**Call for Applications** **UK – South Africa Researcher Links**

**Grants for Travel and Hosting of Scientific Events**

The National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa in partnership with prominent UK academies (i.e. the British Academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering, and the Royal Society) and the British Council is pleased to invite applications for the UK – South Africa Researcher Links grants. These grants will support mobility and hosting of workshops, and are designed to provide financial support for researchers in the UK and South Africa.

Applications will be accepted in any discipline/multidisciplinary area (including from the natural sciences, social sciences, engineering, arts and humanities).

The following support is offered:

1. Travel grants for South Africa-based researchers:

      Travel grants are intended to:

·           Support researcher mobility in order to foster areas relevant to the economic development and welfare of South Africa and the UK;

·           Establish new research collaboration or significantly develop an existing collaboration, with the potential for longer term sustainability;

·           Contribute to capacity building of individual researchers and research groups.

1. Travel grants for visiting UK researchers:

Travel grants are intended to:

·           Support researcher mobility in order to foster areas relevant to the economic development and welfare of South Africa and the UK;

·           Establish new research collaboration or significantly develop an existing collaboration, with the potential for longer term sustainability;

·           Contribute to capacity building of individual researchers and research groups.

1. Support for local scientific events:

The applicants in this category are South Africa or UK-based researchers requesting financial support to organise or host small scientific events in South Africa.

**Who may apply?**

* Advanced PhD students (at a minimum, in the second year of research) and postdoctoral fellows can apply through their supervisors / hosts (ie the supervisor / host must be the eligible applicant);
* UCT researchers are eligible to apply as the principal investigator, provided that they are:

Full-time UCT employees

OR

On contract at UCT, but on condition that their appointment at UCT is for (at least) the duration of the project applied for in the submission.  The length of the contract should be stated in the application form.  Salaries must be paid by UCT and the primary employment of the individual concerned must be at UCT.

* Eligible UCT researchers can apply on behalf of their advanced PhD students (at a minimum, in the second year of research) or postdoctoral fellows.  (Please note that this is a UCT requirement, as UCT does not allow postgrad students or postdocs to hold NRF grants.)
* Applicants must be in possession of at least a Master’s degree.

**Which Activities may I apply for?**

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| Category | Item |
| Travel Grants for Individual Researchers | ·         Flights  ·         Visa costs  ·         Accommodation  ·         Ground transport  ·         Conference registration fees |
| Visiting Researchers | ·         Flights  ·         Accommodation  ·         Ground transport |
| Local Events | ·         Flights  ·         Accommodation  ·         Ground transport  .         Venue  .         Publication of conference proceedings,    abstract or books |

**Processing and Decisions**

* Applications will be considered for support for travel / events taking place between 1 August 2015 and 31 March 2016.
* Only one event / activity per applicant will be supported with no exceptions.  Supervisors can additionally submit applications for the PhD students or postdoctoral fellows, but only one event / activity per person for whom application is submitted.
* Applications need to be endorsed by the UCT Research Office. The application must be accompanied by a confirmation of the scheduled visit from the host organisation/institution/person being visited or an official acceptance of conference presentation/poster, whichever might be applicable.
* A panel consisting of external and internal persons will review each application according to the stipulated criteria.
* Mobility grant funding will be up to a maximum of R40,000  for mobility grants and a maximum of R200,000 for conference support.
* The Researcher Links grants will not cover all expenses requested, and co-investment from own/ other sources are essential. This should be clearly indicated in the application.
* Given the competitive nature of the programme and budgetary limitations, funding is not guaranteed.

**Application and Submission Process**

* Applications must be submitted through an online application process to the National Research Foundation (NRF): UK – South Africa Researcher Links Grants for Travel and Hosting of Scientific Events 2015<https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/>
* Register/Login using your ID number and password
* Select create new application from the list of existing calls
* Select the call for which you are applying for: UK – South Africa Researcher Links Grants for Travel and Hosting of Scientific Events 2015
* Remember to complete all sections of the application
* Should you not follow the guidelines for attaching the necessary supporting documents, your application may not be considered
* Remember to submit your application upon completion
* Complete applications will go to the UCT Research Office 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.  It is of utmost importance that you consult the Call Guide for more information: <https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/nrfmkii/> (click on the + sign next to the “UK – South Africa Researcher Links Grants for Travel and Hosting of Scientific Events 2015” under Open Calls section)
* Please contact the UCT Research Office if you have any queries
* UCT’s internal closing date is Tuesday, 30 June 2015.  No application will be accepted beyond this date.
* The NRF will not be held liable for server/IT problems experienced by any institution for non-submission of applications
* Applications submitted as hard copies or by email will not be accepted and will automatically be disqualified.

The UCT Research Office has provided an offline application template, which you can access [here](http://bit.ly/1JlZGmj).  Please note that this document is for information purposes only and you will have to complete the application online by logging into the NRF system using the instructions indicated above