

Call for Proposals: DSI-NRF Conference Fund Call 2026

The DSI-NRF Conference Fund Call is now open on NRF Connect under the Travel, Training and Conference Grants category.

UFS internal closing date: 26 March 2026

Overview:

The [Conference Fund](#) is intended to support the hosting of prominent international conferences focused on excellent scientific research that has potential for socio-economic impact. The funding platform makes provision for **strategic, large events of an international nature**, hosted in South Africa, or on behalf of South Africa abroad. The fund will typically support 'global conferences' of more than 500 participants.

The overall objectives of this instrument are to

- promote South Africa as a science destination;
- increase the competitiveness of the South African National System of Innovation (NSI);
- showcase South Africa's scientific endeavours and infrastructure, and to build capacity within the NSI;
- enhance networking within the science system; and
- foster international collaboration to improve the quality of research outputs by researchers.

Who may apply:

All researchers who are full-time employees or on a fixed-term contract (minimum 12 months) at any of the following institutions are eligible to apply:

- South African universities /universities of technology
- Recognised national research institutions such as the national facilities
- Museums
- Science councils
- Members of the International Science Council (ISC) National Committees (with recognition of the above institutional affiliation to adhere to the list of qualifying institutions that may receive grants)
- The applicant must be a member of the conference organising committee and must be in possession of a PhD degree
- Researchers from private/commercial institutions are not eligible to apply

Funding may only be utilised for the following activities:

- Venue and/or equipment hire
- Catering – meals, lunches, tea and coffee breaks
- Conference marketing material
- Evaluation reports and/or publication of conference proceedings
- Translation

- Accommodation and/or travel for non-paying delegates (*keynote speakers, or participants from Africa only*)
- Bursaries/support for participants with appropriate backgrounds and/or experience that would be useful to include in order to achieve the conference objectives (*limited to participants from developing countries, and specifically from Africa*)
- Given the competitive nature of the programme and budgetary limitations, funding is not guaranteed, and the NRF will only make a contribution to the event

***Costs for non-scientific activities, e.g. cultural activities and social programmes, will not qualify for consideration.**

For more information on eligibility requirements, please refer to the attached [funding guide](#).

Note: Applications should be submitted online on NRF Connect: <https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za/>

Please submit your queries to the Research Office:

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Access more information here:

- [DSI-NRF Conference Fund Guide](#)
- [NRF Profile-Registration-Guide](#)