

FMHS RESEARCH COMMITTEE

APPLICATION FOR EARLY-CAREER RESEARCH FUNDING FOR 2026

Purpose

The purpose of these awards is to provide seed funding for early-career researchers to support them to embark on a research project that would lead to the production of research outputs that would enable them to apply for national and international grants.

Eligibility

- South Africans and foreign nationals are eligible to apply - only one application per applicant
- Applicants must be staff (full time, part-time or jointly appointed) at the FMHS, Stellenbosch University
- Applicants must have obtained a PhD degree within the last 5 years, or a medical specialist qualification, e.g. MMed or CMSA, within the last 10 years, or be a clinician registered for a PhD
- Applicants that hold MRC Career Development or NRF Black Academics Advancement awards are eligible to apply
- Professors, Associate professors, Postdoctoral fellows and students (with the exception of clinician PhD candidates) are not eligible to apply
- Previously successful applicants are not eligible to apply again towards this fund

Award and conditions

Ten to twelve Early-career Research Funding awards, up to **R 80,000** each, will be made available for a period of 1 year, depending on well-motivated budget requirements. Funding can be utilised towards the following:

- Research materials and consumables
- Minor research equipment
- Specialised research services
- Student bursaries (not towards applicant)
- Research assistance (not towards applicant)
- Lecturer replacement (if approved by divisional or departmental head)

Conference costs and publication fees are not allowed due to the availability alternative funding sources for these items. Proof of ethics approval for the proposed project must be provided by **31 July** of the funding year and a report of project outcomes and outputs should be submitted within 12 months of receiving an Early-career Research Funding award. Applicants will be expected to apply for at least one appropriate national or international grant funding award, for which they are eligible, during the year of the award.

Application

An application consists of the completed and approved form and the following supporting attachment(s):

Appendix	Description	Attached	Comments (optional)
A	Ethics approval(s), if required <i>(most recent ethics approval or renewal letters)</i>		
B	Approval letter from Head of Division or Department <i>(only required if Lecturer replacement is budgeted for)</i>		

Submission

A completed application form must be electronically approved by the Divisional or Departmental Head and submitted with the **attachment(s)** as **one PDF document to Mr Tashwell de Wet (tashwell@sun.ac.za) via e-mail, by 24 February 2026**. Please note that incomplete or late applications will not be accepted. No hard copies are required.

Outcomes of the applications will be made known during the Second half of April 2026 and funding will be available shortly after that, provided ethics approval is current.

Enquiries

Mr Tashwell de Wet at tashwell@sun.ac.za or 021 938 9056.

1. APPLICANT INFORMATION			
Surname		First name	
Division / Centre			Title
Department			
SU number	E-mail address		Date of birth
Gender	Race (for reporting)		Disability
Employer institution	Employment position		Nationality
Applicant status		End date of employment (if applicable)	

Qualifications			
Degree / Qualification	Field of study	Institution	Year obtained

Research impact	
NRF rating (and category) or intention to apply	H-index (Scopus only)

Research outputs

Peer-reviewed research articles during the past 10 years
(Number fully referenced articles and underline your name in each case)

Peer-reviewed research articles during the past 10 years
(Number fully referenced articles and underline your name in each case)

Other research outputs during the past 5 years
(List any other outputs, indicating the category of each, eg. Books, Book chapters, Conference presentations, Conference posters, Patents, etc.)

Other research outputs during the past 5 years
(List any other outputs, indicating the category of each, eg. Books, Book chapters, Conference presentations, Conference posters, Patents, etc.)

Student supervision: graduated students				
Student name	Supervisor / co-supervisor	Institution where student is enrolled	Hons / MSc / MPhil / MMed / Masters / PhD	Year obtained
Student supervision: enrolled students				
Student name	Supervisor / co-supervisor	Institution where student is enrolled	Hons / MSc / MPhil / MMed / Masters / PhD	Anticipated graduation
Other awards or achievements				

2. RESEARCH PROJECT	
Brief project title	
Short summary or abstract of the project <i>(around 300 words)</i>	

Ethics approval(s)				
Duration of research project	From (year)		To (year)	
From which of the following Stellenbosch University Research Ethics Committees (REC) is ethics approval required for this project? (Select <u>all</u> relevant RECs) <u>CLICK HERE FOR GUIDANCE</u>	HREC: Health Research Ethics Committee (HREC1 or HREC2)	REC: ACU – Animal Care and Use		
	REC: BES – Biological & Environmental Safety	REC: SBER – Social Science, Behavioural & Education Research		
If none of the above, motivate why ethics approval is not required for this project				
If ethics approval has already been obtained, provide the following	Ethics approval number(s)		Ethics expiry date(s)	
NOTE: 1. Appropriate ethics approval is required before funding will be disbursed (<i>Kindly submit a copy of the relevant ethics approval letter(s) with this application or as soon as approval is obtained.</i>) 2. Failure to supply ethics proof by 31 July may result in the cancellation of this award.				

Research theme (Select all relevant themes)		
Infectious Diseases	Maternal and Child Health	
Mental Health and Neurosciences	Non-communicable Diseases	
Health Systems Strengthening	Violence, Injury, Trauma and Rehabilitation	
Primary Health Care	If Other, please state	

Purpose of research project (Select all relevant box(es))	
Student Honours degree project	Non-degree research project
Student Masters degree project	Contract research project
Student Doctoral degree project	Pilot study
Other (please state)	

Aims and objectives of research project

Summary of methodology and proposed timeline of project

(Provide enough relevant detail to assess the feasibility of the project)

Envisaged outputs and impact

(Clearly indicate the number and types of degrees that this project will yield, as well as the number of peer-reviewed accredited journal articles, other outputs and the impact of the work)

Names of research team and/or collaborators

(List any other researchers and/or students involved in this project, also indicate their affiliations and roles in this project)

3. BUDGET REQUIREMENTS FOR 1 YEAR (12 MONTHS)

NOTE: This budget total should not exceed R80,000.

Provide a brief description and amount in the relevant categories as required for the project.

Description	Amount requested (Rand)
1. Research materials	
2. Minor research equipment	
3. Specialised research services	
4. Student bursaries	
5. Research assistance	
6. Lecturer replacement (Attach a letter of approval from the Head of Division or Department)	
Budget total:	

Budget motivation

(Strongly motivate your budget requirements for each of the categories requested. If funding is already available for the project, motivate why additional funding is required.)

Declaration of other sources of funding			
<i>(List <u>all</u> funds currently <u>available</u> and <u>all</u> funds <u>applied</u> for from funding agencies, including internal SU funds, national & international sources for this project)</i>			
Funding already awarded			
Funding agency	Category	Amount	Funding year(s)
Funding applied for (pending outcome)			
Funding agency	Category	Amount	Funding year(s)

3. APPROVALS

APPLICANT:

I agree that I have read the instructions and that this submission is complete, including relevant attachment(s):

Date:

APPROVAL BY LINE MANAGER (Departmental, Divisional or Centre Head):

I have reviewed and approve of this application:

Name of approver:

Date:

Comments (optional):