Instructions and Checklist – Emerging Researcher Fund Applications for 2019

The SACEMA Emerging Researcher Fund is designed for students who are registered for Masters, PhD or Postdoctoral study at a South African university, with a well-formulated proposal and a supervisor. The ideal candidate is a promising emerging researcher working on an important project closely aligned to SACEMA's mission. An application may be submitted for funding, not exceeding R 35 000, to support project costs, professional development activities, and collaboration.

Candidates are required to submit their research proposal, including a proposed budget, and a clear budget justification highlighting how the proposed funding will add value to the project. The funds must be spent within the 2019 calendar year.

Note: Students who currently hold a SACEMA bursary or have applied for one for 2019 are not eligible for this funding.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

Please submit the completed Emerging Researcher Fund Application Form online by Tuesday 31 July 2018, together with uploads of all documents described below and listed in the CHECKLIST, except for the reference letter, which is to be sent directly by your supervisor by the same deadline. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

1. **Personal statement.** You are to submit a statement of under 500 words, which includes answers to the following questions: What motivates you to do postgraduate research? Why is your chosen research field attractive to you? What are your career goals?

2. **Research proposal.** You are required to submit your detailed project proposal in the Application Form. The submission, to be formulated with the full involvement of

your supervisor, includes the broad research area, project title, start/end years, and details under five more headings provided.

Some of the five headings will require more detail than others, depending on your particular project. The word limit is stated on the form for each of the five boxes. It will be helpful to compose your responses offline in advance of filling in the form.

As a guide to giving adequate answers for each heading, please make sure that you include clear answers to the questions given below. You should insert citations wherever appropriate.

Problem identification: What is your main question? Why is this an important issue in public health?

Context of Research: What is the background for this project? What is already known and how does this inform your research question?

Research aims & objectives: What are the goals and expected outcomes of your research?

Approach/ study design/ methods/ techniques: What are the steps that you plan to take to meet your goals and achieve your expected outcomes? (Give details of proposed methodology.)

Value added: How would this funding strengthen the link between models and data to fill a gap in your project?

Research feasibility: What resources are available to you (give details of data, project funding, equipment, laboratory, etc.), and what contingency plans do you have for any potential difficulties that may arise?

Proposed budget. The budget is not to exceed R35 000, and items must be project-related. This may include relevant professional development activities, travel or collaboration. Each item in the budget must have an amount supported by a clear justification, explaining how the proposed funding will add value to your project. Funds for equipment (e.g. computers), and staff (e.g. research assistants) will not be allowed. The funds must be used within the calendar year 2019.

3. **Supervisor Support Form**. This is to be downloaded from here http://sacema.org/uploads/ERF_Supervisor%20support%20form_2019.pdf and given to your supervisor to complete and return to you as a pdf for uploading with your application form. It includes contact details for further engagement with SACEMA in order to evaluate your proposal and budget, if necessary.

4. **Copies (in pdf form ONLY) of the following:** your CV, your proposed supervisor's CV, your Passport/Identity Document, and Transcripts (in a single pdf) of all your previous degree results.

5. **Reference Letter**. This is to be commissioned by you from your supervisor. The letter must be submitted **separately and directly by the supervisor** before 31 July 2018, to: SACEMA Training Coordinator, Masimba Paradza, mwparadza@sun.ac.za

Note that it is your responsibility to commission this letter, and brief your supervisor fully. The letter which is an important component of your application and should provide relevant support for it, including the proposed budget items. The letter may include an assessment of the quality of your previous work, your potential for independent research, and your promise for academic excellence and professional growth.

CHECKLIST OF DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION FORM:

1. Personal statement (pdf only)
2. Supervisor Support Form (pdf only)
3. Proposed budget and justification (pdf only)
4. A copy of your CV (pdf only)
5. A copy of your supervisor's CV (pdf only)
6. A copy of your identity document/passport (pdf only)
7. Transcripts of all previous degree results (as a single pdf)

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

8. Reference letter to be sent directly by supervisor.