



science
& technology
Department:
Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRIC.



National
Research
Foundation

JAMAICA / SOUTH AFRICA JOINT SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR 2018-2020 JOINT PROJECTS

CLOSING DATE: 20 June 2017

A MAXIMUM OF THREE (3) JOINT PROJECTS WILL BE FUNDED FOR THIS CALL

Pursuant to the Programme of Activity (POA) adopted on 17 November 2016 at the 3rd Joint Committee Meeting established under the Scientific and Technological Agreement between the South Africa Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Jamaica Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology (MSET), we are pleased to announce the very first joint call for 2017. As the implementing agencies the National Research Foundation (NRF) and the National Commission on Science and Technology (NCST) invite all interested parties to submit their applications, by a date no later than that indicated.

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 engage;
- To support the advancement of basic research; and
- To contribute meaningfully to research capacity development.

Areas of cooperation

Joint research proposals may be submitted in the following designated thematic areas prioritised by the South Africa / Jamaica collaboration:

- Indigenous Knowledge Systems
- Water Research

In terms of human capital development, South African applications from previously disadvantaged individuals and the involvement of historically disadvantaged higher education and research institutions will be prioritised.

Duration of projects

The projects will be supported for three years from January 2018 to December 2020.

Who may apply?

South Africa: This call is open to employed 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 PI (Principal Investigator) must be in possession of a PhD.

Jamaica: This call is open to employed researchers residing in Jamaica and affiliated with a recognised higher education, public or private non-profit research organization or unit.

Commercial and private education institutions are not eligible to apply under this programme. The Jamaican PI must be in possession of a PhD.

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

How do I apply?

South African and Jamaican applicants shall write a joint application to be submitted to both NCST and the NRF. The joint application must be written in English.

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: **Jamaica / South Africa Joint Science and Technology Research Collaboration Call for Project Proposals 2018**.
- 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, a signed letter from the Partner Principal Investigator, work plan and a student exchange programme plan.
- 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 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 Online 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.

Jamaica: Applicants can apply by following the steps below.

- Applications must be submitted on the form entitled **South Africa / Jamaica Joint Science and Technology Research Collaboration Call for Project Proposals 2018** form which can be found on the NCST website; www.ncst.gov.jm.
- Application forms must be completed electronically.
- Please attach the required documents in PDF format in the following order: CV of partner, budget of partner, a signed letter from the Partner Principal Investigator, official endorsement from Head of the PI’s organization, work plan and a researcher/student (in the case of HEI) exchange programme plan
- Email the application form and supporting documents in PDF to ncst@mset.gov.jm under the subject **SA-JA JOINT CALL 2018**.
- Remember to complete all sections in full.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered (please refer to ‘Who Can Apply?’ above for details on eligibility).
- Applications submitted outside of the guidelines above and/or after the deadline will not be accepted.
- **Hard copies will not be accepted and will automatically be disqualified by the NCST.**
- Please contact the NCST if you have any queries.

The onus is on the applicant to find their own research partner. **Proposals must be received in both Jamaica and South Africa.** Proposals which have only been received in either South Africa or Jamaica, but not both countries, will not be considered for funding. The call process is highly competitive therefore application does not guarantee funding. The evaluation of applications from both countries should have positive ratings before consideration for funding. Neither the NRF nor NCST will be held responsible for non-submission 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, post-docs and short-term research placements of doctoral students between the two countries to carry out joint research projects. In this regard, funding will be made available for visits and exchanges of leading and young scientists, technical personnel or other experts conducting joint research within the above-mentioned thematic area of cooperation. Support will be provided for collaborative basic, applied and innovation research projects. Funds can be used to cover the following costs:

- **Research-related costs** - including field work, publication costs, etc.
- **Exchange programmes** - mobility of researchers, postdocs, doctoral and masters students between the two countries.
- **Doctoral and Masters research placements** - for visits not shorter than 2 weeks and not longer than 3 months per annum.
- **Knowledge sharing costs** – In support of project related activities, such as joint workshops, seminars, conferences, symposia, lecturer presentations, meetings, local and regional dissemination of results to relevant stakeholders.
- **Joint programme workshops** – travel costs for the launching and closing workshops for all granted projects.
- **Consumables** -15% of the budget is allowed for consumables and accessories.

The PhD and Masters placements must be managed to fit within the original funded period of the studentship. Additional funding will not be made available through this call or by the funders to support studentship extensions for those undertaking international placements. Applicants should include information about how these exchanges will be managed within their proposal.

In the case of meetings, research visits and exchanges of scientists, personnel, experts and students, as well as reciprocal visits undertaken as part of joint research projects and the attendance of seminars, symposia and other meetings funded under this agreement, the **sending Investigator** will be responsible for financing international travel, visas, and medical insurance.

Fees relating to accommodation, ground transport, living expenses, and the organisation of events (venue, catering, audio-visual equipment etc.) will be the financial responsibility of the **host investigator** which is to be paid from his / her allocation of the joint funding.

The NRF and NCST will also organise **launching and closing workshops** for the programme (maximum of 2-days per workshop) and Principal Investigators should include, in their budget plans, the costs of attending these two workshops (i.e. travel and accommodation costs). The launching workshop will be held in Jamaica (in February 2018) and the closing workshop in South Africa (in March 2020).

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

- Consultant's fees
- Educational expenses (scholarships and/or bursaries, etc.)
- Large equipment
- Project management fees
- Salaries, stipends and temporary staff fees.

All other expenses, including operational running costs and research materials, may be financed from the NRF and NCST allocation according to the terms of this call.

How much may I apply for?

South Africa: While NRF funding levels are not fixed the total amount of funding requested should preferably not exceed **R900 000**. Funding will be made available for a maximum of three years, to be paid in annual instalments (**R300 000 per year**) and exclusively for research activities commencing in 2018. This amount excludes the Principal Investigator's costs (travel and accommodation) of attending both the launching and closing workshop organized by the funders. The cost for the Principal Investigator's participation in these two workshops will be a top-up of a maximum amount of **R200 000 per project** (and should be included in the project application). Principal Investigators may make use of this amount to also invite the young researchers (i.e. PhD students) who will be involved in the joint projects and undertaking short-term placements.

Jamaica: The total amount of funding requested should not exceed **JMD \$7.5 million**. Funding will be made available for a maximum of three years, to be paid in annual instalments (**JMD \$2.5 million per year**) and exclusively for research activities commencing in 2018. This amount excludes the Principal Investigator's costs (travel and accommodation) of attending both the launching and closing workshop organized by the funders. The cost for the Principal Investigator's participation in these two workshops will be a top-up of a maximum amount of **JMD \$2 million per project** (and should be included in the project application). Principal Investigators may make use of this amount to also invite the young researchers (i.e. PhD students) who will be involved in the joint projects and undertaking short-term placements.

Please do take note that:

- should you be successful you will be funded only for the activities within the scope of the guidelines;
- a **maximum of 3 joint projects** will be funded for this call; and
- 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, applications will be submitted to both a postal and panel review by recognised experts. The experts will evaluate each proposal based on the following criteria:

- Scientific and technical merit
- Suitability and feasibility
- International significance
- Value addition by the collaboration / national priority
- Potential for promoting equity and redress / capacity building
- Involvement of students and/or young scientists through exchange programmes and short – term placements.

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 groups or communities.

Following local evaluation, a shortlist of projects to be funded will be constituted through consultations between the NRF and NCST 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.

Project follow-up and reporting

- A final scientific and financial report will be submitted in English by both the South African and the Jamaican project leaders no more than 3 months after the end of the project.
- 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 NCST.

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 Jamaica must be submitted by **20 June 2017**. Applications received after this date will not be considered for funding.

Please note that the NRF or NCST will not 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?

For South Africa (NRF)	For Jamaica (NCST)
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