required period, then a letter from the Head of Department confirming that the contract is likely to be extended, should the funding be awarded, must be attached to the application.
- Registered PhD students (through their supervisors) who cannot apply for a travel grant through their NRF Scholarships.
- NRF-funded Postdoctoral Fellows

Ineligible
- **UCT Postdoctoral Fellows are not eligible to apply.**

FUNDING

UCT researchers are invited to apply for grants for travel or scientific events taking place between **1 July and 31 December 2025.** The KIC funding instrument is divided into four categories. In the table below is a summary of the items funded, the maximum award value per category, and the compulsory supporting documentation that must be attached (in PDF) to the application.

It is of utmost importance that applicants consult the Funding Guide document for more detailed information concerning the application criteria per category.

Category	Purpose	Items	Maximum value	Compulsory supporting documentation
Travel Grants for Individual Researchers (including attendance and participation in virtual events)	**Travel** to speak or present locally or abroad at scientific events such as conferences, seminars, symposia, and workshop	• Flights • Visa costs • Accommodation • Ground transport • Conference registration fees • Connectivity (where such event is virtual)	R50 000	• Proof of submission/acceptance of an abstract/paper/poster (applicant must be author/co-author). • A formal invitation to present if presenting a keynote lecture. • Must provide the advertisement/flyer/notice of the event (a link is also sufficient). • A letter of support from the HoD or line manager.
Visiting Foreign Researcher	To **host** an expert from abroad (up to three weeks) to speak or present at a local scientific event such as a conference, seminar, symposia, workshop.	• Flights • Accommodation • Ground transport	R50 000	• A copy of the invitation to the visitor(s) and a copy of the provisional acceptance of the invitation from the visitor(s); • A comprehensive itinerary and detailed programme for the visit. • CV of the invited researcher. • A letter of support from the HoD or line manager indicating the contribution by the institution towards the visit e.g. accommodation costs, co-funding, etc.
Africa Interaction	To **visit** another African country to speak or present at a conference, seminar, symposia, workshop; **OR** To **host** an expert from another African country to speak or present at a conference, seminar, symposia, workshop.	• Flights • Visa costs • Accommodation • Ground transport	R75 000	• Support letter from the host institution containing details on co-support for the event. • An itinerary and detailed programme for the visit. • In the event that the applicant will provide training, the applicant must provide a training manual, and the expected number of participants must be indicated. Other institutions in the vicinity of the training venue must be invited to participate. • Copies of invitation(s) received from host(s). • An institutional letter of support by the HoD or line manager.

| Local Scientific Events | To **organise** or **host** a scientific event (conference, seminar, symposia, workshop) in SA with a minimum number of 50 participants for the workshop and 150 participants for local conference. *Hybrid events are also supported* | • Flights and accommodation (speakers and or students)
 • Ground transport;
 • Venue hire
 • Refreshments
 • Variety of costs related to arrangements of Virtual Meetings including technical expert support where and if necessary. | R150 000 (Workshop)

 R350 000 (Local conference) | • A copy of the invitation to, and provisional acceptance from, the keynote speaker(s).
 • CVs of invited keynote speaker(s).
 • A detailed programme for the event.
 • Proof of co-investment will be an added advantage.
 • Support letter by the host institution, if UCT is not the host institution.
 • Letter of support from the HoD or line manager
 • indicating contribution by the institution towards the event.
 • Student involvement in local events is highly encouraged. |

NB: Subsistence is NOT supported

    Funding will not be deferred to another funding period.

Important points to note:
- Only one event/activity per applicant will be supported with no exceptions.
- Applicants may not be supported for two KIC consecutive calls (for events taking place in 2025).
- Applications that do not have all required supporting documents at the time of submission will be disqualified and will not be taken up for evaluation by the NRF.
- A panel consisting of reviewers will assess and select applications according to the stipulated criteria.
- KIC awards will not cover all expenses requested, and co-investment from own / other sources are essential. **This should be clearly indicated in the application**.
- Given the competitive nature of the programme and budgetary limitations, funding is not guaranteed.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications must be submitted electronically via the NRF via the NRF Connect system at https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za.
- Register/Login by following the steps in the Manual published on the NRF website at https://www.nrf.ac.za/nrf-connect/nrf-connect-documents/;
- Click on SYNC NOW to Migrate your NRF Online Submission CV data to NRF Connect;
- Create or update your CV;
- On the Menu, click on Applications under My Applications tab;
- Click on the + sign next to **Travel, Training and Conference Grants category**;
- Click on the Create button next to '**Knowledge Interchange & Collaboration (KIC) '**
- Complete all compulsory sections;
- Attach the required supporting documentation in **PDF** format;
- Click on the **Submit** button.

It is of utmost importance that applicants consult the Funding Guide document for more detailed information about the programme.

Please be advised that applications cannot be created or submitted after the NRF closing date – Thursday, 27 March 2025, 09h00.

Only applications endorsed by UCT Research Office by **Thursday, 27 March 2025,** will be considered for funding by NRF in 2025 (Review Period 1).