



UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA FREISTATA

Call for proposals: The South Africa–Sweden University Forum (SASUF) – Seed Grants for Collaborative Research

Please note that **the SASUF-NRF Seed Grants for Collaborative Research** is now open on NRF Connect under the Research Grants category. *Kindly distribute within your respective departments.*

UFS internal closing date: 26 October 2026

Background:

The **SASUF+ Beyond Borders Seed Funding Call** aims to foster new research partnerships among Swedish, South African, and SGCI partner universities, laying the groundwork for sustained collaboration and future joint research projects. PIs must have a PhD to be eligible, but this does not apply to co-applicants.

Aim:

The South Africa–Switzerland partnership aims to strengthen existing high-quality research collaborations by supporting joint research projects in priority fields. It seeks to advance scientific knowledge in both countries, promote basic and applied research, provide opportunities for emerging researchers to build international collaborations and develop their careers, and contribute to research capacity development.

Areas of cooperation:

The call supports interdisciplinary research within the four broad SASUF+ thematic areas:

- Sustainable Health
- Green Transition
- Migration and Urbanisation
- Democracy, Social Justice, and Indigenous Knowledge Systems

Financial support:

The Swedish PI will be the recipient of the Swedish part of the grant (100 000 SEK), and the South African PI will be the recipient of the South African part of the grant (**160 000 ZAR**). Once the grant has been released to the PIs, the grant is free to be transferred to the other project partner institutions if agreed on within the consortia. Researchers are responsible for ensuring that all budgeted costs comply with the financial rules and regulations applicable in their respective countries. The requested budget may not exceed SEK 100 000 (SASUF contribution) and ZAR 160 000 (NRF contribution) per project.

Duration of the projects:

The grant period is 16 months, ending on 1 July 2028. All awarded funds must be spent by this date. A final financial and scientific report must be submitted no later than 31 July 2028.

Research activities to be supported:

This programme will support research capacity development activities such as the following:

- Postgraduate student exchange programmes
- General research-related mobility
- Joint workshops, seminars, conferences, symposia
- Lecture presentations
- Meetings, local/regional dissemination of research results aimed at involving stakeholders, and/or end-users from outside the consortium.

The following will not be funded from the fund allocation:

- Consultant fees
- Project management fees
- Educational expenses (scholarships and/or bursaries, etc.)
- Large equipment
- Salaries and temporary staff fees.

****Please consult the attached framework for further information on eligibility criteria and the application procedure.***

For more information and assistance with proposal writing, please contact:

- Thabi Mosoetsa (Mosoetsat@ufs.ac.za / +27 51 401 7708) – NRF Grants Coordinator
- Sibusiso Lukhele (Lukheles1@ufs.ac.za) – Grant writing specialist
- Mark Naidoo (Naidoom4@ufs.ac.za) – Manager: International Grants and Partnerships

Access supporting documentation here:

- [NRF Profile-Registration-Guide](#)
- [SASUF-NRF-Intra Africa collaborative research projects](#)