22 August 2025

**RESEARCH DIVISION COMMUNIQUÉ**

CALL FOR PROPOSAL: THE AFRICAN UNIVERSITY TWINNING PROGRAMME

Dear Staff

**PLEASE NOTE: BOTH NRF AND INTERNAL CLOSING DATE – 17 October 2025**

Applications must be submitted electronically on the new NRF Connect system at <https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za/>

**OBJECTIVE**

* Establish a platform where African universities can play a critical role in the bilateral developmental agenda between South Africa and African partner countries.
* Establish a sustainable exchange programme where students and personnel will get exposure to different systems and cultures from other African universities as part of internationalising research collaboration.
* Promote the co-development of innovation and ideas that are critical for the transformation of the African continent and strengthening of the innovation eco-system.
* Establish dual qualifications between South African universities and their African counterparts.
* Leverage resources from international partnerships, which could include raising funds for the urgently required research infrastructure.
* Share research infrastructure and co-develop knowledge through joint publications.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

All researchers who are full-time employees or on a fixed-term contract (contract to be valid for at least 12 months after the end of the project) at any of the following institutions are eligible to apply:

• South African universities/universities of technology.

• Recognised research institutions such as national facilities.

• Museums.

• Science councils.

• The applicant **must** be in possession of a **PhD degree.**

**COMPULSORY ATTACHMENTS**

* A letter of support from the applicant’s institution, i.e. letter from the office of the DVC, HoD, or line manager. The letter should specify the nature and level of support expected from then institution in terms of technical, financial, and administrative contributions towards the collaboration.
* A letter of interest from the partner institution. The partner institution must show commitment to the twinning initiative.
* The applicant must indicate/provide evidence of existing inter-institutional Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) or indicate if in the process of developing a new MoU.
* A detailed schedule and work plan.
* A detailed budget for activities that will be carried out**.**

**PLEASE NOTE**: **RESEARCHERS FROM PRIVATE/COMMERCIAL INSTITUTIONS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY*.***

For further queries kindly contact: **Ms Nondumiso Radebe** at [RadebeN4@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:RadebeN4@ukzn.ac.za) or call Ext 8431 **COPYING** **Mrs Patricia Ngwenya** at [ngwenyap@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:ngwenyap@ukzn.ac.za) or call Ext 3273

**Issued by the University Research Division**