

## SOUTH AFRICA / ARGENTINA JOINT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH COLLABORATION

### CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS (2016)

**CLOSING DATE: 10 June 2016**

In 2006 South Africa and Argentina signed an inter-governmental bilateral agreement on cooperation in the fields of science and technology to be jointly implemented and administrated by the National Research Foundation (NRF) in South Africa and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (MINCyT) in Argentina.

The objective of this collaboration is to further strengthen science, technology and innovation between the two nations. In terms of this agreement, we are pleased to announce the **fourth call for joint research project** proposals between South African and Argentine researchers.

#### Aims of the Programme

- To contribute to scientific advancement in both countries through the funding of joint research activities in specified research fields;
- To provide an opportunity for young researchers in the two countries to meet and interact;
- To support the advancement of basic research; and
- To contribute meaningfully to research capacity development.

#### Areas of Cooperation

Funding will be made available for **conducting joint research projects only**, and only in the following identified priority areas:

- Agri-ICT
- Biotechnology.

In terms of human capital development, South African applications from previously disadvantaged researchers are encouraged, as is the involvement of historically disadvantaged higher education institutions.

#### Duration of projects

The projects will be supported for a period of three years.

#### **Application Deadline:**

Call Opens: 13 April 2016

Call Closes: 10 June 2016

Please note: DAs have until 15 June 2016 to validate applications.

#### **Contacts for Enquiries:**

<b>For South Africa</b>	<b>For Argentina</b>
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#### **Duration of projects**

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#### **Who may apply?**

##### ***South Africa:***

This call is open to working researchers residing in South Africa and affiliated with a recognised higher education or research institution such as a university, university of technology or science council. The South African applicant must be in possession of a PhD.

##### ***Argentina:***

Priority will be given to:

- Projects aimed at training and specialization of young scientists

- Projects that have not participated in cooperation programmes financed by MINCYT between Argentina and South Africa in the last three years, and those projects that are not currently receiving funding from other Programmes of Cooperation with other countries
- The beneficiary of the exchange should be different in each year of implementation.

An application must designate two principal investigators, one in South Africa and one in Argentina, who will bear the main responsibility for the project, including its technical and administrative coordination as well as scientific and financial reporting. Commercial institutions and private education institutions are not eligible to apply under this programme.

### **How do I apply?**

**South Africa:** Applicants can apply by following the steps below:

- Applications must be submitted electronically to the NRF on the NRF Online Submission System at <https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/>
- Register/Login using your ID number and password.
- Go to “My Applications” and select “Create Application”.
- Select the call for which you are applying for: **South Africa/Argentina Call for Proposals 2017**.
- Complete all compulsory sections and the CV sections in full. Please attach the required documents in PDF format in the following order: CV of partner, budget of partner and a signed support letter from Partner Principal Investigator.
- Remember to submit your application on completion.
- Complete applications will go to the host institutions for verification before being forwarded to the NRF for further processing.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered (please refer to the call document for details on eligibility).
- Please contact your research office or Designated Authority if you have any queries.

### ***Please note:***

Applications submitted outside the NRF submission system will not be accepted. No hard copies will be accepted and will automatically be disqualified by the NRF. Only applications endorsed by the research office or its equivalent at higher education or research institutions will be accepted.

**Argentina:** The Argentine applicants must submit the “NRF Form” electronically to [lirazoqui@mincyt.gob.ar](mailto:lirazoqui@mincyt.gob.ar). In addition, they must submit a hardcopy application titled “Institutional Form” to **Godoy Cruz 2320, 4th, C.P. C1425FQD Capital Federal and address it to Azul Irazoqui**. This original application form should bear the signatures of the Argentine Authorities, while the signature of the South African Principal Investigator may be scanned.

The onus is on the applicant to find their own research partner. Proposals must be received in both South Africa and Argentina. Proposals which have only been received in either South Africa or Argentina, but not both, will not be considered for funding. The call process is highly competitive; therefore submission of an application does not guarantee funding. The availability of funds and the evaluation of applications from both countries should be positive for them to be considered for funding. Both the NRF and MINCYT will not be held responsible for non-submission, administration or evaluation of the application in the partner country.

### **Which activities may I apply for?**

The purpose of this call is to support the mobility of researchers, scientists, postdocs and doctoral students between the two countries, and therefore only includes visits and exchanges of leading and young scientists, technical personnel or other experts on general or specific subjects.

In the case of research visits and exchanges of scientists, personnel and experts, as well as reciprocal visits undertaken as part of joint research projects funded under this agreement, **the sending side will be responsible for financing international travel, visas and medical insurance. The receiving side will be responsible for financing the accommodation, local travel and subsistence of visiting researchers.**

The following may **NOT** be funded from the funds allocation:

- Consultants' fees
- Educational expenses (scholarships and/or bursaries, etc.)
- Large equipment
- Workshops, seminars and conferences
- Project management fees
- Salaries and temporary staff fees.

**For South African researchers:** All other expenses, including operational running costs and research materials, may be financed from the allocation accorded in terms of this call. Up to 15% of the funds may be used for consumables. Should the allocated funds allow – researchers may also make use of these for publication costs.

### **Duration of the visits**

- Short-term research visits: Up to 15 days.
- Intermediate duration visits: Up to 21 days.
- Long-term visits: Up to 30 days.
- Maximum duration visits: Up to 60 days.

Research visits (short- and intermediate term visits) are aimed at trained researchers. Human resources training visits (long and maximum duration visits) are targeting doctoral and post-doctoral students.

### **Number of exchanges**

One visit of an Argentine researcher to South Africa and one visit of a South African researcher to Argentina are allowed per year.

All visits must be executed within the period for which they were approved in the submitted proposal and should not be transferred to another for delayed implementation. For Argentine researchers all resources allocated shall expire if not used in the year for which they had been approved.

### **Funding Modalities**

Funding will be available for a maximum of three years for **3-year collaborative research projects** jointly developed and completed by researchers on both sides. In both countries, all the approved projects will receive funding support from the two parties in terms of the cost of activities mentioned above. Apart from the financial support from the two parties, institutions and universities in both countries are encouraged to solicit other funding resources.

### **How much may I apply for?**

#### ***South Africa:***

The total amount requested from the NRF should not exceed **R450 000 per project**. Funding will be made available for a maximum of three years, to be paid in annual installments (**R150 000 per year**) and exclusively for research activities commencing in 2017.

#### ***Argentina:***

MINCyT shall not pay money to the approved projects directly, but it must translate the approved amount into missions, presented in the form of air-tickets and per diems.

Missions must be indicated in the application form, duly justified, including their duration, the estimated dates and names of the involved researchers. Project approval by both countries shall imply approval of the visits in accordance with the terms established in the form, unless otherwise stated in the Bilateral Minutes signed by both Parties.

All missions must be executed within the period for which they were approved by both parties and should not be transferred to another for delayed implementation.

#### **Please do take note that:**

- should you be successful you will be funded only for the activities within the scope of the guidelines;

- the requested amounts do not necessarily imply that this amount will be awarded upon selection for funding.
- scientific and financial reporting on the project is an OBLIGATORY condition of funding in subsequent years.

### **How are applications evaluated?**

Following the closing date indicated below, applications will be submitted to both a postal and a panel review. The panel will include recognised local experts in the various fields of research represented by the proposals received. These experts will evaluate each proposal based on the following criteria:

- Scientific and technical merit
- Suitability and feasibility
- International significance
- Possible impact of the research / national priority
- Potential for promoting equity and redress / capacity building
- Student involvement.

Particular emphasis is to be placed on the training of students and young researchers achieved through research and the transfer of knowledge and know-how aimed at socio-economic development. The integration of young researchers and students, and the exchange of post-doctoral researchers are encouraged, as is the involvement of students and researchers from previously disadvantaged communities.

Following local evaluation, a shortlist of projects to be funded will be constituted through consultations between the NRF and MINCyT based on the results of the evaluations done in both countries. Please note that, although the two Parties undertake to execute the evaluation and selection process as quickly as possible so as to notify applicants of the results as soon as possible, the nature of the bilateral process requires the alignment of the commencement of each phase of the process with the partnering country, whose schedules may differ significantly.

### **Projects follow-up and reporting**

- A final scientific report will be submitted in English by both the South African and the Argentine project leaders no more than 3 months after the end of the project. South African researchers are expected to submit a financial report as well.
- The report will mention the outputs of the projects compared with the objectives and aims of the proposal.
- The joint publications by the researchers will mention the support from the NRF and MINCyT.

### **Intellectual property**

The researchers of each country, particularly the leaders, must take adequate steps to ensure protection and sharing of the intellectual property that could result from the joint projects.

### **When is the closing date for applications?**

Applications for both South Africa and Argentina must be submitted by **10 June 2016**. Applications received after this date will not be considered for funding.

Please note that neither the NRF nor MINCyT will be held responsible for applications that were not received. Researchers are also advised to ensure that their research partners' applications are submitted and have also been received in the partner country.

**Where can I obtain more information?**

<b>For South Africa</b>	<b>For Argentina</b>
<p>Ms Nombuso Madonda Professional Officer: Overseas Cooperation International Relations and Cooperation National Research Foundation Tel: +27 12 481 4285 Email: <a href="mailto:nombuso.madonda@nrf.ac.za">nombuso.madonda@nrf.ac.za</a></p>	<p>Lic. Azul Irazoqui Responsable proyectos- Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva Tel: +54 11 4899-5000 ext. 4128 E-mail: <a href="mailto:lirazoqui@mincyt.gob.ar">lirazoqui@mincyt.gob.ar</a></p>