Call for Applications
Support for Y-rated Researchers

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

The [Research Development Grants for Y-Rated Researchers](#) is a funding instrument dedicated to the development of Y-Rated Researchers and a key enabler of a transformed, highly skilled science and technology community. The instrument is aimed at enhancing the efficiency of the NRF to drive transformation consistently and strategically through supporting primarily basic research as the foundation of knowledge production in the disciplines of the Humanities, Social and Natural Sciences.

As a competitive funding instrument, the chief eligibility criteria are:
  I.   A valid NRF Y-rating of the principal applicant;
  II. Scientific merit and quality of the research proposal; and
  III. Project management and Feasibility of the proposed study.

Applicants must be mindful of three strategic priorities of the 7th democratic administration, which are:
- A commitment to drive inclusive growth and job creation.
- A clear focus on reducing poverty and tackling the high cost of living.
- A resolve to build a capable, ethical and developmental state.

ELIGIBILITY

- A **valid NRF Y-rating** of the principal applicant.
- Each new Principal Investigator may only submit ONE application to this call.
- Full-time employees who are eligible to apply and who hold a valid NRF Y-rating at the time of application, may submit an application.
- NRF-rated part-time employees on contract who hold a valid Y-Rating may apply, on condition their appointment is for (at least) the duration of the project applied for in the submission. The length of the contract should be stated in the application form. The primary employment of the individual concerned must be at the institution. A contract researcher appointed at a research institution on behalf of a third party to fulfil a very specific function for the latter does not qualify for support.
- Successful Y-rated applicants will be eligible for funding for the duration of their awarded grant, to a maximum of 3 years. The grant allocation will be allowed to run for the duration of the award, even if the principal investigator loses his / her rating status during this period.
- Previous Y-rated grant holders are not eligible to apply again.

FUNDING

The grants of this funding instrument are to be primarily used for research purposes and for the development of associated human resources under the auspices of the NRF standard grant and finance policies.

Each application may request funding of not more than R300 000 for a period of 3 years. Therefore, applicants should budget over a three-year period, and each year should be a maximum of R100 000 per annum. Financial requests need to be in line with requirements and accurately reflect the financial needs of the proposed work.

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION PROCESS

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 **Support for Y-rated Researchers**
6. Complete all compulsory sections and the relevant non-compulsory sections.
7. Attach all the required documents in PDF format
8. Submit the application on completion.

IMPORTANT NOTE

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.

Applicants are only allowed to submit one application under the emerging researchers funding opportunities (BAAP, Thuthuka, Young Academics Accelerator Programme (YAAP) or Support for Y-rated researchers programme).

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

Mentorship

The NRF recognises mentorship as an important mechanism for the professional development and guidance of emerging researchers. The DSTI and Universities South Africa (USAf) have established an online platform (Thuso Connect and Thuso Resources) to support emerging researchers and academics through the provision of tools, information and mentorship to everyone seeking to grow their research career. Thuso Connect is a national online platform designed to give South African researchers and scholars an opportunity to participate in an online, interactive mentorship programme. All the grantholders are encouraged to visit the Thuso Resources website on the following link https://thusoresources.usaf.ac.za/ and enrol on the Thuso Connect national online platform for the mentorship programme

For technical enquiries, please contact the NRF Support Desk: Supportdesk@risa.nrf.ac.za