

FUNDING -Bulletin

May 2013

From the Director's Desk

The BDIL Unit facilitated two sessions for researchers through the Researcher Development Meeting, where they were introduced and familiarised with funding opportunities available through the National Research Foundation (NRF) and Research Africa.

Below a summary of the two sessions and links to more information if you require it.

National Research Foundation

Dr. Ndanduleni Nthambeleni, Executive Director: Grants Management and Systems Administration at the NRF presented an overview of the NRF as well as existing opportunities. The funding opportunities included; Student Support, Grant Specific Eligibility and Evaluation and Rating.

The NRF advises researchers to regularly visit the NRF website to find funding opportunities and to check for notifications of changes and updates on the current status of the respective programmes.

The List of NRF funding opportunities:

| Broad Investment Area | Funding Programmes |
|---|--|
| NEXT GENERATION | Professional Development Programme |
| | Student Support |
| | Thuthuka : PhD Track |
| EMERGING RESEARCHERS | Competitive Support for Unrated Researchers |
| | Postdoctoral Fellowships |
| | Professional Development Programme |
| | Thuthuka : Post-PhD Track |
| | Thuthuka: NRF Rating Track |
| ESTABLISHED RESEARCHERS | African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme |
| | African Origins Platform |
| | Blue Skies Research |
| | Community Engagement Programme |
| | Competitive Programme for Rated Researchers |
| | Education Research in South Africa |
| | Global Change, Society and Sustainability Research Programme |
| | Human Capital Development for Multi-Wavelength Astronomy |
| | Incentive Funding for Rated Researchers |
| | Indigenous Knowledge Systems |
| | International Research Grants |
| | Knowledge Fields Development |
| | SA National Antarctic Programme |
| Technology and Human Resources for Industry Programme | |
| STRATEGIC INVESTMENT | Centres of Excellence |
| | Knowledge Interchange and Collaboration |
| | South African Research Chairs Initiative |
| INFRASTRUCTURE | Equipment Related Travel and Training Grants |
| | Research Infrastructure Support Programmes |

PLEASE PROVIDE US WITH FEEDBACK!

We would really value your feedback on any session you feel that research or your research programme will benefit from. Please email me on bprince@hsrc.ac.

Grant Management System Administration (GMSA)

The Grants Management and Systems Administration (GMSA) Directorate implements grant management in partnership with and on behalf of the funding directorates of RISAs, namely Knowledge Fields Development (KFD), International Science Liaison (ISL), Human and Institutional Capacity Development (HICD) and Applied and Industrial Research and Innovation (AIRI). Grant management can broadly be divided into pre- and post-award activities.



Contact

Dr Ndanduleni B. Nthambeleni

Executive director : Grant Management Systems Administration

Email: bernard@nrf.ac.za

Tel: +27 (0)12 481 4182

Research Africa



Ms Karen Bruns

The speaker from Research Africa, Ms Karen Bruns made the following points:

Since 1994 Research Africa has been publishing research-based [funding opportunities](#) and news about [research policy](#) in our UK newsletter [Research Fortnight](#) from London. Research has now steadily expanded to cement itself as the leading source of news and funding opportunities, on paper and online, for customers all over the world.

Research Africa employs specialist analysts and other professionals in Brussels, Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands, South Africa, the UK and the United States.

Their daily e-mail updates, websites and databases provide constantly updated and reliable information, giving customers the information they need to succeed in today's competitive research-funding environment.

Analysts, contributors, reporters and editors are in direct contact with research funding agencies and universities throughout the world, scouring all available sources for the latest [research funding opportunities](#).

The HSRC subscribes to Research Africa and encourages all researchers to utilise this rich resource.

For assistance with registering on the Research Africa database, contact Carla Pheiffer or Billie-Jean Winnaar.

Research Africa has put together a quick start guide to using Research Professional Africa, the first source of information and expertise on news, funding opportunities and sponsorship information for African institutions. For more information and to download the quick start guide go [here](#).

Who we are



Bridgette Prince
Director
bprince@hsrc.ac.za
Extension 7968



Michilene Meyer
mmeyer@hsrc.ac.za
Extension 8082



Hema Somai
hsomai@hsrc.ac.za
Extension: 8006



Carla Pheiffer
cpheiffer@hsrc.ac.za
Extension 2324



Billie-Jean Winnaar
bjwinnaar@hsrc.ac.za
Extension 2519



BDIL Staff Movement

Jothie Moodley of the BDIL team has joined the Office of the DCEO from 1 May 2013.

Michilene Meyer will be returning on the 16 May 2013 after her maternity leave.



Funding Alerts

Please note that funding alerts are grouped into units. Each unit has a designated staff member to assist them.

Carla Pheiffer can be contacted on extension 2324
DGSD
EPD
PHHSI

Billie-Jean Winnaar can be contacted on extension 2519
ESD
HSD
RIA
HAST

Getting Funded in 2013



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Funding Alerts

Contact Carla Pheiffer ☎ 2324

Economic Performance & Development

| TITLE | DATE DUE | FUNDER |
|---|----------|--------|
| Royal Society-DFID: Africa Capacity Building Initiative | Various | DFID |

Summary:

This scheme is for scientists who want to develop collaborative research consortia between sub-Saharan Africa and a university or independent research institute in the UK.

The overall aim of the scheme is to strengthen the research capacity of universities and research institutions in sub-Saharan Africa by supporting the development of sustainable research networks.

The objectives are to:

- facilitate sustainable multidisciplinary partnerships between research groups in sub-Saharan Africa and the UK.
- strengthen research and training capacity in sub-Saharan African Institutions of Higher Education through the skill transfer between the partner organisations of the research consortia.
- produce a cadre of young, talented researchers through integrated PhD scholarships and shared supervision of post-graduate students between the UK-based and African consortia members.

The scheme is funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID). For more information go [here](#).

Funding Alerts

Contact Billie-Jean Winnaar ☎ 2519

Education & Skills Development

| TITLE | DATE DUE | FUNDER |
|-------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| Training and Assessment Study | 17/05/2013 | Western Cape Education Department |

Summary:

The appointment of services to provide literacy (languages) and numeracy (mathematics) Training and Conduct an assessment study in 255 primary schools across the Western Cape over a period of 24 June 2013 to 30 June 2015.

NB: Compulsory Information Session will be held on 7 May 2013 at 11:00 at the Grand Central Towers, Lower Plein Street, Cape Town, Second Floor, Conference Room 4.



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Funding Alerts

Contact Billie-Jean Winnaar ☎ 2519

HIV/AIDS, STI's & TB

| TITLE | DATE DUE | FUNDER |
|--|----------|--|
| Call for proposals of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research: Preparatory Phase for submitting ideas on Research Networks for Health Innovation in Sub-Saharan Africa | | German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) |

Summary:

The BMBF is preparing a new initiative for advancing health research networks in and with Sub-Saharan Africa. The initiative aims at providing sustainable support for North-South and South-South cooperation in health research and its links to medical education and training as well as to health services delivery. For more information go [here](#).

| TITLE | DATE DUE | FUNDER |
|---|------------|-------------------------------------|
| Advancing the Impact of Effective HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Interventions (R21) | 07/05/2013 | National Institutes of Health (NIH) |

Summary:

This FOA encourages research designed to increase the impact of effective HIV/AIDS-related interventions for prevention and treatment. The two overarching goals of the FOA are to encourage projects that will 1) improve the uptake of efficacious interventions and 2) conduct research to inform and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of interventions, in order to maximize community impact. For more information go to http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/ac_search_results.htm?text_curr=r21&Search.x=0&Search.y=0&Search_Type=Activity



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Contact Billie-Jean Winnaar 📞 2519

Research Use and Impact Assessment

| TITLE | DATE DUE | FUNDER |
|---|----------|---|
| Evidence-informed policy making small grants for research | Various | International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications, GB |

Summary:

The International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications invites applications for its evidence-informed policy making small grants for research. Grants support research which deepens our understanding of the evidence-informed policy making process in low and middle income countries.

Researchers in low and middle income countries are eligible to apply. Individuals based in INASP partner countries are particularly encouraged to apply. Grants are worth up to \$5,000. For more information go

[here](#).

Submissions

April 2013

| Unit | Submission | Date |
|-------|--|---------------|
| HAST | <input type="checkbox"/> CDC - HIV Prevention Services, Capacity Building Assistance And Evaluation Activities For High-Risk, Underserved Populations In The Republic Of South Africa Under The President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) | 2 April 2013 |
| DGSD | <input type="checkbox"/> Department Home Affairs | 9 April 2013 |
| PHHSI | <input type="checkbox"/> USAID: Development Innovation Ventures | 12 April 2013 |
| HAST | <input type="checkbox"/> CDC - Comprehensive HIV & TB Prevention, Care and Treatment Services and Systems Strengthening, In facilities of South Africa's Department of Correctional Services (DCS) under the President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) | 15 April 2013 |
| ESD | <input type="checkbox"/> EuropeAid: Technical assistance services to the support to education and training II programme. | 17 April 2013 |



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TIPS!

Five common mistakes grant applicants make

The road towards winning a research grant can be bumpy—especially since many calls for proposals make for complex reading. Here, research managers from several leading South African universities share common mistakes that researchers make when reading and trying to follow application guidelines.

1. Failing to read the small print

One of the most common mistakes is that researchers don't read the instructions for applicants properly, says Ninette Mouton, research grant manager at the University of Pretoria. She advises researchers to write a list of points that the funders want and another of items that are not covered under the grants. After writing the lists they should match up their needs with those of the funders. To make sure their applications match the call for proposals, researchers can utilise the language used by the funder to describe their project. "Use the same terminologies that the funder uses when writing the proposal summary," she says.

2. Fear of e-filing

Nthabiseng Motloi, research manager at the University of South Africa, says many researchers struggle with electronic submissions, which has become the norm in the digital era. Some funder websites are not user-friendly, and technical errors can occur. This can be frustrating, she says, but it's important to be patient. "Researchers get disappointed when the systems crash," she says. At such times, research management offices can help researchers with e-filing support, she adds.

3. Last-minute applications

Many researchers leave reading the application guidelines until it's too late, says another South African research officer, who did not wish to be named. "Some academics relax until the deadline approaches. This leads them to make mistakes," she says. Taking time to prepare and write applications is key for success, she adds. Sending applications to friends or colleagues to proofread is another good practice.

4. Confusion over costing

Bavesh Kana, a researcher at the University of Witwatersrand, says that the financial planning of a proposal can be particularly tricky. "There are some terminologies like 'direct and indirect cost' that need familiarity," he says. The way to get clarity on these issues is usually to ask the funder directly, he says.

5. Failing to ask questions

Some application guidelines will remain ambiguous and difficult to understand even with the most meticulous reading. Jannan Dietrich, a researcher at the Perinatal HIV Research Unit of the University of Witwatersrand, says that when this happens, researchers need to contact the funders and ask them to clarify. "Researchers have to build good relationships with funding agencies so as to get instant support when any queries arise," she says.



How To



Making the most of a memorandum – A guide to making MOUs work in Africa.

As formal structures that enable research organisations to collaborate, Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) are becoming increasingly popular in Africa.

But not all MOUs work. While some develop into training programmes for students and staff, as well as joint research, others never move off the paper into benefits in the real world.

What makes some succeed while others fail?

For starters, funding is crucial. A lack of it is the reason why many MOUs fail to flourish.

The University of Namibia, for instance, is struggling to sustain over 100 MOUs on a small budget. Nambata Namweya, its acting director for external and international relations, says her department requested US\$78,000 to operationalise the MOUs this year but received only US\$52,000. "We are not getting what we want for these agreements to work successfully," says Namweya. Her university's story shows that it is possible to have too many MOUs. At the moment, she is forced to prioritise those that are already active.

Apart from funding availability, the source of funding also matters. Ideally, both parties should bring something to the table. Putting money towards an MOU can only benefit the collaborating partners, says Loveness Kaunda, director of international academic programmes at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. "Funding makes it possible to sustain the connection between the partners in an MOU. It is unreasonable to sign MOUs if they cannot be resourced well enough to reap benefits," she says.

An investment

It may seem like a luxury to spend money on building partnerships when academics could use that funding to sustain their own research projects. But Christoff Pauw, manager for international academic networks at Stellenbosch University in South Africa, says the money put into an MOU is an investment. Stellenbosch University spends about US\$64,000 annually on its MOUs, Pauw says. However, these partnerships earn money for the university, because they promote collaborative projects that win international grants. For instance, Stellenbosch and its MOU partners from five African universities won funding from the European Union-funded Intra-ACP Academic Mobility scheme last year. It was one of three consortia selected for funding.

The University of Ibadan in Nigeria earned US\$73 million over the past five years through grants accessed by networks formed from its MOUs, says vice-chancellor Isaac Adewole.

More than just money

Funding, however, is not the only ingredient for a successful MOU. Some have failed because no individual was available to drive the partnerships. In Namibia, the faculty of social work is more successful in its MOUs as the staff have taken it on themselves to drive them forward, says Namweya. "In other faculties, staff members don't seem to be proactive to talk to other people within the agreements," she adds. Some under-resourced institutions see MOUs as a way to build their capacity.

The Harare Institute of Technology in Zimbabwe has 10 MOUs, which were signed after the institute was turned into a university in 2005. The MOUs will see its partners, including universities in South Korea, construct new research facilities and provide equipment to the institute. But the growing interest in MOUs, particularly from less well-off institutions, means that some of the better-off ones on the continent are curtailing new agreements.

Stellenbosch University is increasingly turning away requests for MOUs, and the University of Cape Town signs MOUs only where there is already evidence of an informal collaboration between academics.

But for institutions like HIT "friendly" immigration laws are just as important as informal collaboration between academics for successful MOUs, said Quinton Kanhukamwe, the institute's vice-chancellor. Stringent visa requirements often hinder travel for staff exchanges and can contribute to the failure of partnerships, he added.

Showcase

The Toyota Foundation

The Toyota Foundation is a grant-making foundation established in 1974 by the Toyota Motor Corporation. The Foundation views events from a global perspective as it works to support activities that bring broad, long-term benefits to society. It identifies issues in a wide range of areas in line with the needs of the times, including human and natural environments, social welfare, and education and culture, and provides grants for research and projects that address these issues.

The Vision

Since it was established in 1974, the Toyota Foundation has provided grants to research and projects in a wide variety of areas relating to human and natural environments, social welfare, and education and culture, in line with our founding philosophy of “contributing to the realization of a human-oriented society for the sake of greater human happiness.”

In recent years, the social environment and conditions within which the Foundation operates have changed dramatically. Rather than merely responding passively to these changes, however, our aim is to keep a careful watch on society as it develops, encouraging potential for the future and working toward public welfare and the development of society. We firmly believe that the role of a private-sector foundation remains the same now as the day we started.

The Toyota Foundation has recently made a new beginning as a public interest corporation. As we make our first bold steps toward a new future, we remain committed to the spirit that has driven us since our earliest days as a private grant-making foundation.

Focus Areas:

- Human and natural environments Sustainable Development
- Social Welfare
- Education and Welfare

Contacts Details:

You may ask questions about programs open for application by phone.

Phone number for inquiry:

Tel: + 81-3-3344-1701

Website: <http://www.toyotafound.or.jp/english/entry/index.html>

For more information on the Toyota Foundation click <http://www.toyotafound.or.jp/english/entry/index.html> or contact Billie-Jean Winnaar.