ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE FOR NRF AWARDS
(Administered by Reviews & Evaluation)
Table of contents

Introduction...........................................................................................................................................4

Participating institutions.....................................................................................................................4

Guidelines for nominations..................................................................................................................4

Definition of Research..........................................................................................................................4

1. Applicants awarded an A- or P-rating by the NRF on (re)evaluation............................................5

2. Transformation of the Science Cohort.............................................................................................8

3. Champion of Research Capacity Development at SA HEIs............................................................8

4. Lifetime Achiever.............................................................................................................................9

Call for nominations............................................................................................................................9

NRF selection process.......................................................................................................................10

Outcome ...............................................................................................................................................10

NRF Reviews & Evaluation.................................................................................................................11

..........................................................................................................................................................11
Introduction

The mandate of the National Research Foundation (NRF) stipulates that the organization supports and promotes research in the broadest sense. The annual NRF Awards function recognises South African scientists for their achievements as indicated through the NRF rating system. In addition, to the rating linked awards special awards provide a platform to honour researchers for career contributions to knowledge creation and dissemination as well as capacity development and transformation in the national research system. Awards are made annually in the following categories at the NRF Awards function:

1. A-rated Researchers;
2. P-rated Researchers;
3. *Champion of Research Capacity Development at SA HEIs;
4. *Transforming the Science Cohort, and
5. *Lifetime Achiever.

(*nominees in these categories may not necessarily be a researcher rated by the NRF)

Participating institutions

Institutions from the National System of Innovation (NSI) may submit a nomination in the categories, ‘Transformation of the Science Cohort’, ‘Champion of Research Capacity Development at SA HEIs’ and ‘Lifetime Achiever’ awards. All nominations must be submitted through the research offices of a Department of Science and Technology recognised research institution or responsible authorities within the institution (endorsed by the CEO).

Guidelines for nominations

This document provides an account of the process for the identification of nominees for the NRF Awards in the categories 1 – 5 listed above.

Definition of Research

For purposes of the NRF, research is original investigation undertaken to gain knowledge and/or enhance understanding.

Research specifically includes:
- the creation and development of the intellectual infrastructure of subjects and disciplines (e.g., through dictionaries, scholarly editions, catalogues and contributions to major research databases);
- the invention or generation of ideas, images, performances and artefacts where these manifestly embody new or substantially developed insights; and
- building on existing knowledge to produce new or substantially improved materials, devices, products, policies or processes.

It specifically excludes:
- routine testing and analysis of materials, components, instruments and processes, as distinct from the development of new analytical techniques; and
- the development of teaching materials and teaching practices that do not embody substantial original enquiry.

1. Applicants awarded an A- or P-rating by the NRF on (re)evaluation

The definitions of A- and P-rating categories are given in the table below:

---

1 Science = Natural Sciences, Engineering and Technology as well as Social Sciences and Humanities
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Sub-category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Researchers who are unequivocally recognised by their peers as leading international scholars in their field for the high quality and impact of their recent research outputs.</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>A researcher in this group is recognised by all reviewers as a leading scholar in his/her field internationally for the high quality and impact of his/her recent research outputs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>A researcher in this group is recognised by the overwhelming majority of reviewers as a leading scholar in his/her field internationally for the high quality and impact (either wide or confined) of his/her recent research outputs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Researchers who enjoy considerable international recognition by their peers for the high quality and impact of their recent research outputs.</td>
<td>B1</td>
<td>All reviewers are firmly convinced that the applicant enjoys considerable international recognition for the high quality and impact of his/her recent research outputs, with some of them indicating that he/she is a leading international scholar in the field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>B2</td>
<td>All or the overwhelming majority of reviewers are firmly convinced that the applicant enjoys considerable international recognition for the high quality and impact of his/her recent research outputs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>B3</td>
<td>Most of the reviewers are convinced that the applicant enjoys considerable international recognition for the high quality and impact of his/her recent research outputs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Established researchers with a sustained recent record of productivity in the field who are recognised by their peers as having: • produced a body of quality work, the core of which has coherence and attests to ongoing engagement with the field • demonstrated the ability to conceptualise problems and apply research methods to investigating them.</td>
<td>C1</td>
<td>All of the reviewers are firmly convinced that the applicant is an established researcher as described with some reviewers indicating that he/she already enjoys considerable international recognition on the basis of his/her high quality recent research outputs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C2</td>
<td>All of the reviewers are firmly convinced that the applicant is an established researcher as described. The applicant may, but need not, enjoy some international recognition for the quality and impact of his/her recent research outputs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C3</td>
<td>Most of the reviewers concur that the applicant is an established researcher (as described).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Young researchers (normally younger than 35 years of age), who have held the doctorate or equivalent qualification for less than five years at the time of application and who, on the basis of exceptional potential demonstrated in their published doctoral work and/or their research outputs in their early post-doctoral careers are considered likely to become future international leaders in their field.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Researchers in this group are recognised by all or the overwhelming majority of reviewers as having demonstrated the potential of becoming future international leaders in their field on the basis of exceptional research performance and output from their doctoral and/or early post-doctoral research careers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Young researchers (40 years or younger), who have held the doctorate or equivalent qualification for less than five years at the time of application, and who are recognised as having the potential to establish themselves as researchers within a five-year period after evaluation, based on their performance and productivity of quality research outputs during their doctoral studies and/or early post-doctoral careers.</td>
<td>Y1</td>
<td>A young researcher (within 5 years from PhD) who is recognised by all reviewers as having the potential (demonstrated by research products) to establish him/herself as a researcher with some of them indicating that he/she has the potential to become a future leader in his/her field. OR A young researcher (within 5 years from PhD) who is recognised by all or the overwhelming majority of reviewers as having the potential to establish him/herself as a researcher of considerable international standing on the basis of the quality and impact of his/her recent research outputs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Y2</td>
<td>A researcher in this group is recognised by all or the overwhelming majority of reviewers as having the potential to establish him/herself as a researcher (demonstrated by recent research products).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Transformation of the Science Cohort

This category honours the challenge of attracting more black scientists moving towards world class research performance by giving them encouragement and recognition for their efforts and the challenges they had to overcome. The award is focused on transforming the science cohort to be more representative of South African demographics.

*Criteria (eligibility) for nomination*
The nominee for the Transformation of the Science Cohort award must:

- be a black South African citizen or permanent resident;
- be an active researcher at a South African research institution in any research field which could qualify for support from the NRF; and
- have an impressive research performance record as indicated by the standard research performance indicators and/or judged by peers.

3. Champion of Research Capacity Development at SA HEIs

This category recognises individuals within the research community who contribute to the transformation of South Africa’s community and landscape. The aim of this award is to encourage and promote this activity across the South African research community. It should be noted that the award is dependent on the number of students in the designated groups that had been trained, as well as the quality and impact of research outputs of the students.

Criteria (eligibility) for nomination

The nominee for the Champion of Research Capacity development at SA HEIs award must:

- clearly indicate the number of Masters and PhD students who are black;
- clearly identify the strategy in place to develop capacity;
- clearly indicate research outputs by students under their supervision;
- be a permanent or contracted employee employed at the institution that selects the nominee;
- be characterised by his/her peers as an active researcher in any discipline;
- be acknowledged to have made, or to be making, a significant contribution to the:
  - Identification of research talent within designated groups,
  - The nurturing of this talent,
  - Moulding and developing of research excellence;
- have achieved this through the respect of everyone in the research institution; and
- have a track record of success in achieving transformation for at least the past three years.

4. Lifetime Achiever

The Lifetime Achiever award honours a deserving South African individual who is considered to have made outstanding or extraordinary contribution(s) to the development of science in and for South Africa over an extended period of time. These contributions must be of international standard and impact.

Criteria (eligibility) for nomination

The selection of the candidate for the Lifetime Achiever award must fulfil the following criteria:

- Be a South African citizen or permanent resident generally above 60 years of age;
- Her/his science/innovation-related contribution and/or achievements in and for South Africa must be of international standard and have been recognised internationally;
- Must have made a contribution to the lives of South Africans, through her/his science/innovation-related work and achievements that can be categorised as being significant, recognisably developmental, beneficial and have made significant impact; and
- Need not be associated with a research or higher education institution at the point of being recognised for this award.

Call for nominations

The process comprises the following steps for the identification of nominees in categories 2, 3 and 4 above.

- A call for nominations in these categories for the NRF Awards will be announced.
- The NRF will advertise the call through the Designated Authorities (DAs) at Department of Science and Technology recognised research institutions and will also advise DAs of the closing date for nominations.
• Institutions will be requested to identify no more than one nominee per category.
• An appropriate internal nomination and screening process should be employed by the institution.
• Written motivations on the template provided for the different categories as well as the *curriculum vitae (CV)* of the applicant, *should be* included with each nomination and submitted to the NRF.

**NRF selection process**

A- and P-rated researchers (re)rated during the last (peer-reviewed) rating cycle who are recognised at the awards function are pre-selected through the rigorous Evaluation and Rating System of the NRF.

The selection of nominees in the categories, ‘Transformation of the Science Cohort’, ‘Champion of Research Capacity Development at SA HEIs’ and ‘Lifetime Achiever’ awards will be managed by the NRF.

The names of the nominees and supporting documents shall be submitted to Corporate Communications for further processing.

**Outcome**

The outcome of the selection process will be conveyed to employing institutions as soon as the decisions have been finalised. The formal announcement of awardees which will include the hand-out of the award to each recipient will be made at the annual NRF Awards Banquet (to be held annually in September) at which the NRF recognises individuals for their extraordinary achievements and contributions relating to the mandate and vision of the NRF.

The office of the CEO will be responsible for all aspects related to the promotion, the banquet and the publicity of the awards.
**NRF Reviews & Evaluation**

The following Reviews & Evaluation staff members are involved with nominations for the NRF Awardees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Lebusa Monyooe</td>
<td>Acting Executive Director: Reviews &amp; Evaluation</td>
<td>012-4814230</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lebusa@nrf.ac.za">lebusa@nrf.ac.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Joyce Olivier</td>
<td>Director: Reviews &amp; Evaluation</td>
<td>012 481 4106</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joyce.olivier@nrf.ac.za">joyce.olivier@nrf.ac.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Diane Monteiro</td>
<td>Professional Officer: Reviews &amp; Evaluation</td>
<td>012 481 4033</td>
<td><a href="mailto:diane@nrf.ac.za">diane@nrf.ac.za</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Postal address: PO Box 2600
Pretoria
0001

Physical address: NRF Building
Meiring Naudé Road
Brummeria
Pretoria

Internet address: http://www.nrf.ac.za/

Telephone number: (012) 481 4000

Fax number: (012) 481 4010