

# **Call for Applications**

## **SA/China (MOST) Joint Research Programme (JRP)**

**UCT Internal Deadline: 11 July 2025**

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

### **AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME**

This Programme aims to:

- Contribute to scientific advancement in both countries through the funding of joint research activities in specified research fields;
- Provide an opportunity for emerging and early career researchers in the two countries to meet and interact;
- Support the advancement of basic research; and
- Contribute meaningfully to research capacity development.

### **FOCUS AREAS**

This call will only support Joint research projects in the following four thematic areas:

- Information and Communication Technology
- Life Sciences
- Mining and metallurgy
- Space science and technology, including astronomy
- Agricultural technologies
- Energy technologies
- Marine technologies

### **DURATION OF PROJECTS**

Projects will be supported for a maximum period of two years (2026 to 2027).

### **ELIGIBILITY**

An application must designate two Principal Investigators (PIs), one in South Africa and one in China, who will bear the main responsibility for the project, including its technical and administrative coordination as well as scientific and financial reporting.

Proposals must be received in both China and South Africa.

#### **South Africa:**

- The South African applicant must be in possession of a PhD.
- Joint projects involving emerging researchers (through reciprocal research visits and mini sabbaticals), postdoctoral fellows, and paying attention to government equity targets by ensuring a balanced involvement of female and black researchers will be positively considered and receive a higher rating.
- Each PI is allowed to submit only one proposal.
- Former PIs are welcome to participate in the call however, the project should not be a continuation of the current/past project.

#### **China:**

- This call is open to working researchers residing in Mainland China and affiliated with a recognised Chinese higher education university/college, research institution, or enterprise.

## FUNDING

The purpose of this call is to support the mobility of researchers, scientists, postdocs, and doctoral students within joint research projects. Funding is available for the following activities:

- Mobility: The exchange visits of researchers, postdocs, and doctoral students including support for research fieldwork.
- Small equipment and consumables.
- Workshops, seminars or networking events: holding meetings alternately in South Africa and China.

### South Africa:

The total amount requested from the NRF should not exceed **R300,000** per project. Funding will be made available for a maximum of two years, to be paid in annual instalments and exclusively for research activities commencing in 2026.

### China:

The total amount requested from MOST should not exceed **RMB 2 million**. Further information on the funding modalities for the Chinese researchers should be addressed to the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST).

## APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION PROCESS

### South Africa

The application must be completed on the **NRF Connect System**: <https://nrfconnect.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 **SA / China (MOST) Joint Research Programme (JRP)**
6. Complete all compulsory sections and the relevant non-compulsory sections.
7. Attach all the supporting documents in PDF format:
  - CV of partner Principal Investigator.
  - Budget of partner Principal Investigator.
8. Submit the application on completion.

### China

Application forms and guidelines for Chinese applicants can be found through the following link: <http://www.cistc.gov.cn/>.

## IMPORTANT NOTE

It is of utmost importance that applicants consult the [Funding Framework Document](#) for more detailed information about the scorecard for assessment, as well as the review process and funding conditions.

The NRF recommends the use of the DCC Checklist for Data Management Plan as a guide when drafting the Data Management Plan for the application proposal. For UCT Research Data Management information and resources, please go to <http://www.digitalservices.lib.uct.ac.za/dls/services/rdm>

For technical enquiries, please contact the NRF Support Desk: [Supportdesk@risa.nrf.ac.za](mailto:Supportdesk@risa.nrf.ac.za)