



science and technology

Department:
Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



RISA

Research and Innovation
Support and Advancement

Innovation Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

1. Background

The National Research and Development Strategy of 2002 identified the need for a new generation of scientists to underpin the central thrust of innovation. In response, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) commits an annual investment towards the development of postdoctoral fellows under a programme called the Innovation Postdoctoral Research Fellowships. Managed in partnership with National Research Foundation (NRF), the Innovation Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme is designed to enable outstanding doctoral graduates to obtain experience of research and innovation at a higher education institution, within South Africa's technology missions and frontier programmes, in order to secure a supply of highly qualified South Africans for academia, science councils, industry and government.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the Innovation Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme are to: - enable young scientists and professionals to access world class strategic and applied research opportunities in an academic environment and thereby strengthen their *curriculum vitae* and consequently improve their career progression prospects in the national system of innovation; attract young scientists and professionals of the highest caliber in order to complement senior researchers influence on innovation through research; and support young scientists and professionals in strategic, basic and applied research with the intention of promoting of innovation.

3. Criteria for selection

3.1. Eligibility

Fellowships are open to *bonafide* South African citizens and permanent residents with doctoral degrees. Thirty percent (30%) of recipients may be foreign citizens including applicants from the

SADEC region. All applicants must have graduated less than five years ago in natural science or engineering or technology aligned with the technology missions and frontier programmes of the Department of Science and Technology. These shall include but not be limited to the science missions, grand challenges and other strategic areas for research in South Africa. South Africans studying abroad who wish to return to continue their research at local universities will be encouraged to apply. Full time employees of Higher Education Institutions are not eligible to apply.

3.2. Equity

The programme will strive for equity targets of 80% black and 60% women.

3.3. Funding Proposals

The management of the programme will be conducted by the NRF who is mandated by the National Research Foundation Act, Act No.23 of 1998 to promote and support research. The NRF will select high caliber fellows on the basis of merit (qualifications, experience, research outputs and proposed research) through selection panels employing NRF peer review processes.

3.4. Location of research work

The Fellowship will preferably not be granted to an individual in the same university department immediately after completion of a doctoral degree at that institution. Special consideration will be given to applicants where the individual's research training and outputs may be enhanced by continuing with postdoctoral research at the same institution or under the same mentor. In such instances the applicant must provide a detailed motivation describing the benefits to the applicant and for advancing innovation. Fellowships will be awarded for full-time research at higher education institutions.

4. Stipend and benefits

For the 2012 academic year, the fellowship shall be R200 000 per annum, exclusive of R15 000 institutional commitment. In addition each fellow may access a maximum of R40 000 for international study visits or conference presentations, and up to R15 000 for local conference attendance within the two-year period.

5. Institutional commitment

Host institutions and partner science councils will be expected to supplement the fellowship by a minimum of R15 000 per annum as part of the institutional commitment. In addition the host

institutions will also ensure provision of an enabling environment for fellows' research training and skills development.

6. How to apply for funding

Applicants can apply by following the steps below:

Application: <http://nrfinterim.nrf.ac.za> and **Update CV information on:** <http://nrfonline.nrf.ac.za>

- Login using your registered username (ID number) and password for the above systems.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** First time users should register with the same ID and password on both **systems**.
- Carefully read through the Scholarships and Fellowships funding manual and guidelines for applicants.
- Select the call for which you wish to apply for (refer to step by step guideline for applicants).
- Remember to complete all sections of the application and attach all the necessary documentation including certified full academic transcripts, certificates and identity documents
- Applicants must also update their CV on the NRF online system.
- Remember to submit your application on completion.
- Complete applications will go to the host university for verification before being forwarded to the NRF for further processing.
- Incomplete applications that do not include updated CV information will not be considered.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered (please refer to funding manual for details on eligibility of fellowship programmes).
- Please contact the university post graduate office or research office if you have any queries.
- The closing date for submitting applications is **30 September 2011**.