

23 August 2021

Attention: All NWU Innovators and Researchers

NWU TIA SEED FUND (2021/22): Call for Applications

The NWU Technology Transfer and Innovation Support (TTIS) is pleased to announce that the 2021 Call for Applications for the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) Seed Fund is now open. We, therefore, invite all NWU Innovators and Researchers to submit applications for consideration for funding.

The details for the call are as follows:

1. Focus Areas of the projects to be considered:

Focus area of the call will be all TIA Sectors, however, priority will be given to the following areas, as prescribed by TIA: Biosimilars; Smart Agriculture; Industrial Biotech (Bioremediation, Biomaterials and Bio catalysis); and Indigenous Knowledge System related technologies (African Traditional Medicines, Cosmeceuticals, Nutraceuticals and Health infusions).

2. Funding applications conditions

Funding Instrument	Grant and Conditional Grant
Funding Limit	Funding up to R650 000. Projects requiring funding above R650K funding should be strongly motivated.
Technology Readiness Level (TRL) / Stage of development	TRL 3 – TRL 5
Funding period	12 - 18 months (Maximum)

The basic criteria for funding include: (1) market/commercial opportunity, (2) innovative technology/science, (3) potential or existing intellectual property protection, (4) team/consortium and (5) well-rounded budget and project plan.

Other key criteria of assessment include:

- 1 The objectives the Seed Fund, the market need, stage of development, planned fundable activities, team's ability to execute the project within the stipulated timeline
- 2 The socio-economic impact of the project (contribution to solving societal challenge and delivery of a decent standard of living as per the National Development Plan 2030).
- 3 The likelihood of receiving follow-on funding from TIA or any other funder once the Seed Fund goals have been achieved.
- 4 Priority to be given to previously disadvantaged individual applicants such as (youth, women and people living with disabilities).
- 5 For projects that apply for second round Seed Fund, a further assessment internally will be conducted.

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**. All sections denoted as mandatory 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. A copy of the HEI Seed Fund Application form and the basic assessment criteria spreadsheet have been provided together with letter. Please do get contact with TTIS office or the Seed Fund Portfolio Manager for any assistance with the application process.

4. Closing date:

All Seed Fund applications will be screened and reviewed internally before a final list is submitted to TIA by 30 September 2021. Therefore, all applications must be received by the TTIS office on the supplied email address **on or before 19 September 2021, 5pm**. Late and incomplete submissions will not be acceptable.

We look forward to receiving your submission for the 2021 NWU TIA Seed Fund call.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Mesuli Mbanjwa
Portfolio Manager: NWU TIA Seed Fund