

SAMRC: Request for applications: Cancer research projects

The South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) is pleased to announce a new request for applications (RFA): Cancer Research Projects.

The SAMRC is issuing this RFA to advance the National Department of Health's Cancer Prevention and Control Plan, which prioritises prevention, early detection, equitable treatment, and palliative care.

Project funding

Maximum of R945 000 per project over two years.

Eligibility

- Projects must be based in South Africa, led by South African citizens or permanent residents.
- **Eligible institutions:** South African universities, science councils (including the SAMRC), and other organisations, including
 - any institution approved by the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation for NRF funding; and
 - locally registered not-for profit research organisations whose primary purpose is to conduct research – such entities may be subject to due diligence before the awarding of funds.
 - Foreign entities are not eligible to apply for funding through this RFA but may be included as collaborators if they provide a service, technology, or capability that is not available among the project partners or among other eligible organisations.

The SAMRC invites applications for cancer research projects and kindly draws your attention to the five designated cancer research thematic areas. Please find attached the **Research for Application Framework** document, which provides detailed information on the call and application requirements.

RESEARCH SCOPE	ELIGIBILITY	BUDGET	CLOSING DATES
• Prevention • Early detection and diagnosis • Treatment • Survivorship • Palliative care	1. This is an open call for proposals from investigators who hold a postgraduate/medical qualification, preferably a PhD, MB ChB or equivalent degree based at South African universities, science councils (including the SAMRC), and other organisations, including 2. any institution approved by the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation for NRF funding; and 3. locally registered not-for profit research organisations whose primary purpose is to conduct research – such entities may be subject to due diligence before the awarding of funds. 4. Foreign entities are not eligible to apply for funding through this RFA but may be included as collaborators if they provide a service, technology, or capability that is not available among the project partners or among other eligible organisations. 5. In addition to the above, principal investigators (PIs) must be South African citizens or permanent residence holders. While there is no limit to the	Successful projects will be supported for a maximum period of two (2) years. The SAMRC plans to fund five (5) meritorious projects. The maximum funding per year is shown in Table 1.	Internal closing date for institutional budget approval: 5 January 2026 @Sugandren Moodley Internal closing date for institutional approval of application: 7 January 2026 @Werner Nel SAMRC final closing date: 9 January 2026 For queries, please contact: Dr Niresh Bhagwandin niresh.bhagwandin@mrc.ac.za Strategic Research Initiatives, Research Directorate

	number of applications submitted per organisation, PIs may only submit one application each as the PI, but they may be involved in more than one application if listed as a co-investigator.		
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Access the [Full RFA](#) and [Apply Here](#).

Table 1

Funding caps per project year	Max. funding per project (excl. VAT)
Year 1	R450 000
Year 2	R545 000