

**Call for applications**  
**The Research Development Grants for**  
**Y-rated researchers 2024/25**  
**Internal UFS Closing Date: 22 April 2024**

**Description of the funding instrument**

Research Development Grants for Y-Rated Researchers is an instrument to support ring-fenced, once-off grants that is competitive and discipline-based in nature. The instrument is aimed at enhancing the efficiency of the National Research Foundation (NRF) to drive transformation consistently and strategically through supporting primarily basic research as the foundation of knowledge production in the disciplines of the Humanities, Social and Natural Sciences.

**Eligibility criteria**

- Research Development Grants for Y-Rated Researchers grant holders may only hold ONE Y-Rated research grant. Previous Y-rated grant holders are not eligible to apply again.
- Each new Principal Investigator may only submit ONE application to this call.
- Principal Investigators must choose between submitting an application in this funding instrument or in the Competitive Programme for Rated Researchers (CPRR). Application submitted to this instrument will not be reviewed if there is another application that is submitted for CPRR funding.
- Full-time employees at an NRF recognised research institution in South Africa, who are eligible to apply and who hold a valid NRF Y-rating at the time of application, may submit an application.
- NRF rated part-time employees on contract at an NRF recognized research institution (as defined above) in South Africa who hold a valid Y-Rating may apply, on condition their appointment at the South African institution is for (at least) the duration of the project applied for in the submission. The length of the contract should be stated in the application form. The primary employment of the individual concerned must be at that institution. A contract researcher appointed at a research institution on behalf of a third party to fulfil a very specific function for the latter does not qualify for support.
- Successful Y-rated applicants will be eligible for funding **for the duration of their awarded grant**, to a maximum of 3 years. The grant allocation will be allowed to run for the duration of the award, even if the principal investigator loses his / her rating status during this period.

**Funding categories:**

- Materials and Supplies
- Travel and subsistence
- Research / Technical / *Ad hoc* Assistants
- Research Equipment

**Funding ranges**

The allocation of funds is capped at R300 000 per application. Successful applications will receive funding that accommodates research-related operating costs, including:

The application assessment process will consider proposed budget items in terms of cost, risk and reward ratios. Decisions relating to budget items will also be governed by the overall funding instrument funds available for the period. **Applications must adhere to set budget limits presented in these guidelines; exceeding these limits may result in the approval of a reduced budget by the NRF.**

Applicants must apply on the NRF Connect System at: <https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za>

For more information pertaining to this Call, please refer to the attached Framework document:

- [Framework document](#)

**Contact details**

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