



NWU/TIA SEED FUND 2022/23

Call for Applications

Calling on all NWU Researchers and Innovators!

The NWU Technology Transfer and Innovation Support (TTIS) office invites all NWU researchers and innovators to submit applications for consideration to receive funding under the NWU/TIA Seed Fund Programme for the project year 2022/23. The programme is financially supported by the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) and administered by the NWU TTIS office.

1. Objective of the fund and focus sectors

The objective of the NWU TIA Seed Fund is to assist NWU researchers and innovators to advance their research outputs into prototypes and fundable innovations for commercialisation. It also enables innovators to de-risk research outputs through further development for follow-on funding from TIA and/or other funders.

The call is open to all economic and technology sectors, including all innovative projects from the NWU Faculties of Education, Humanities, Law and Theology.

2. Funding applications conditions

Funding Instrument	Grant and Conditional Grant
Funding Limit	Project funding up to R650 000. Applications seeking funding above R650k should be strongly motivated.
Technology Readiness Level (TRL)/ Stage of development	TRL 3 – TRL 5 <i>i.e.</i> Initial proof of concept must have been demonstrated at the time of submitting the application.
Funding Duration	Maximum 12 months (allowable up to 18 months upon approval)

The basic criteria to be considered in fundable projects include the following:

- Market/commercial opportunity
- Innovative technology/science
- Potential or existing intellectual property protection
- Strong team/consortium
- Well-rounded budget and project plan

The following activities can be supported through the TIA Seed Fund:

- Initial proof of concept (note that this assumes some level of proof of concept has been achieved using research funding).
- Product, Process (comprehensive technology package) and Prototype development.
- Sourcing of intellectual property (IP) opinions.
- Production of market samples and/or associated testing, analytical data and method development and specification sheet development.
- Refining and implementing designs.
- Conducting field studies.
- Support of certification activities.
- Piloting and scale-up and techno-economic evaluation.
- Detailed primary market research, or specialist consulting.
- Business Plan Development.

The following expenses are not allowable under the TIA Seed Fund:

- Funding should not be used replace research funding.
- Staff salaries or staff stipends are not permitted. Time worked on project tasks by staff may, however, may be billed on the project funds.
- Student bursaries may not be supported by the fund. A student may, however, be employed to conduct project tasks and remunerated accordingly.
- Faculty overheads may not be expensed from the project funds.
- Purchase of computer equipment will require motivation and it is not the intention of the fund to support the purchase of personal computing equipment.
- Conference expenses will generally not be supported and should not be included within a budget, unless special motivation has been provided and approved.
- Costs incurred before the funding award may not be reimbursed from the project funds.

3. Application process

All applicants must complete and submit the HEI Seed Fund Application form to the TTIS office via email to: **mesuli.mbanjwa@nwu.ac.za**. A copy of the HEI Seed Fund Application form has been provided together with this document. You may also request the application form from the TTIS Office. All sections denoted as mandatory in the form must be filled in. Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide as much detail as possible in order to enable a fair assessment of their submissions. Please do get contact with TTIS office or the Seed Fund Portfolio Manager for any assistance with the application process.

Complete applications received by the internal closing date will be screened internally and then reviewed by the NWU TIA Seed Fund Committee. A list of shortlisted applications will then be sent to TIA and recommended for funding. **Important note:** Do not send applications directly to TIA, as they will not be considered if not submitted via the NWU TTIS process.

4. Closing date:

All applications must be received by the TTIS office on the supplied email address **(mesuli.mbanjwa@nwu.ac.za) on or before 27 October 2022, 5pm**. Late or incomplete submissions will be disregarded. The list of NWU projects that have been recommended by the NWU TIA Steering Committee will be submitted to TIA by 04 November 2022.

5. Contact details

For any enquiries relating to the NWU TIA Seed Fund you may contact the NWU TIA Seed Fund Portfolio Manager, Dr Mesuli Mbanjwa (Email: mesuli.mbanjwa@nwu.ac.za, Tel: (018) 299 4902). Alternatively, you may contact any of the following people at the TTIS office for assistance:

Contact	Email	Telephone
Hannes Malan	Hannes.Malan@nwu.ac.za	(018) 299 4962
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