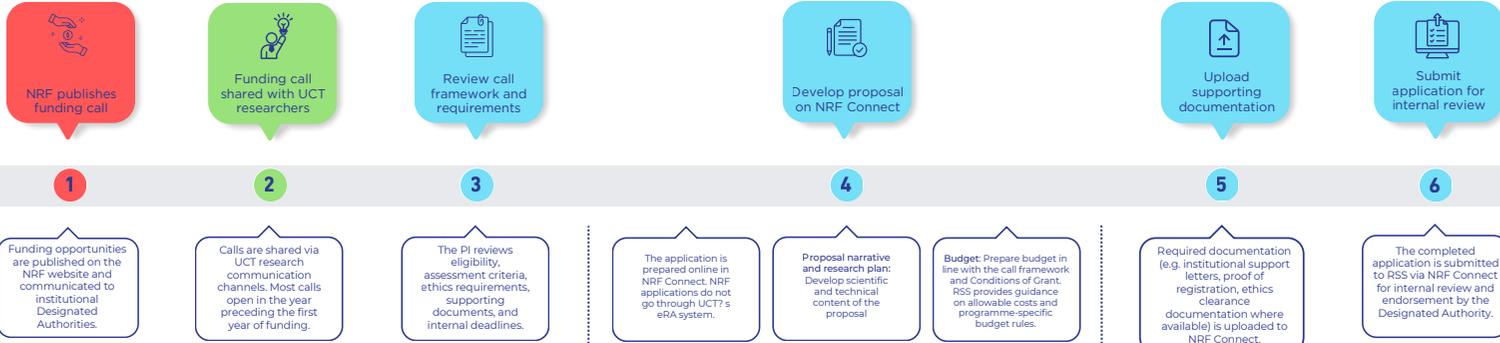




National Research Foundation Funding Infographic

This infographic provides a high-level overview of the key steps involved in applying for and accepting a National Research Foundation (NRF) grant at UCT, from the release of a funding call through to award acceptance and contracting. It shows what happens at each stage, who is responsible, and how the process flows, helping you quickly understand where you are in the application process and where to find more detailed guidance if needed

- National Research Foundation (NRF)
- Research Support Services (Designated Authority)
- Principal Investigator (PI)
- Research Contract & Innovation (RC&I)



Funding opportunities are published on the NRF website and communicated to institutional Designated Authorities.

Calls are shared via UCT research communication channels. Most calls open in the year preceding the first year of funding.

The PI reviews eligibility, assessment criteria, ethics requirements, supporting documents, and internal deadlines.

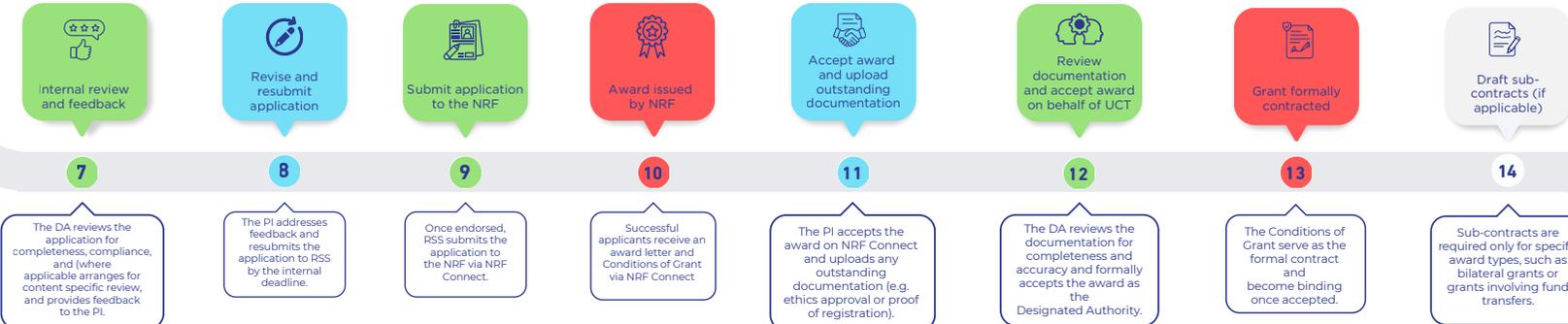
The application is prepared online in NRF Connect. NRF applications do not go through UCT's eRA system.

Proposal narrative and research plan: Develop scientific and technical content of the proposal

Budget: Prepare budget in line with the call framework and Conditions of Grant. RSS provides guidance on allowable costs and programme-specific budget rules.

Required documentation (e.g. institutional support letters, proof of registration, ethics clearance documentation where available) is uploaded to NRF Connect.

The completed application is submitted to RSS via NRF Connect for internal review and endorsement by the Designated Authority.



The DA reviews the application for completeness, compliance, and (where applicable) arranges for content specific review, and provides feedback to the PI.

The PI addresses feedback and resubmits the application to RSS by the internal deadline.

Once endorsed, RSS submits the application to the NRF via NRF Connect.

Successful applicants receive an award letter and Conditions of Grant via NRF Connect

The PI accepts the award on NRF Connect and uploads any outstanding documentation (e.g. ethics approval or proof of registration).

The DA reviews the documentation for completeness and accuracy and formally accepts the award as the Designated Authority.

The Conditions of Grant serve as the formal contract and become binding once accepted.

Sub-contracts are required only for specific award types, such as bilateral grants or grants involving fund transfers.

