

# Call for Applications

## NRF – FAPESP Collaborative Research Programme

**UCT Internal Deadline: 21 March 2025**

Please direct all queries to Prince Khoza at ([prince.khoza@uct.ac.za](mailto:prince.khoza@uct.ac.za))

The National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa and the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) are supporting scientific collaborative activities between South African researchers and researchers based in the State of São Paulo in Brazil. The call aims to (1) facilitate the development of sustainable institutional links between the two countries and (2) generate innovative approaches, solutions and society-wide results that would otherwise not have been possible. This Programme brings together Established Researchers and Early Career Researchers to develop joint solutions to the challenges faced by both countries. The overall aim of this Programme is not only to build on existing, outstanding and established research partnerships but also to foster new linkages and engagements with small cohorts of young and emerging researchers for new links between South Africa and the State of São Paulo.

There are two funding streams under the Collaborative Research (CORE) Programme. Eligible researchers can either apply for the (1) Research Mobility Funding Scheme or the (2) Joint Research for Societal and Scientific Impact Funding Scheme.

### ELIGIBILITY

- Each proposal under the CORE Programme must have one main applicant based in South Africa and one main applicant based in the State of São Paulo.
- Proposals for both funding schemes must be written in English.
- The South African applicants and co-applicants must be in possession of a PhD to be eligible.
- Each PI is allowed to submit only one proposal and apply to only one funding scheme.
- UCT PIs applying under the Joint Research for Societal and Scientific Impact Funding Scheme are required to include, as part of the joint project, a research partner from any of the historically disadvantaged institutions (HDIs) in order to be eligible.

### FUNDING

Proposals for Joint Research for Societal and Scientific Impact Funding Scheme must have the same duration of the CORE Programme, i.e. 36 months (three years) starting in 2025.

Exchanges under the Research Mobility Funding Scheme must be carried out within 24 months (i.e. two years) starting in 2025.

### Research Mobility Funding Scheme

- The total amount requested from the NRF should not exceed R600 000 per project
- The purpose of this Funding Scheme is to support mobility of researchers between South Africa and the state of São Paulo. Research activities will not be supported in this Funding Scheme.
- The funds for this Funding Scheme can only be used to finance the cost of the exchange of researchers, under the principle of reciprocity. These include: travel costs (air tickets, ground transport, accommodation, living expenses and travel insurance), organising joint workshops, seminars, symposia, etc.
- Fellowships, Direct Research Infrastructure Costs and Fringe Benefits are **not eligible** for funding in this Funding Scheme.

## **Joint Research for Societal and Scientific Impact Funding Scheme**

- The total amount requested from the NRF for the Joint Research for Societal and Scientific Impact Funding Scheme should not exceed R1 600 000 million per project.
- The research conducted in this Funding Scheme should have relevance and potential for impact beyond the academic world, such as in societal, technical, economical or cultural realms.

## **APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION PROCESS**

Proposals must be received by both the **NRF** and **FAPESP**. Proposals which have not been submitted in both countries will not be considered for review and will not be considered for funding.

### **UCT PIs:**

The application must be completed on the **NRF online system**: <https://nrconnect.nrf.ac.za>

1. Register / Login using your ORCID and password.
2. Update your CV (These Curriculum Vitae are used in the assessment processes, and incomplete or outdated inputs will jeopardise the success of the application).
3. On the Menu, click on Applications under My Applications tab.
4. Click on the + sign next to Research Grants.
5. Click on the *Create* button next to **NRF / São Paulo State Foundation (FAPESP) of Brazil Joint Science and Technology Research Collaboration**
6. Complete all compulsory sections and the relevant non-compulsory sections.
7. **Attach all the required documents in PDF format:**
  - **CVs of partner Principal Investigators.**
  - **Budgets of partner Principal Investigators.**
  - **Budget division of the South African team, in particular budget sharing between the historically advantaged and HDIs.**
8. Submit the application on completion.

### **UCT PIs must create an account on the SAGE system**

- Researchers who do not have a SAGE registration must initially do so by accessing the SAGE page at [www.fapesp.br/sage](http://www.fapesp.br/sage), clicking No registration? and filling in the requested data.

### **São Paulo PIs:**

The applicant from the state of São Paulo must submit the proposal exclusively through the SAGE system.

## **IMPORTANT NOTE**

Proposals submitted in different priority research areas by the collaborating PIs in the two countries (specifically for the Joint Research for Societal and Scientific Impact Funding Scheme) will not be considered.

It is of utmost importance that applicants consult the [Funding Framework](#) document for more detailed information about the funding instrument as well as budget category restrictions and items not supported, the review process and ethical considerations.