

Call for Expressions of Interest

u'Good Research Programme

Expression of Interest	
Monday, 26 February 2024	The deadline for the submission of expressions of interest
Full Proposal	
Monday, 22 July 2024	The deadline for the submission of full proposals

Please direct all queries to Prince Khoza at (prince.khoza@uct.ac.za)

The u'GOOD research programme seeks to accelerate research into the wellbeing of young people, particularly those who live in the Global South. More specifically, it seeks to draw on the recent exciting insights and advances in scholarship on relational wellbeing (RWB). u'GOOD seeks to: 1) centre relationality in studying and understanding human wellbeing, 2) foreground experiences and theory development from Global South contexts, and 3) recognise young people as a growing priority around the world, and as agents in solving problems which concern them.

Four thematic areas in which researchers are invited to generate theoretical and empirical insights are: (1) young people and livelihoods, (2) young people and mental health, (3) young people and digitalisation, and (4) young people and climate change. Proposals engaging and seeking to test and critique the RWB approach purely from a theoretical vantage point (i.e., not directly related to the thematic areas) will also be considered, as will those that integrate investigations across themes.

ELIGIBILITY

Researchers whose research interests focus on young people and wellbeing in one or several of the following 12 countries are eligible to apply: Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Romania, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, and Vietnam. In addition, funded development projects of Fondation Botnar who focus their work at the interface of young people in the 12 eligible countries can apply to this funding opportunity.

General Eligibility Criteria for Applicants

- Principal investigators must be in possession of a PhD and may either be emerging researchers (up to seven years post-PhD) or established researchers (eight-plus years post-PhD), and must be based at UCT.
- Project teams must be based in one of the 12 focus countries, be part of the diaspora of one of the 12 focus countries, or must show that they work in one of the countries even if they are affiliated to or based at an institution outside of the focus countries.
- Project teams are expected to include non-academic research partners (e.g. from nongovernmental organisations, community groups, industry, government agencies, etc.) and to foster wellbeing, co-creation and co-learning. These partnerships must extend beyond the life and scope of the project. Research partners from these non-academic institutions cannot lead the project or serve as PIs.
- Project teams are expected to incorporate capacity development (i.e. the development of young scholars such as Masters or Doctoral students and/or Postdoctoral fellows), and to work towards a multi-pronged approach to capacity strengthening of young people, early career researchers, and networks within and beyond the u'Good programme.

General Eligibility Criteria for Submitted Proposals

- Submitted proposals should centre young people and relational wellbeing.

- Submitted proposals should be interdisciplinary (integrating information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts or theories from two or more disciplines or bodies of specialised knowledge), transdisciplinary (integrating the natural, social and health sciences in a humanities context), and trans-sectoral (involving the academic, research, economic, societal, and community sectors, as appropriate). Proposals should therefore be rooted in transdisciplinarity, multi-dimensional, systems thinking, context and reflexivity.
- Submitted proposals must be young people-centred, meaning that they must include young people as part of the research team. This can be done in a variety of ways, such as incorporating young people's voices, ideas, and lived experiences throughout the project cycle (i.e. from design through implementation and evaluation) via participatory, action and emancipatory research methodologies.
- Submitted proposals should take cognisance of the ecological impact of the project activities and should include strategies/plans for how to mitigate these.
- Submitted proposals must demonstrate consideration for gender and diversity including sex as a biological variable and gender as a socio-cultural factor in research projects.

Eligibility for Multi-Country Research Teams

- Multi-country research teams must include a minimum of three countries from the 12 focus countries of this Call. There is no maximum limit to the number of countries that can participate in a multi-country funding track.
- Funding requested by a PI leading a multi-country research team cannot represent more than 50% of the funding requested by the research team as a whole.

Technical Eligibility Criteria

- Each PI (and research team) is allowed to submit only one proposal and apply to only one funding track. The PI cannot participate as a research team member in other proposals.
- All submissions (research initiatives, expressions of interest, and full proposals) must be written in English.

FUNDING

Funding is available for three-year projects. Therefore, projects should be designed to be completed within three years (2025–2027). One-year no-cost extensions may be available in some circumstances, on request, and requiring appropriate justification.

The total amount of funding available for research grants is USD7 million. Funded projects will fall within the following two funding tracks:

- 15 x single-country research teams, three-year grants at USD200,000 each, and
- 8 x multi-country research teams, three-year grants at USD500,000 each.

APPLICATION PROCESS

This Call for proposals consists of three main phases:

1. Online registration for partner search (not mandatory)

Applicants interested in finding research partners are invited to register on OurSpace [<https://www.ourspacefoundationbotnar.org>] and connect with other researchers from the 12 focal countries who share similar interests and who are also seeking collaborations. Registering on OurSpace is not compulsory. This process aims to assist researchers with finding suitable partners and

form effective research teams.

2. An expression of interest submission (mandatory)

The submission of an expression of interest is compulsory for this Call for proposals. An expression of interest is a concise proposal, submitted online through the NRF Online Submission System, and must be submitted before the indicated deadline of 26 February 2024. After submitting an expression of interest, the PI will receive a confirmation of receipt.

The steps involved in submitting the expression of interest application are:

1. Register / Log onto the NRF Connect (<https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za>)
2. Update your CV.
3. On the Menu, click on Applications under My Applications tab.
4. Click on the + sign next to Concept Notes.
5. Click on the *Create* button next to 'u'Good'
6. Complete all compulsory sections and the relevant non-compulsory sections.
7. Attach all the required documents in PDF format.
8. Submit the application on completion.

3. A full proposal submission (mandatory)

Only successful expressions of interest will be invited to submit a full proposal.

Please read the [Application Framework](#) for more information or visit the u'Good website <https://www.nrf.ac.za/ugood/>

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration. For technical questions, please contact the u'Good Call Secretariat (U'GOODCall@nrf.ac.za).

Information Webinar on the Call for Expressions of Interest (via Zoom)

Date: 15 February 2024

Time: 14:30 – 16:30

To register for the Webinar: [Click Here](#)