



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

The SA/France (PROTEA) Call for Joint Proposals – (UFS internal closing date: 24 July 2026)

Background:

The South Africa–France PROTEA Programme is a partnership between South Africa and France that supports joint research and innovation projects. Funded by both governments, it promotes researcher exchange, training, and collaboration between institutions in the two countries.

Aim:

The programme aims to advance scientific research in both countries by funding researcher mobility through joint projects in selected fields. It also supports young, emerging, and women researchers by providing international collaboration opportunities to strengthen their careers, while promoting both basic and applied research and building research capacity.

Thematic areas:

The call is open to **all scientific disciplines and thematic areas**, including social sciences and the humanities, as well as indigenous knowledge systems (IKS).

Financial support:

The total amount requested from the NRF should not exceed **R300 000** per project. Funding will be made available for a maximum of two years, to be paid in annual instalments and exclusively for research activities commencing in 2027.

Duration of the projects:

The projects will be supported for a period of two years (projects starting in 2027 and ending in December 2028).

Who can apply:

An application must designate two principal investigators (PIs) – one in South Africa and one in France – who will bear the main responsibility for the project, including its technical and administrative coordination as well as scientific and financial reporting.

Project proposals submitted by early- to mid-career researchers, as well as project proposals involving PhD (doctoral) students and/or women researchers, will be prioritised for funding by both sides.

The focus of the programme lies in new international partnerships. Therefore, follow-up proposals with the same research partners will not be prioritised for funding (if they have already been funded under this programme).

*South African applicants requesting funding from the NRF **are also required** to submit their full proposals through the NRF's online submission system using the following link: <https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za> .

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

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Access more information here:

- [SA France PROTEA Call for Joint Proposals May 2026](#)