



South African Research Chairs Initiative

NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY

The South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) is a flagship initiative of Government designed to attract and retain excellence in research and innovation within the South African National System of Innovation. Since its establishment in 2006, the initiative has been successful in attracting and retaining leading scientists into the university system and strengthening research collaborations between universities and industry. Initiated and funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the initiative is managed by the National Research Foundation (NRF) through a contractual agreement with the Department.

The NRF is pleased to announce the availability of 23 new Research Chair positions, tenable in 2015. Universities are invited to submit a notice of intent to apply for the positions. The Chairs are grouped into two categories as follows:

a) South African Research Chairs

There are 20 positions available for South African based candidates. All of the candidates must be South African females who are *bona fide* citizens or in possession of permanent residence status.

b) SA-UK Bilateral Research Chairs

The NRF has entered into an agreement with the Newton Fund in order to build on the existing friendly and co-operative relationship between South Africa and the United Kingdom. Three positions are available for the SA-UK Bilateral Research Chairs. These Chairs will be funded in partnership with the British Council, a delivery partner of the Newton Fund. The broad objectives of the SA – UK Research Chairs are to strengthen research and innovation capacities at the highest scientific level in selected research domains; and promote international exchange and cooperation with scientists in the United Kingdom. There are no restrictions on the gender and citizenship status of the candidates. However, the candidate must be based in a UK institution and be able to spend 50% of his/her time in both countries for the duration of the Chair term.

The broad disciplines and number of available Research Chairs are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Broad research fields and number of Research Chair positions

Research Discipline	Number of Chairs
<i>South African Research Chairs</i>	
Climate Change and Energy Policy	1
Global Change Social Learning Systems	1
Indigenous Knowledge Systems	1
Industrial Biotechnology for Transformative Biomass Valorisation (in partnership with the Sugar Milling Industry)	1
Sanitary and Phytosanitary Risk Management (in partnership with the Animal Health Cluster)	1
Open categories	15
<i>SA-UK Bilateral Research Chairs</i>	
Food Security, Energy and Water	3

Eligibility

- SARChI is a programme for universities. Research Chairs may be awarded to a university in partnership with a public research institution such as another university, a science council, a national research facility or a public funded research organisation;
- Only public universities in South Africa may apply for the Research Chair in an open and competitive process. Hence, no Chair will be pre-allocated to an institution.

Application process

The application process is in two stages:

Stage 1- Notice of intent to apply: This is the first stage of the application process where institutions are required to submit a notice of intent to the NRF using the attached notice form.

Stage 2 - Submission of full proposals with candidates: The NRF will send out a call to institutions to submit full proposals in January 2015. A schedule of activities is shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Research Chair Call activities and timelines

Activities	Timelines
1. Notice of intent to apply	10 December 2014 – 16 January 2015
2. Call opens for universities to submit applications	28 January 2015
3. NRF Regional Briefing Meetings	02 - 14 February 2015
4. Call closes	31 March 2015
5. Postal reviews	April – May 2015
6. Panel review meetings	May – June 2015
7. Review outcome letters sent to Deputy Vice-Chancellors	July 2015
8. Feedback letters sent to Deputy Vice-Chancellors	July 2015

Notice of Intent

The Notice of Intent (NOI) to apply is treated as privileged material and is handled in a confidential manner. The institution is not obliged to submit a grant application if an NOI is submitted. However, institutions must submit an NOI in order to submit a grant application.

Please submit the attached form, duly signed by **15 January 2015** to Mr Abel Mathopa, email: abel.mathopa@nrf.ac.za

Should you require further clarity, please contact:

Dr Thandi Mgwebi, Executive Director: Research Chairs and Centres of Excellence (phone: 012 481 4022; e-mail: thandi.mgwebi@nrf.ac.za)

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