Call for applications: ICGEB Research Grants – Collaborative Research Programme (CRP) 2026

Funding amount and duration of funding: a maximum duration of **36 months**. The maximum annual contribution from ICGEB is €25,000 per project

Funder deadline: 30 April 2026

UCT Internal Deadlines
- **UCT Intention to submit deadline:** Please complete intention-to-submit form no later than **01 April 2026**
- **UCT eRA:** Approval via UCT's electronic Research Administration (eRA) system is **REQUIRED** prior to submission to the funder. Applicants should:
  o contact faculty finance/budget reviewer by no later than **31 March 2026**
  o eRA Internal Approvals forms should reach the Finance Approver by no later than **08 April 2026**

Contacts: - internationalgrants@uct.ac.za

About the Funding Opportunity

The ICGEB Collaborative Research Programme (CRP) aims to stimulate international cooperative research among ICGEB Member States and with ICGEB Component laboratories, promote the training of young scientists, and support the development of research capacity and facilities. Projects may address scientific challenges in:
- Basic life sciences
- Human healthcare
- Industrial and agricultural biotechnology
- Bioenergy

Successful proposals should demonstrate strong collaborative value, feasibility within the project timeframe and relevance to regional or national scientific priorities.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must hold a position at a university or research institute in an ICGEB Member States

Projects must include **fully integrated international collaboration**, with clearly defined roles for collaborating laboratories. Collaboration with ICGEB Component laboratories (Trieste, New Delhi or Cape Town) is not mandatory but considered an asset.

Applications are not eligible if:
- Previously awarded ICGEB projects have not been evaluated and satisfactorily concluded.

Early Career Return Grants
This category supports researchers who:
- Are 40 years old or younger at the time of application.
- Have spent at least two consecutive years abroad.
- Returned to an ICGEB Member State (excluding Italy) no more than two years before the submission deadline.
- Are establishing an independent laboratory in an eligible Member State.

All eligibility conditions applicable to standard CRP grants also apply to Early Career Return Grants.

Funding amount and duration of funding:

ICGEB CRP Grants provide support for original collaborative research projects with a maximum duration of 36 months. The maximum annual contribution from ICGEB is €25,000 per project. Funds may cover:

- **Equipment** (max 30% of total grant): Standard lab equipment (no major equipment >€10,000).
- **Consumables:** General lab supplies, chemicals, reagents, sequencing services (max 20% of total grant).
- **Training:** Short-term training visits (max 3 months) and stipends for trainees from other ICGEB Member States.
- **Travel** (max 10% of total grant): Conferences and essential local travel.
- **Literature** (max 5% of total grant): Books, journal subscriptions, and publication fees.

Project funds may not be used for:

- Salaries of Principal Investigators
- **No Indirect Costs Allowed**
- Maintenance or rental of capital equipment, building, etc.

Application Process

This proposal requires the PI to complete an online application on the funder portal via the ICGEB Service Gateway as well as requesting institutional approval via UCT's electronic Research Administration (eRA) system, prior to submission of the application.

UCT internal requirements

	Deadline
PI to initiate an eRA Proposal Approval request and alert their faculty finance office of the budgetary support needed	**Immediately**
PI to submit an eRA Proposal Approval request with a draft budget to the Budget Reviewer step on eRA at least **4 weeks** before the funder deadline	**31 March 2026**
PI to submit an eRA Proposal Approval request to the Finance Approver step on eRA at least **2 weeks** before the funder deadline	**08 April 2026**
Approval form and all supporting documents to reach RC&I via eRA at least **1 week** before the funder deadline	**22 April 2026**
PI to submit the application on the funder portal by the funder deadline	**30 April 2026**