



UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA
FREISTATA

NRF Call for Proposals: Global Change Social Sciences Research Programme 2026

The Global Change Social Sciences Research Programme call is now open on the NRF Connect system under the Research Grants category.

UFS internal closing date: 17 April 2026

Context:

The Global Change Social Sciences Research Programme (GCSSRP) is a research funding and coordination initiative run by the NRF. It is part of the broader Global Change Research Plan under the NRF's Strategic Science Missions portfolio, aimed at strengthening how social sciences, arts, and humanities engage with global change research and support sustainable and equitable responses.

Please note that this programme explicitly encourages **multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches**, seeking collaboration between academic and non-academic partners, and emphasising research that crosses traditional disciplinary boundaries to address complex societal challenges. Projects must be grounded in the social sciences or the arts/humanities but can integrate perspectives from other fields.

Main aim:

- Advances **understanding** of how societies experience and respond to global change.
- Promotes **transformative approaches to sustainability** that are *with, in, and for* societal change (often referred to as the SWIFT approach).
- Generates **co-engaged knowledge** that can influence policy, practice, and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the South African National Development Plan.

Core objectives:

The programme is designed to

- strengthen social sciences-led research on global change, bringing the social sciences, arts, and humanities to the forefront rather than only natural sciences;
- develop a coherent body of research across key areas of global change and societal transformation;
- build human and institutional capacity within South Africa for research and engagement in these fields; and
- support monitoring, evaluation, and co-learning among funded researchers.

For enquiries, please contact:

Thabi Mosoetsa (Mosoetsat@ufs.ac.za / xx7708)

Cc Nthabiseng Mosehla (Mosehlap@ufs.ac.za)

[Find here the GLOBAL CHANGE SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH PROGRAMME \(GCSSRP\) framework document.](#)