The National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) ensures dedicated, prioritised and systematic funding for research, science and technology application and development in Namibia, and invests in six primary activities as follows: research activities; bursaries and scholarships; innovation activities; bilateral and multilateral cooperation; training; and workshops.

**Mandate**

The NCRST was established through the Research, Science and Technology Act (Act No. 24 of 2001). The NCRST’s mandate is:

- to ensure the co-ordination, monitoring and supervision of research, science and technology in Namibia;
- to promote and develop research, science and technology in Namibia;
- to promote common ground in research, scientific and technological thinking across all disciplines, including the physical, mathematical and life sciences, as well as human, social and economic sciences;
- to encourage and promote innovative and independent thinking and the optimum development of intellectual capacity of people in research, science and technology;
- to ensure dedicated, prioritised and systematic funding for research, science and technology application and development in Namibia;
- to promote linkages between Namibia and international institutions and bodies on the development of research, science and technology.

**Priority Thematic Research Areas**

The NCRST invests in priority thematic areas that are aligned with its National Programme on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (NPRSTI). The proposed thematic areas include areas addressing economic and social challenges including Health; Agriculture and Fisheries; Water; Logistics; Environment and Tourism; Humanities; Energy; Mining and Geosciences; as well as areas addressing enabling technologies which are Manufacturing Technologies; Information and Communication Technology; Biotechnology and Space Sciences. Funding opportunities are provided under specific research calls which are advertised in the media and on our website. For each Research Call, the NCRST develops specific application and eligibility criteria.

**Duration**

The duration of the award cycle is generally 2 years, however, the NCRST may at its discretion continue or discontinue funding or reduce or increase the duration based on various factors which will be communicated to the applicants.

**Grant Management Process**

NCRST’s grants are managed through a thorough grant management system and grant management process that is composed of several key steps. Grant recipients sign an agreement with the NCRST and the NCRST makes payment disbursements directly to the institution under which the researcher or grant recipient is registered. The institution co-signs the grant agreement.

**Value Creation**

The NCRST places a strong emphasis on economic and social value creation. Therefore elements such as student capacity development; skills transfer; value for money and outcomes that are economically beneficial for Namibians are important considerations during the evaluation process. Applicants should therefore tailor their proposals in a way that promotes value creation.

**How to Apply**

To apply for an NCRST Research Call, visit our website www.ncrst.na or contact us at calls@ncrst.na.