

SOUTH AFRICA / ARGENTINA JOINT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH

FIRST CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS (2007)

In 2006 South Africa and Argentina signed an inter-governmental bilateral agreement on cooperation in the fields of science and technology to be jointly implemented and administrated by the National Research Foundation (NRF) in South Africa and the Secretary of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation in Argentina. In terms of this agreement, we are pleased herewith to announce the first ever call for joint research project proposals between South African and Argentine researchers, and invite all local researchers wishing to participate to submit their proposals by the due date indicated below.

Who may apply?

This call is open to working researchers residing in South Africa and affiliated with a recognised higher education or research institution such as a university, university of technology or science council. An application must designate two principal investigators, one in South Africa and one in Argentina, who will bear the main responsibility for the project, including its technical and administrative coordination as well as scientific and financial reporting. The South African applicant must be in possession of a PhD.

How do I apply?

Application forms for South African applicants may be downloaded electronically from the NRF website (www.nrf.ac.za). Application forms for Argentine applicants may be downloaded from the website of the Secretary of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (www.secyt.gov.ar). A hard copy of the South African application should be submitted to the address below. The size of files should not exceed 1.44 MBS and a soft copy of the application should be mailed to Raven@nrf.ac.za.

Mr. Raven Jimmy
The National Research Foundation
GMSA (ISC-G)
PO Box 2600
Pretoria
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In Argentina, a hard copy of the Argentine application should be submitted to:

Secretaría de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva
Av. Córdoba 831 piso 4
CP: C1054AAH
Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires
Tel: 0054-11-43127512
Fax: 0054-11-43127203

The technical description of the project or activity to be funded must be identical in both countries, and written in English. Only applications endorsed by the research office or its equivalent at higher education or research institutions will be accepted. Applications will only be evaluated in South Africa if a counterpart proposal is submitted in Argentina as well, and vice versa. If an application is only received in one of the two countries, but not the other, that application will not be evaluated.

Which activities may I apply for?

According to a decision taken at the first South Africa-Argentina Joint Committee meeting held in Buenos Aires on 12 July 2007, bilateral funding will be made available for the conducting of joint research projects only, and only in the following identified priority areas:

- Agricultural Research;
- Biotechnology;
- Energy and Hydrogen Economy;
- Nanoscience/Nanotechnology;
- Polar Research;
- Social Science and the Humanities.

Funding will be available for a maximum of three years, starting in 2008, with funds exclusively to be used for researcher and student mobility and/or the organisation of joint scientific events such as workshops and conferences.

In the case of reciprocal visits and the attendance of workshops and conferences organised as part of joint research projects funded under this agreement, the sending party will be responsible for financing international travel, while the receiving party will be responsible for financing the accommodation and subsistence of their international visitors. Local travel and fees relating to the organisation of joint scientific events (venue, catering, audiovisual equipment etc.) will be the financial responsibility of the investigator representing the country in which the event is held, to be paid from his/her allocation of the joint funding accorded.

South African applicants should note that certain restrictions on the number of visits that can be undertaken to and from Argentina are operated by the Argentine authorities, as a result of which it may be impossible for joint events such as workshops to be held in that country. In the same way, it may be necessary for South African researchers wishing to undertake more than one visit to Argentina, or wishing to be accompanied by fellow researchers or students, to pay for their own accommodation in that country as well. In this case South Africans will be exempt from the above regulations concerning the sharing of costs vis-à-vis travel and accommodation. At the same time however, South African researchers are advised to adapt their logistical arrangements as closely as possible to such restrictions as are placed on their Argentine counterparts, so that the costs of their research will be shared as equally as possible by both sides.

In all cases, no reciprocal visit (excluding workshop or conference attendance) may be of a shorter duration than 15 days, nor of a longer duration than 3 months.

How much should I apply for?

While funding levels are not fixed, a suggested maximum of R300 000 per project may be used as a general indicator of available funds (i.e. R100 000 per year). Note that both scientific and financial reporting on the project is an obligatory condition of funding.

How are applications evaluated?

Following the closing date indicated below applications will be submitted to both a postal and panel review by recognised local experts in the various fields of research represented by the proposals received. These experts will evaluate each proposal based on the following criteria:

- Scientific and technical merit
- Suitability and feasibility
- International significance
- Budget
- National priority

(Note that proposals demonstrating strong elements of capacity building, particularly among previously disadvantaged socioeconomic population groups, will be favourably regarded).

Following local evaluation a shortlist of projects to be funded will be constituted in consultation with the Argentine Government and based on the results of the evaluations done in both countries. Proposals which have only been received in either South Africa or Argentina, but not both, will not be evaluated or considered for funding. Note further that funding will only become available once both funding agencies have completed their respective operational processes, and applicants should allow at least three months for the final result of the selection to be disseminated.

When is the closing date for applications?

All South African applications must be submitted by **23 November 2007**.

Applications received after this date will not be considered for funding.

Where can I obtain more information?

For further information, please contact:

Mr Raven Jimmy
International Science Cooperation Grants
The National Research Foundation

Tel: 012 481 4069

Email: raven@nrf.ac.za

