

STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

CREATIVE RESEARCH OUTPUTS AND INNOVATIONS REPORT 2024

1. Introduction

South African universities annually submit their creative outputs and innovations subsidy claims to the Department of Higher Education and Training (the Department) for evaluation and allocation of subsidy. All submissions must meet the requirements stipulated in the *Policy on the Evaluation of Creative Outputs and Innovations Produced by Higher Education Institutions* (2017) and the *Implementation Guidelines* (2021). The policy recognises quality creative research outputs; evaluated outputs are used as proxy for research, thus the subsidy to universities. The policy covers the following sub-fields: *Fine and Visual Arts; Music; Theatre; Performance and Dance; Design; Film and Television and Literary Arts*. For innovations, the policy recognises: *Patents and Plant Breeder's Rights*.

The Department together with the National Research Foundation (NRF) have developed the Research Outputs Submission System (ROSS), for capturing all research outputs produced by universities. To ensure quality of the evaluation process, submitted creative research outputs and innovations are evaluated by field-specific panel of experts using pre-determined evaluation requirements in line with the policy and the *Implementation Guidelines (2021)* developed for this purpose.

Submitted creative research work is assessed by the respective subfields to determine scholarly merit/ rigour. The approved submitted outputs may be allocated either 0.5, 1 or 2 units. However, the final unit allocation is based on author/contributor proportion. This report presents the outcomes of creative research outputs and innovations for the 2023 submission cycle.

2. Overall Creative Output Units Accrued 2019-2023

This section outlines units accrued by Stellenbosch University (SU) from the panel evaluations for the last five cycles 2019-2023, as shown in Table 1 and Table 2, respectively.

Table 1 : 2019 - 2023 Creative Outputs - Units Awarded

HEI	CREATIVE OUTPUTS														
	2019			2020			2021			2022			2023		
	Items	Units Awarded	% of Sector Units	Items	Units Awarded	% of Sector Units	Items	Units Awarded	% of Sector Units	Items	Units Awarded	% of Sector Units	Items	Units Awarded	% of Sector Units
CPUT	0	0	0.00%	3	4.0000	2.42%	0	0	0.00%	1	2.0000	1.38%	0	0	0.00%
CUT	1	1.0000	0.81%	1	1.0000	0.60%	1	0.6666	0.50%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
DUT	0	0	0.00%	6	7.0000	4.23%	3	3.3334	2.50%	2	1.5000	1.04%	6	6.5000	7.72%
NMU	6	7.0000	5.70%	9	7.3333	4.43%	1	1.0000	0.75%	3	4.0000	2.50%	0	0	0.00%
NWU	0	0	0.00%	5	6.0000	3.63%	3	2.5000	1.51%	2	1.5000	1.04%	1	1.0000	0.69%
RU	3	3.0000	2.44%	3	4.0000	2.42%	0	0	0.00%	3	3.0000	2.13%	8	10.0000	11.38%
SU	44	51.3332	41.82%	30	34.4450	21.24%	37	34.5300	25.92%	36	39.1999	27.32%	13	14.7000	17.46%
TUT	0	0	0.00%	9	6.1110	3.69%	4	3.5000	2.63%	4	4.5000	3.11%	9	9.5000	11.29%
UCT	16	25.2858	20.60%	10	9.4167	6.32%	3	3.0000	2.25%	8	9.2078	6.36%	5	4.1879	4.98%
UFS	5	7.3333	5.97%	7	9.0000	5.86%	22	20.4999	15.39%	12	10.5000	7.25%	3	4.0000	4.75%
UJ	3	5.0000	4.07%	15	19.3333	11.68%	13	19.0000	13.24%	16	17.8667	12.00%	11	11.1667	13.27%
UKZN	1	1.0000	0.81%	2	2.0000	1.21%	1	1.0000	0.75%	0	0	0.00%	2	0.6667	0.71%
UL	0	0	0.00%	2	3.0000	1.81%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
UNISA	0	0	0.00%	14	10.5055	6.35%	4	4.2352	3.18%	12	11.2222	7.92%	5	3.0476	3.60%
UP	12	12.9762	10.57%	34	31.9073	19.28%	18	18.2917	13.73%	18	16.9166	11.69%	9	7.0000	8.32%
UWC	0	0	0.00%	5	5.7500	3.90%	1	0.2600	0.21%	1	2.0000	1.38%	3	1.7500	1.97%
WITS	7	8.8332	7.20%	5	4.6670	2.82%	15	21.3888	15.10%	15	17.8333	11.89%	7	8.6500	10.28%
WSU	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	4	3.5000	2.42%	1	2.0000	2.38%
TOTAL	98	122.7617	100.0%	160	165.4691	101.9%	126	133.2056	97.7%	137	144.7465	99.4%	83	84.1689	98.8%

Table 2: 2019 - 2023 Creative Outputs - Overall Items and Units Awarded

HEI	CREATIVE OUTPUTS			
	Items	% of Sector Items	Units Awarded	% of Sector Units
SU	160	26.49%	174.2081	26.79%
UP	91	15.07%	87.0918	13.39%
UJ	58	9.60%	72.3667	11.13%
WITS	49	8.11%	61.3723	9.44%
UFS	49	8.11%	51.3332	7.89%
UCT	42	6.95%	51.0982	7.86%
UNISA	35	5.79%	29.0105	4.46%

TUT	26	4.30%	23.6110	3.63%
RU	17	2.81%	20.0000	3.08%
NMU	19	3.15%	19.3333	2.97%
DUT	17	2.81%	18.3334	2.82%
NWU	11	1.82%	11.0000	1.69%
UWC	10	1.66%	9.7600	1.50%
CPUT	4	0.66%	6.0000	0.92%
WSU	5	0.83%	5.5000	0.85%
UKZN	6	0.99%	4.6667	0.72%
UL	2	0.33%	3.0000	0.46%
CUT	3	0.50%	2.6666	0.41%
TOTAL	604	100.00%	650.3518	100.00%

Table 3: 2019 - 2023 Innovation Outputs - Units Awarded

	INNOVATION OUTPUTS													
	2019		2020			2021			2022			2023		
HEI	Units Awarded	% of Sector Units	Items	Units Awarded	% of Sector Units	Items	Units Awarded	% of Sector Units	Items	Units Awarded	% of Sector Units	Items	Units Awarded	% of Sector Units
CPUT	1	1.38%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1	2.0000	4.18%	1	2.0000	4.42%
NMU	6	4.15%	2	4.0000	7.26%	3	6.0000	13.98%	1	2.0000	4.18%	1	2.0000	4.42%
NWU	0	0.00%	7	14.0000	25.41%	0	0	0.00%	1	2.0000	4.18%	3	6.0000	13.25%
RU	2.67	1.85%	1	1.6000	2.90%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
SU	47	32.49%	7	5.6466	10.25%	2	2.5000	5.82%	0	0	0.00%	3	5.0000	11.05%
UCT	39	28.34%	3	4.3340	7.87%	7	10.0000	23.29%	13	19.8691	41.51%	9	16.0000	35.35%
UFS	0	0.00%	1	0.4000	0.73%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
UJ	2	1.38%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1	2.0000	4.18%	3	4.6666	10.31%
UKZN	7	4.84%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	4	8.0000	16.71%	0	0	0.00%
UNISA	2	1.38%	1	2.0000	3.63%	3	4.4000	10.25%	1	2.0000	4.18%	1	2.0000	4.42%
UP	15	10.37%	12	21.1100	38.32%	9	14.0332	32.69%	5	10.0000	20.89%	1	2.0000	4.42%
UWC	5	3.46%	0	0	0.00%	2	4.0000	9.32%	0	0	0.00%	1	1.6000	3.53%
WITS	16	11.06%	1	2.0000	3.63%	1	2.0000	4.66%	0	0	0.00%	2	4.0000	8.84%
TOTAL	142.67	100.00%	35	55.0906	100%	27	42.9332	100%	27	47.8691	100%	25	45.2666	100%

In 2019, SU received 51.3332 units for creative outputs accounting for 41.82% of the overall units awarded to the sector. For innovations, 47 units were awarded accounting for 32.49% to the sector. A total of 98.3332 unit was awarded in 2019.

In 2020, SU received 34.4450 units for creative outputs accounting for 21.24% of the overall units awarded to the sector. For innovations, 2.500 units were awarded accounting for 5.82% to the sector. A total of 36.945 units were awarded in 2020.

In 2021, SU received 34.5300 unit for creative outputs accounting for 25.92% of the overall units awarded to the sector. For innovations, 2.500 units were awarded accounting for 5.82% to the sector. A total of 37.03 units were awarded in 2021.

In 2022, SU received 39.1999 units for creative outputs accounting for 27.32% of the overall units awarded to the sector. No units were awarded for innovations. A total of 39.1999 units were awarded in 2022.

In 2023, SU received 14.7000 units for creative outputs accounting for 17.46% of the overall units awarded to the sector. For innovations, 5 units were awarded accounting for 11.05% to the sector. A total of 19.7000 units were awarded in 2023.

The table shows a steady increase in the accrual of units for the creative outputs with SU being one of the strongest contributors.

3. University Submissions and Units Awarded in 2023

The university submitted twenty-nine (29) items in 2022 for subsidy claims. Of the twenty-nine (29) items submitted twenty-six (26) were under creative outputs, three (3) items under innovations, as shown in Table 4. Following the assessment of the creative and innovation outputs, including adjustments done based on the proportion of internal contributors, whether there were owed units from the previous cycle, and possible withdrawal of some units based on the reason(s) provided in the accompanying spreadsheets, SU attained a total of 19.7000 units. The table further shows a breakdown of approved and declined numbers per subfield and units awarded.

Table 4: Creative Outputs - Total Number of Submissions Reviewed for 2023

Category	No. Submissions	Approved	Disapproved	Units Awarded
Music	13	6	7	5.5
Design	1	1		0.2
Fine Arts	7	3	4	4.5
Literary Arts	5	3	2	4.5
Innovations	3	3		5
TOTAL	29	16	13	19.7000

The university outcomes of the evaluations, is summarised as follows:

(a) Music:

The university submitted 13 items for evaluation. Following the evaluation, the panel approved 6 items and declined 7 items. The declined items, along with reason(s) are listed in Table 5. A total of 5.5 units were awarded.

(b) Design:

The university submitted 1 item for evaluation. Following the evaluations, the panel approved the item and a total of 0.2 unit was awarded.

(c) Fine Arts:

The university submitted 5 items for evaluation. Following the evaluations, the panel approved 2 items and declined 3 items. The declined items, along with reason(s) are listed in Table 5. A total of 4.5 units were awarded.

(d) Literary Arts:

The university submitted 5 items for evaluation. Following the evaluations, the panel approved 3 items and declined 2 items. The declined items, along with reason(s) are listed in Table 5. A total of 4.5 units were awarded.

e) Innovations:

The university submitted 3 items for evaluation. Following the evaluations, the panel approved all items and a total of 5 units was awarded.

Table 5: Creative Outputs - Items Declined with Reason in 2023

Year Submitted	DHET No	Category	Title Of Output	Reasons For Rejection
2023	COM12	Music	Mozart Sinfonia Concertante	The research questions were presented in the annotation. However, they were not presenting any new knowledge but rather showing the process undertaken to present this work. The creative research output does not demonstrate new research insights,
2023	COM9	Music	'Is Love a Sweet Passion?'	This output does not align with the policy on group performance, which chiefly considers "duos, trios, quartets and quintets" and "SIGNIFICANT contributions to performances in groups larger than a quintet.
2023	COM8	Music	'Médée'	This output does not align with the policy on group performance, which chiefly considers "duos, trios, quartets and quintets" and "SIGNIFICANT contributions to performances in groups larger than a quintet.
2023	COM7	Music	'Die Entführung aus dem Serail'	The submission is under the incorrect sub-category as solo as this is a group performance.
2023	COM6	Music	G.F. Handel: Concerto grosso op. 3 No. 3 (as part of the programme 'Celebrating Handel')	The output is incorrectly classified as solo performance.
2023	COM5	Music	Handel at Home	The research framework is not explained in the annotation and merely detailing the technical challenges with the instruments is not sufficient.
2023	COM3	Music	Route 24	The submission shows a good awareness and experience of the field of film music but does not critique,

				question challenge or augment the conventional practices of that field. The annotation does not demonstrate scholarly rigor.
2023	COLA3	Literary Arts	Ritmes en rites. Rubrieke vir drumpeltye	The creative output did not demonstrate originality.
2023	COLA6	Literary Arts	Blou Feetjie 'n Storie wat begin en eindig en weer begin	The creative output does not demonstrate scholarly rigor; The evaluation panel could not eliminate the possibility of conflict of interest in the peer review process.
2023	COFA5	Fine Arts	Humdingers	The position of practice led research is not evident in the work.
2023	COFA7	Fine Arts	Jesus Loves Everybody. Illustrated by Mieke van der Merwe. Alpharetta	The creative output is submitted under the incorrect sub-field panel
2023	COFA6	Fine Arts	The Book as Art Object	Some of these books have already received accreditation. The creative research output falls outside the reporting year.
2023	COFA1	Fine Arts	Brahma, Vishnu, Mahesh series	The creative output does not demonstrate scholarly rigor; The creative output does not demonstrate new research insights; The creative output is a single work in a group collection and does not demonstrate a body of work; The output does not meet the minimum requirements for accreditation

Table 6 shows awarded items along with author/ contributor proportion, and unit allocation.

Table 6: Creative Outputs - Items Approved in 2023

Year Submitted	DHET No	Category	Title Of Output	Proportion Of Internal Contributors	Units Awarded By Panel	Units Awarded	Reason For Approval
2023	COD1	Design	herri 7	0,2	1	0,2	The reviewers are international and the impact and contribution of the work's knowledge. However, we caution against the close relation between the applicants and peer reviewers. The creative output demonstrates scholarly rigor and critical inquiry into the design process; The creative output demonstrates the conceptual process of scholarly engagement. The creative output meets the minimum requirement for accreditation.
2023	COM10	Music	Endler Concert Series: Liederabend with tenor, Thomas Erlank and pianist, Pieter Grobler	0,5	1	0,5	The tacit knowledge as mentioned in the annotation assisted the applicants to design the conceptual process that led to the success of the recital. This submission would have been

							strengthened if both performers had combined their research insights and had submitted a joint application. The output meets the minimum requirements for accreditation.
2023	COLA4	Literary Arts	Coming to Afrikaans	1	0,5	0,5	The essay provides a deepened understanding of the complex relationships of identity and multilingualism, and how this complexity unseats any simple mapping of language onto ethnic identity. The essay is relatively short and therefore on the grounds of substantiveness, as per the policy, the units have been allocated accordingly.
2023	COFA4	Fine Arts	Brahmagyaani	1	0,5	0,5	The submission meets the minimum requirements for 0.5.
2023	COM13	Music	Poem	1	1	1	The artists reflect on their artistic practice in innovative and creative ways.
2023	COM11	Music	Lied Muses: Boulanger, Bonds & Larsen	1	1	1	Novel contribution in programming art songs that promote social agendas.
2023	COM4	Music	Die Swawelkind	1	1	1	Despite some disparities between the peer reviewers, the submission overall shows innovation relating to the rare practice of creating music puppetry in the South African context.
2023	COM2	Music	I am...you!	1	1	1	The output meets the minimum requirement for accreditation;
2023	COM1	Music	With Love, Wyatt	1	1	1	The creative use of compositional techniques in the musical score brought to life the themes/characters and motives of the dramatised plot. The output meets the minimum requirement for accreditation;
2023	COLA2	Literary Arts	Roman	1	2	2	The creative work is substantive with a strong theoretical framework and contributes to the subfield. The creative output is exceptional in its genesis and meets all the requirements. The creative work integrates research insights and creative acumen

2023							The work is well theorised and shows that the author has engaged with the current debates. The creative work is substantive with a strong theoretical framework and contributes to the subfield; The creative output is exceptional in its genesis and meets all the requirements
	COLA1	Literary Arts	The Heart is the Size of a Fist	1	2	2	
2023							The creative output is expansive, reflects scholarly rigour and strong research sensibility; The historical component is integrated creatively with the conceptual approach to the discipline and makes the submission above what is required; The creator shows deep and thorough knowledge and understanding of both technical skills and research, and is able to position the work in the field of visual arts; The creative output is relevant and demonstrates originality, scholarly rigor, and is substantive thus bringing together theory, practice and process; The creative outputs meets all the minimum requirements and has sufficient international scholarly contribution
	COFA3	Fine Arts	Fold	1	2	2	
2023							The creative output is expansive, reflects scholarly rigour and strong research sensibility; The historical component is integrated creatively with the conceptual approach to the discipline and makes the submission above what is required; The creator shows deep and thorough knowledge and understanding of both technical skills and research, and is able to position the work in the field of visual arts; The creative output is relevant and demonstrates originality, scholarly rigor, and is substantive thus bringing together theory, practice and process; The creative outputs meets all the minimum requirements and has sufficient international scholarly contribution
	COFA2	Fine Arts	Floating Solo	1	2	2	
2023	CR2016-170	Invention/Patent	RESVERATROL - METHOD FOR SEPARATING	1	2	2	The output meets the requirements for accreditation

			POLYPHENOLIC COMPOUNDS FROM BIOMASS AND RESULTING PRODUCTS				
2023	CR2017-181	Invention/Patent	LIPOPOLYSACCHARIDE-BINDING PROTEIN FOR USE IN A METHOD OF TREATING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE	0,5	2	1	The output meets the requirements for accreditation
2023	CR2016-168	Invention/Patent	BINUCLEAR PALLADACYCLES AND THEIR USE IN THE TREATMENT OF CANCER	1	2	2	The output meets the requirements for accreditation

4. Recommendations

Overall, the university has complied with the policy requirements for the submission of creative outputs and innovations, particularly in creative outputs. The Department noted the continued growth in submission numbers from the institution. However, there are some areas for improvement. In this context it is strongly recommended that the university:

- Should take note that the DHET has stipulated that should there be an affiliation to the institution, it must be evident that the research was conducted at the institution by the research associate or that there was a documented collaboration between the research associate and full-time staff.
- Should take note that a single submission should not be separated to maximise subsidy. Components of the output must not be submitted twice. Where possible, a submission can be combined to create a stronger submission.
- Should take note of the policy requirements for the recognised subfields. Creative research outputs submitted under an incorrect subfield category will be declined as a misclassification affects the peer review and evaluation. The creative research must be well located in its discipline to ensure alignment with policy guidelines.
- Should ensure that the supporting documentation is always available, and that URLs remain functional for peer reviewers and subpanels to access at any time.
- Should take note of the importance of the applicant's annotation as a critical demonstration of scholarly rigour in the creative research process. It should provide a structured reflection of methodology, conceptual development, and theoretical framing that ensures the research is both critically engaged and academically robust.
- Should ensure that the peer reviewers are impartial to eliminate any potential conflict of interest