Call for applications

NRF EVALUATION AND RATING – 2020

Internal deadlines:

EITHER Thursday, 21 November 2019 at 9h00

OR

Tuesday, 17 December 2019 at 9h00

NRF system closing date & UCT final submission date: 31 January 2020

More information: http://www.researchsupport.uct.ac.za/nrf-ratings

Applications are invited for the next cycle of NRF evaluation and rating. This call applies both to researchers who are applying for re-evaluation and first-time applicants. The NRF does not accept applications submitted directly by applicants; therefore, UCT can only endorse applications which are submitted via the internal review process.

The rating of individuals is based primarily on the quality and impact of their research outputs over the past eight years, taking into consideration the evaluation made by local and international peers who are requested to critically scrutinize the research completed during the assessment period. Applications are submitted by "established" researchers with a solid track record (categories C, B and A), or by "younger" researchers who show potential of becoming established within a five-year period (Y) or becoming future leaders in their field (P).

How to apply

Applications must be submitted online via https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za.

- Applications are submitted on the NRF Online Submission system, https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za.
- You will need to register on the NRF online system if you are a first-time user or enter your ID and password to get started. Click on https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/NrfMkII/User/RegisterUser.aspx.
- The ORCID ID is a compulsory requirement in all applications/progress reports to the NRF for funding and rating. To create an ORCID ID click on https://orcid.org/ and <SIGN IN/REGISTER> and follow the prompts.
- Add your publications in ‘Works’ section using available options: Add DOI, Add PubMed ID, Search & Link, …
- To link your ORCID ID with the NRF you must authorise ORCID ID to allow this. For further assistance contact your subject librarians http://www.lib.uct.ac.za/lib/subject-librarians.
- Click on the “My Applications” button and then select “Create Application” (on the left-hand menu). This will open the option to apply to the call “Rating Call 2020”.
- Click on “Apply”. This is a once-off process. When logging in thereafter, click on the
“List of Applications” button (on the left-hand menu), and then click on “Edit” to continue with your application.

- An “offline” template – which may be used to prepare the key narratives required for the application – is available at the end of this document. The final text should be transferred to the online system, in order to complete the submission.

**UCT internal review of rating applications**

- Applications are reviewed internally prior to submission to the NRF in order to assist with improving submissions and to provide an internal rating assessment which is a requirement of the NRF. Feedback from the internal review will be provided in December (for applications submitted in November) or January (applications submitted in December). There will also be an opportunity to meet with a UCT panel member if required, to provide further assistance with finalising your application.
- The internal closing date for rating applications is **Thursday, 21 November 2019 at 9h00**.
- If you are unable to meet the above deadline, the alternative internal closing date is **Tuesday, 17 December 2019 at 9h00**.

**Advantages of being rated**

- The rating is used as a national indicator of excellence and is to the advantage of your faculty and the University in terms of benchmarking.
- It is a measurement of your academic profile and may be considered when applying for promotion and/or career advancement opportunities in academia.
- A successful rating allows one the option of applying for incentive funding for rated researchers from the NRF, the amount of which is directly proportional to the researcher’s rating, and to apply to NRF funding programmes which are ringfenced for rated researchers. This is however conditional on the NRF having enough funds for this purpose. Applicants should note that the NRF’s funding model for rated researchers has been significantly revised effective from 2018.
- Successful ratings effective from 1 January 2020/2021 will qualify for **UCT Seed Funding**. All rating outcomes prior to 2020 are not eligible to apply. The UCT Seed Award, together with the amount forthcoming from the NRF Incentive Funding based on rating outcomes, would be comparable to what researchers would have received for a single year, prior to the change in NRF funding policy.

**General Comments**

- Eligibility: In general, all researchers who are employed and remunerated on a full-time, long-term or part-time contract basis at UCT may apply to be rated (refer to eligibility criteria at [http://www.researchsupport.uct.ac.za/rating-application-process](http://www.researchsupport.uct.ac.za/rating-application-process)). Postdoctoral fellows must please first check their eligibility before completing an application.
Applicants are welcome to contact the Research Office to establish their rating-readiness.

If you are a young researcher and completed your PhD in 2014, you will need to apply now in order to be considered for rating in the Y category (40 years and younger) or P category (normally 35 years and younger) as eligibility is established by applying no more than five years after your PhD graduation.

**Rating seminar presentations**

The NRF rating system is a well-established national benchmark of research performance. UCT has historically performed excellently in this exercise and currently has the highest number of A-rated researchers in the country as well as the highest number of rated researchers. As part of the support offered to applications, the Research Office offers a number of presentations/seminars by prominent UCT researchers.

**Presentation by Professor Ed Rybicki**

Ed Rybicki’s presentation will cover topics such as how to assess your own publishing impact, and how to maximize your perceived worth will be covered, along with hints on how to effectively use the restrictive format of the application.

**Date:** Tuesday, 15 October 2019  
**Time:** 12h15 for 12h30 – 14h00  
**Venue:** Seminar Room, Research Office, 2 Rhodes Avenue, Mowbray

**Presentation by Professor Robert Morrell**

In this seminar Robert Morrell will describe how the rating system works, what its demands are and how one might go about engaging with the application cycle that has recently opened.

**Date:** Thursday, 17 October 2019  
**Time:** 12h15 for 12h30 – 14h00  
**Venue:** Seminar Room, Research Office, 2 Rhodes Avenue, Mowbray

**Presentation by the Libraries Bibliometrics Working Group (attendees to bring own laptops)**

A Bibliometrics workshop will be hosted by the Libraries Bibliometrics Team to help researchers provide evidence to their narrative when applying for NRF rating. The session will focus on attributes such as productivity, research excellence, collaborations, and research impact.
(academic and societal). Additionally, a separate session will be held in the second half of the workshop for those who are interested in receiving hands-on assistance.

**Date:** Monday, 21 October 2019  
**Time:** 12h15 for 12h30 – 14h00  
**Venue:** Hlanganani Junction, Level 5, Main Library  
Directions to Hlanganani Junction: When you enter the Main Library, go past the Knowledge Commons (there is a lift at the furthest end of the entrance floor if needed). Take the stairs on your left all the way to the top to Hlanganani Level 5 and go to the furthest end of the floor to the glass enclosure at the end – this is Hlanganani Junction.

Please RSVP to researchfunding@uct.ac.za at least two days prior to each seminar date.

*Sandwiches and refreshments will be served before the event*

**Contact persons**

- **UCT Research Office**  
  Mrs Jacky Sylvester  
  Jacqueline.Sylvester@uct.ac.za or call 021 650 2689

  Ms Roshan Sonday  
  Roshan.Sonday@uct.ac.za or call 021 650 2426  
  Visit our Research Office website: [http://www.researchsupport.uct.ac.za/nrf-ratings](http://www.researchsupport.uct.ac.za/nrf-ratings)

- **For technical support, please contact the NRF**  
  NRF Support Desk  
  Tel: 012 481 4202 | supportdesk@nrf.ac.za