

SAMRC call for Self-Initiated Research Grants (SIR)

The SAMRC call for Self-Initiated Research Grants (SIR) is now open. **As a prospective applicant, you will need to register online** to create a profile on the **SAMRC RIMS** database. This will enable you to apply for SIR grants. Your registration details (including your personal details) will be automatically included in your application form.

Please familiarise yourself with the following:

1. Framework document (attached), specifically the eligibility criteria
2. Internal and external closing dates
3. [Online Registration and Application Process](#)

Call name: Self-initiated Research Grants Programme

Call number: SAMRC-RFA-SIR-2024

Opening date: 12 July 2024

Internal closing date: 23 August 2024

Closing date: 30 August 2024 (midnight SAST)

Self-Initiated Research

The SAMRC's Self-initiated Research (SIR) Grants Programme is designed to support original research initiated by a researcher at a recognised research institution in various areas of health. SIR grants are in the amount of up to **R200 000** per year for a maximum period of **three years**. These funds provide support for research expenses, and it is expected that the researchers/ applicants already have in place the necessary equipment and facilities required for the proposed research.

Applications are invited in two different categories as follows:

- 1.) early-career researchers
- 2.) mid-level and established researchers.

The focus of the call is early-career scientists; however, mid-level and established researchers are also invited to apply, provided that a clear focus on capacity building is demonstrated.

Eligibility criteria

Definition of a research institution

For the purposes of the SIR programme, a research institution is defined as a legally constituted institution or organisation wherein research is one of the primary purposes for its existence, including the training of postgraduate students. The broad thrust of the organisation's research, basic or applied, should be towards the advancement of knowledge. Research institutions include universities, science councils, and other organisations whose core business is conducting research and/or training postgraduate students.

Individual eligibility

SIR grants are open to South African citizens or permanent residents only. SIR grant applicants should be either permanently employed at a recognised research institution or be

on a long-term contract (at least for the duration of the project). For early-stage investigators there must be a commitment from the institution to host the applicant and project for the duration of the grant.

Only one research proposal will be considered for funding per individual applicant and once granted, only one such grant may be held by an individual until the project has been completed. Preference will be given to individuals who have not previously been a recipient of an SIR grant. Recipients of other SAMRC grants, including individuals working within SAMRC extra-mural research units, may apply for an SIR grant; however, all such grants must be declared in their application. Research grant applications proposing work on behalf of commercial entities will not be considered. Individuals working within SAMRC intra-mural research units are not eligible to apply for an SIR grant.

Evaluation criteria

The SIR Grants Programme is highly competitive and has limited funds available. The primary consideration in determining the success of a funding application is the quality of the research proposal. However, equally important to the SAMRC is transformation and building the capacity of particularly early-career, black, and women scientists as well as resource-limited institutions. Thus, proposals from principal investigators or institutions that meet these criteria and/or involve a component of capacity building of or partnership with such individuals and/or institutions will be preferred.

2024 SIR Call

Basic navigation for the RIMS (Research and Innovation Management System):

- [Basic navigation guide](#)
- [RIMS Registration Process for non-SAMRC Users](#)

Registration process:

- Register on the SAMRC RIMS system by following the [link to guide](#) or [link to video](#).

Application process:

Capture and submit application form by using one of the following guides:

- [Detailed applicant guide](#) or
- [Summary applicant guide](#)