

Pre-Announcement

South Africa – Tunisia Joint Research Programme

(2027–2030)

The National Research Foundation (NRF) and the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MHESR) are pleased to **pre-announce an upcoming joint call for research proposals** under the bilateral agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

This programme aims to strengthen collaboration between Tunisian and South African researchers through the support of **joint research and mobility projects**.

1. Objectives

- Promote **scientific excellence and innovation** in both countries
- Strengthen **bilateral research partnerships**
- Support **early-career researchers and mobility**
- Enhance **capacity building and applied research impact**

2. Key Focus Areas

The call will support collaborative projects in the following priority areas:

- Nanotechnology
- Artificial Intelligence
- Water, Food and Energy Nexus
- Health
- Space and Astronomy

3. Programme Highlights

- Duration: **Up to 3 years (2027–2030)**
- Funding: Provided by both Tunisia and South Africa (separate national budgets)
- Activities supported:
 - Researcher mobility and exchange visits
 - Joint research activities

- Scientific events and dissemination
- Research consumables (limited share of budget)

4. Indicative Timeline

- **Call launch:** 30 June 2026
- **Application deadline:** 15 September 2026
- **Project start:** April 2027

5. Who Can Apply?

- Joint proposals from **Tunisian and South African research institutions**
- Each project must include **two Principal Investigators (one per country)**
- Strong emphasis on:
 - Inclusion of **young researchers (PhD/Postdocs)**
 - **Interdisciplinary collaboration**
 - Engagement with **industry or socio-economic partners**

6. Important Note

This is a **pre-announcement**. Full call details, application guidelines, and submission procedures will be provided upon the official launch.

7. Contact

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