

## **UPDATED Funding Opportunity Announcement New Frontiers Research Award**

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) from the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust (OMT) for the [New Frontiers Research Award](#) recognises the efforts of visionary early- to mid-career researchers. The intent of the FOA is to provide researchers with the freedom and flexibility to pursue their research, thereby helping them produce significant work and gain international recognition.

OMT are looking to support forward-thinking innovative individuals with a clearly defined research vision, who want to build a team around them to perform cutting-edge research. You need to be committed to collaboration and have a proven research track record combined with leadership experience. The research must have relevance not only to South Africa, but also regionally or globally. We encourage applications from all disciplines. The award is open to anyone who wants to pursue research at a recognised research institution based in South Africa. OMT held an information session on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August and you can access a copy of the presentation [here](#).

### **Eligibility criteria:**

- Hold a PhD or equivalent (e.g. MD if in a medical field).
- Be an early-to-mid-career researcher (i.e. Have more than 5 but no more than 15 years of pre- or post-qualification experience in their field).
- Be employed at or have a confirmed offer from proposed host institution.
- Be able to demonstrate a significant body of work and already enjoy a considerable national and/or emerging international recognition for high-quality and impactful research outputs.

### **Award details:**

- OMT intends to fund 1 award nationally per year.
- The award period is 5 years.
- Applicants need to be willing and able to dedicate at least 70% of their time to research.

**IMPORTANT:** Even though the concept note does not require a budget, UCT researchers are encouraged to consider the scale of the scope of work they propose and develop a draft budget to ensure that the scope of work aligns with the available research budget.

- Application budgets should not exceed R1.5 million per year (including 20% indirects and 15% VAT).
- The final negotiation on indirect rate will occur with the funder at a later stage. In the absence of a predefined indirect rate, work on the inclusion of 20% indirects.

### **Deadlines:**

Please note that this is a 2-stage application process. The initial stage requires the PI to submit a concept note, via the [funder portal \(Portal guidance\)](#), no later than **30 September 2023**. Institutional approval, via UCT's electronic Research Administration ([eRA](#)) system, is **NOT** required at the Concept Note stage.

- If your concept note is accepted, you will be invited to submit a full application:
  - Full application deadline: **30 November 2023** (this will require UCT eRA approval)
  - Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed by an OMT panel in early 2024.

**Please complete this FHS [intention-to-submit form](#) if you intend applying for this call. Please note that completion of this form is for the purposes of internal support and tracking, it is not linked to funder application processes and does not commit you to applying to this opportunity.** For any queries relating to UCT processes, please contact the FHS [Research Development Team](#).

Please contact [newfrontiers@omt.org.za](mailto:newfrontiers@omt.org.za) if you have any specific queries relating to this opportunity.