UNIVERSITY OF THE **FREE STATE**
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Research Office: Update 4 – Rating Outcomes, Appeals 2026, and 2026/27 Rating Call

Please find below a brief update on the NRF rating applications submitted during the 2024/25 and 2025/26 cycles.

2024/25 Cycle

We currently have 17 applications with outstanding outcomes. While the NRF has confirmed that the assessment panels have completed their reviews, additional reports have been requested for some applications before final decisions can be made. Consequently, these assessments are still being finalised.
In this regard, the NRF indicates that all outstanding outcomes are expected to be communicated to institutions before the end of 2026.

2025/26 Cycle

For colleagues whose applications were submitted earlier this year, the release of outcomes is expected to commence in February 2027. According to the NRF, the process is expected to be completed within eight months from the start of the announcement period.

Appeal outcomes

In addition, we are pleased to confirm that all appeal outcomes have been received from the NRF and communicated to the relevant applicants.

Looking ahead, it is expected that the NRF rating call for the **2026/27 cycle** will be announced in early January 2027.