

Eligibility for Applicants

This section should be read by individual researchers and their employing institutions.

1. Eligibility

The following persons are eligible to apply for evaluation and rating:

- Researchers who are employed and remunerated on a full-time, part-time or contract basis at South African (SA) higher education institutions (HEIs) (including private HEIs in SA), museums or at NRF recognised research institutions¹. (For retired academics/researchers bullet 6 applies.)
- Full-time temporary staff members at SA HEIs and SA museums who enjoy the conditions of service that normally also apply to their permanent full-time colleagues
- Postdoctoral fellows who are conducting research in a full-time capacity at SA HEIs.
- Persons who are being considered for full-time posts at SA HEIs and SA museums (i.e. applications from such persons can be submitted by the HEI considering their employment before they are actually employed).
- Persons holding joint appointments between a SA institution and a foreign institution who are actively involved in research capacity building locally. Such persons should be employed by the SA institution in a full-time capacity for a period of at least three months per annum and should spend at least three months per annum in SA.
- Retired academics/researchers who are
 - resident in SA, and
 - formally affiliated to a SA HEI (e.g. appointed as an emeritus professor, honorary research associate/professor, supernumerary/contract employee) and whose application for rating is formally supported and endorsed by a SA HEI to which he/she is or is anticipating to be affiliated, and
 - active researchers with a distinguished track record in research and postgraduate student supervision, and
 - still actively mentoring/training postgraduate students/young research staff.

2. Application for evaluation and re-evaluation

Applications are submitted electronically and can be accessed at: <https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za>. The instructions on how to complete and submit the application are available at the same internet address.

Re-evaluation Applicants

Researchers at recognised research institutions who are currently rated A, B, C, P or Y will be invited to submit documents for re-evaluation in approximately five-year cycles. Should a researcher choose not to respond to this invitation, his/her rating will lapse and he/she will not qualify for funding from the Focus Area Programmes and Institutional Capacity Development. Applicants who are not placed in one of the above categories should wait for three years before they apply for re-evaluation. In these cases, the onus to apply for re-evaluation rests with the applicant.

An 'NRF recognised research institution' is one that meets all the following minimum requirements:

- any South African institution that conducts basic research or applied research,
- of a pre-competitive nature,
- for the benefit of the long-term knowledge base,
- within the declared NRF focus areas,
- containing a research training component leading to master's degrees and doctorates, while being committed to equity and redress.