

Call for Applications

South Africa / France PROTEA Call for Joint Research Proposals

UCT Internal Deadline: 18 July 2025

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

The South Africa/France PROTEA Programme is a bilateral incentive programme dedicated to strengthening collaborative research between the two countries. The programme is a financial instrument supporting mobility and training of “incoming and outgoing” researchers, contributing to the development of new partnerships and to the strengthening of advanced scientific and technological exchanges between research institutions in South Africa and France.

AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

This Programme aims to:

- Contribute to scientific advancement in both countries by funding researchers’ mobility in the frame of joint research projects;
- Provide an opportunity for young and emerging researchers to cooperate in an international setting and to develop their scientific careers, especially for early-stage, mid-career as well as female researchers;
- Support the advancement of basic and applied research; and
- Contribute meaningfully to research capacity development.

FOCUS AREAS

The call is open to all scientific disciplines and thematic areas, including social sciences and the humanities, as well as Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS).

DURATION OF PROJECTS

The projects will be supported for a period of two years (projects starting in 2026 and ending in December 2027).

ELIGIBILITY

- An application must designate two Principal Investigators (PIs), one in South Africa and one in France, who will bear the main responsibility for the project, including its technical and administrative coordination as well as scientific and financial reporting.
- The focus of the Programme lies in new international partnerships. Therefore, follow-up proposals with the same research partners will not be prioritised for funding (if they have already been funded under this Programme).
- The South African applicant must be in possession of a PhD.
- Applications with the involvement of historically disadvantaged higher education institutions will be prioritised.
- In France, the call is open to working researchers residing in France with a recognised French higher education university/college, research institution, or enterprise.
- The onus is on the applicants to find their own research partners.
- Proposals must be received in both South Africa and France.

FUNDING

- The purpose of this call is to support the mobility of researchers between the two countries to carry out joint research projects. In this regard, funding will be made available for visits and exchanges of scientists conducting joint research in their area of specialisation.
- In 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.
- In France, funding requests should not exceed €20 000 (10.000€ per year).
- Research stays in both countries are obligatory.

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION PROCESS

In 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 / France (PROTEA) Call for Joint Proposals**
6. Complete all compulsory sections and the relevant non-compulsory sections.
7. Attach all the supporting documents in PDF format
8. Submit the application on completion.

In France, the French team's project proposals, in French, must be submitted online at: [protea on line submission of the French proposals](http://www.campusfrance.org/fr/protea) : <http://www.campusfrance.org/fr/protea>

IMPORTANT NOTE

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

Joint projects with the potential to lead to future bilateral and multilateral co-operations within the French, South African and European research programmes will be favourably considered. Also, the joint projects by young scientists incorporating PhD students, and those that pay particular attention to a balanced involvement of female and male researchers (gender equality) will be positively considered and will receive a higher rating.

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