



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

## **Thuthuka Call Announcement and Grant Writing Workshop 2026/27**

The call for applications for the Thuthuka Funding Instrument 2026/27 is now open. Kindly consult the attached funding guideline document and [Framework](#) for your information and convenience.

### **UFS internal closing date: 10 April 2026**

The Thuthuka funding instrument aims to develop human capital and improve the research capacities of researchers and scholars. This funding instrument also supports the advancement of individuals from master's to doctoral level **in all fields of research** and grants are awarded for well-structured research projects that demonstrate the prudent use of funds.

### **The objectives of the Thuthuka funding instrument are to**

- promote the attainment of a doctoral qualification by early-career researchers and scholars employed at South African public universities, science councils, and other research institutions as recognised by the NRF;
- promote the research development of early-career researchers and scholars employed at South African public universities, science councils, and other research institutions as recognised by the NRF;
- promote the attainment of an NRF rating by early-career researchers and scholars in the recent post-PhD phase, in particular black and female researchers and persons with disabilities; and
- promote the attainment of an NRF rating by researchers and scholars who have not been able to realise their potential or sustain their research ability by virtue of the lack of an enabling research environment or due to family responsibilities.

### **Who is eligible to apply?**

- Applicants planning to obtain a PhD or already enrolled in a PhD programme.
- Only South African citizens and South African permanent residents with a valid South African identity document (ID) number may apply. Individuals who are in the process of obtaining permanent residence will not be considered.
- Applicants must be employed on a full-time permanent or full-time contractual basis. Support staff such as technicians and research assistants, part-time lecturers, doctoral students, and postdoctoral fellows are not eligible to apply for a Thuthuka grant.
- Women applicants who are appointed on a fixed-term half-day appointment to accommodate family responsibilities are eligible to apply.

### **Exclusion criteria**

Please consult the attached funding guideline for your reference.

\*All submissions must be made electronically on <https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za/> and the attached ISF form must be sent to our office for signature.

**A grant writing workshop will also be held to assist potential applicants in drafting their applications. Details of the workshop are as follows:**

**Grant writing expert: Riana Coetsee (Research Management and Skills Training Consultant: Stellenbosch)**

**Date: TBC**

**Time: TBC**

**Venue: MS Teams (RSVP to Thabi [Mosoetsat@ufs.ac.za](mailto:Mosoetsat@ufs.ac.za) and Nthabiseng [mosehlap@ufs.ac.za](mailto:mosehlap@ufs.ac.za) ) – *date and time to be shared on confirmation of RSVP.***

For more information, please email or call Thabi ([mosoetsat@ufs.ac.za](mailto:mosoetsat@ufs.ac.za)/ 051 401 7708).

Access the documents here:

- [Thuthuka Framework Document](#)
- [Institutional support for Thuthuka grant applications](#)
- [NRF Connect: Profile Registration Guide](#)