

**Funding Opportunity Announcement:  
SAMRC Research Grants – Early Career and Research Grants – Program**

In January 2023, South Africa was admitted as a member of the International Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP) following a competitive application process. The South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) and the National Research Foundation (NRF) serve as joint institutional members. South Africa is the 16th country to be admitted, and the only country from Africa. [HFSP Research Grants](#) support **innovative basic research into fundamental biological problems** with emphasis placed on novel and interdisciplinary approaches that involve scientific exchanges across national and disciplinary boundaries.

Participation of scientists from disciplines outside the traditional life sciences such as biophysics, chemistry, computational biology, computer science, engineering, mathematics, nanoscience, or physics is recommended because such collaborations have opened up new approaches for understanding the complex structures and regulatory networks that characterize living organisms, their evolution, and interactions.

**Research grants are provided for teams of scientists from different countries who wish to combine their expertise in innovative approaches to questions that could not be answered by individual laboratories.** Preliminary results are not required, and applicants are expected to develop new lines of research through the research collaboration. It is understood that such research inherently contains risks and HFSP expects that teams of applicants address the risks and outline mitigation strategies for their research in case of failure and how they intend to achieve their goals.

Applications for applied research, including medical research typically funded by national medical research bodies, will be deemed ineligible (see [guidelines](#)).

Two types of research grants are available:

<b>Research Grants - Early Career</b>	<b>Research Grants - Program</b>
All team members are expected to direct a research group (however small) and must have a doctoral degree (PhD, MD or equivalent). They must be in a position to initiate and direct their own independent lines of research. The HFSP award is not intended to create scientific independence, this is a decision of the research institute prior to the application.	Awarded to teams of independent researchers at any stage of their careers. The research team is expected to develop new lines of research through the collaboration. Applications including independent investigators early in their careers are encouraged.

**Award details:**

- Detailed budgets are not required.
- Depending on team size, a fixed sum is awarded, to each team, over three years, depending on team size (awarded 2-member teams will receive 300 000 USD and 4-member teams 500 000 USD annually, if all members have their labs in different countries).

**Please adhere to the following SAMRC application deadlines:**

- Compulsory initiation of a [Letter of Intent \(LOI\)](#): **21 March 2023 (8pm SAST)**
  - The Principal Applicant must initiate the LOI by obtaining a seven-digit LOI ID (1 XXX XXX) on the [ProposalCentral site](#) (see [ProposalCentral Guide](#)).
- Submission of a Letter of Intent: **30 March 2023 (8pm SAST)**
- Submission of Full Proposals: **mid-September 2023, by invitation only**

Institutional approval, via the UCT eRA system, is **NOT REQUIRED** for the letter of intent phase of the application, as it does not require a budget broken down by cost category.

For any further queries, please contact the [Research Development Team](#)