Innovation Postdoctoral Fellowships

Call for Applications for Funding in 2014

1. Background

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has made available financial support for postdoctoral fellowships in order to strengthen research capacity in all fields of science, engineering and technology, within the priority research areas for South Africa.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the Innovation postdoctoral fellowship programme are to:

- Contribute towards the increase in the number and quality of South African post-doctoral fellows within Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) fields of study in South Africa. This includes social sciences and humanities.
- Build a pipeline of the next generation of SET scientists and researchers in South Africa

3. Value and duration of the fellowship

Successful applicants will receive funding for a period of three years. The total innovation postdoctoral fellowship package for 2014 is as follows:

Postdoctoral Fellowships	R 220 000 p.a. (non-taxable stipend)
	R 50 000 p.a (contribution towards research costs)
	R 15 000 p.a (institutional contribution)

Beneficiaries are elligible for a **local travel grant** to a maximum of **R 25 000** and an **international travel grant** to a maximum of **R 45 000.** which can be used during the course of the funding period for conferences, workshop attendance or visits to a laboratory/collaborator.

5. Criteria for Selection

5.1. Eligibility

The following eligibility criteria listed below applies:

- Fellowships are open to South African citizens and permanent residents for full-time research at publicly funded research institutions in South Africa. A limited number of fellowships will be awarded to non-South African citizens based at public research institutions in South Africa.

- Exceptional doctoral graduates who recently received their doctoral degrees within the last five years and who wish to undertake research are encouraged to apply.

- Fellowships are awarded on a competitive basis, taking into account the applicants' academic achievements, outputs and research potential. Research outputs weigh heavily in the assessment of the application and applicants are encouraged to ensure a full list of their publications, conference presentations and activities are included when they complete the CV details of the application. The application can be deemed incomplete if a list of research outputs/activities is not included.

- Applicants intending to take up the innovation postdoctoral fellowship at the same institution where s(he) undertook her/his doctoral research training will only be considered for the award if a convincing motivation for pursuing a career path in the chosen research environment is provided. Special consideration will be given to applicants where the individual's research training, outputs and career progression 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.

- Full- time employees of Higher Education Institutions (HEI's) are not eligible to apply.

- All NRF fellowship awards should be held as primary funding towards the research study.

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- Fellowships may not be held simultaneously with a fellowship from any other government or NRF source or NRF administered source.

- Fellowship-holders are allowed to hold non- binding supplementary grants or emoluments to the institutional capped value for the level of study.

- Fellowship-holders must not hold full-time salaried employment during the tenure of the award.

- Fellowship-holders will be allowed to undertake a maximum of 12 hours of teaching, tutorials, assistance or demonstrations duties per week, on average, during the year of study and may be remunerated for these duties at a rate not exceeding the normal institution tariff for services rendered.

5.2. Equity

The programme will strive for equity targets of 80% black and 60% women, 4% disabilities in line with national imperatives of equity and redress.

6. How to apply for funding

Applicants can apply by following the steps below:

- Applications must be submitted through an online application process to the National Research Foundation (NRF).

- **Applicants can apply for the NRF- Innovation Post-doctoral Fellowship Call for 2014 by accessing the link: 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 to: **NRF- Innovation Post-doctoral Fellowship Call for 2014**

- Remember to complete all sections of the application form.

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- Please attach the necessary documents in **one PDF file in the following order: ID document, proof of permanent residence (if applicable) and certified academic transcripts, doctoral degree certificate (if available).**

- Should you not follow the guidelines for attaching the necessary documents your application will not be considered.

- 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 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 for the NRF- Innovation Post-doctoral Fellowship programme).

- Please contact the university post graduate office or research office if you have any queries.
- The closing date for submitting applications is **16 September 2013.**
- **Please take note of your institutions internal closing dates as these may be set to close before the actual call closing date.**

Contact persons:

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