

Call for Peer Reviewers for the evaluation of Creative Research Outputs and Innovations for Subsidy

1. Background

This call outlines the structure and duties of Peer Reviewers for implementing and evaluating the creative research outputs policy.

The Department of Higher Education and Training (the Department) oversees the Policy on the Evaluation of Creative Outputs and Innovations produced by South African Public Higher Education Institutions (2017) (the Policy). Universities submit subsidy funding claims annually, and the Department allocates research subsidies based on approved creative research outputs.

The Policy aims to recognise and subsidise qualifying institutions for quality creative research outputs and innovations produced by South African Public Higher Education Institutions. Innovations recognised by the Policy include patents and plant breeder's rights and the creative outputs are categorised into distinct subfields, which encompass, Fine Arts and Visual Arts; Music; Theatre, Performance and Dance; Design; Film and Television; and Literary Arts.

2. The move to double blind peer review

Since the inception of the Policy in 2019, each year, the Department has been undertaking evaluations of submitted creative research outputs for subsidy claims. Thus far, the Policy has received positive feedback, and the Department continues to have consultations within the higher education sector as it strives to refine the implementation of the policy, improve quality of submitted creative research outputs, evaluations undertaken, and particularly, the peer review process.

The integrity of the peer review process is of critical importance for quality assurance and ethics. Any conflict of interest may compromise the evaluation of the creative research outputs.

Findings emanating from the evaluation process play a significant role in refining implementation of the Policy and improving the quality of submitted creative research outputs. As such, it is imperative to ensure that the peer review process demonstrates transparency; impartiality; and integrity as the evaluation findings are utilised to contribute to the improvement of the higher education system and advance all forms of knowledge and scholarship.

The evaluation findings could further be utilised to address diverse challenges and meet the demands of the local peer evaluation process and strengthen international cooperation while upholding rigorous academic standards and quality of the creative research outputs. It is envisaged that such collaboration of local and international academics could successfully improve international communication; cross-cultural learning and skills; the quality of peer review process; enhance intellectual diversity and knowledge production, thus contributing significantly to an amplified creative research implementation in the South African higher education system.

The Department would like to invite local and international experts/ practitioners (researchers and experienced scholars) from the identified Sub-Fields to volunteer to serve as Peer Reviewers. **Sub-Field 1** Fine Arts and Visual Arts; **Sub-Field 2** Music; **Sub-Field 3** Film and Television; **Sub-Field 4** Literary Arts **Sub-Field 5** Design; and **Sub-Field 6** Theatre, Performance and Dance.

3. Role of the Peer Reviewers

The Peer Reviewers will review creative research outputs from South African Public Higher Education Institutions. The system opens annually from March to September, with each institution setting its own internal deadlines. Peer Reviewers should expect review requests during this period. Peer reviewers must acquaint themselves with the policy and the implementation guidelines.

4. Administrative support

The Sub-Field Peer Reviewers will be overseen by the Department and the administrative support will be provided by personnel from the University Research Support and Policy Development at the Department.

5. How to apply

Should you be interested in becoming a Peer Reviewer on one of the above-mentioned Sub-Fields, submit a complete application on registration page at <https://ross.nrf.ac.za> and upload a short Curriculum Vitae by no later than Tuesday, **10th December 2024**.

Should you encounter technical issues when submitting your applications, please contact the National Research Foundation (NRF) technical support at ross-support@nrf.ac.za.

Should you have any further questions, please contact:

Dr Idah Makukule at Makukule.I@dhet.gov.za

Ms Tiisetso Mampane at Mampane.t@dhet.gov.za

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I look forward to receiving your application to serve as a Peer Reviewer.

I thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Dr M Socikwa
Deputy Director- General: University Education
Date: 24.10.2024
