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COOPERATION UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO



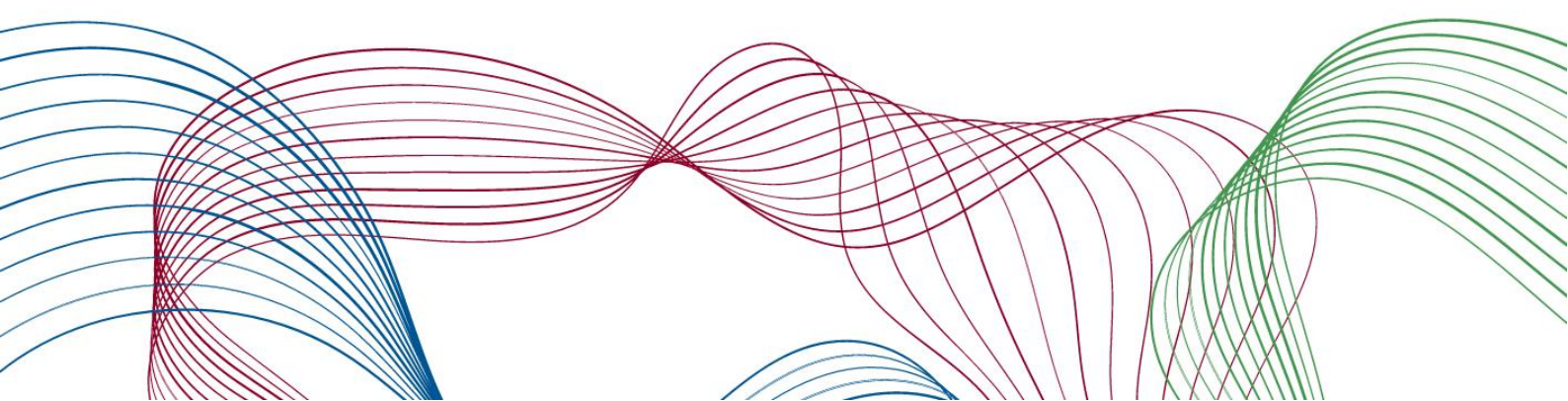
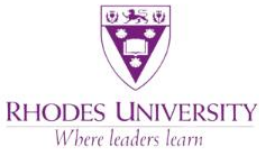
National  
Research  
Foundation

# SOUTHERN AFRICA

## REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON MASTERING RESEARCH PROPOSALS: INTEGRATING TRANSDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES FOR IMPACTFUL RESEARCH

14 – 17 OCTOBER 2024

PRETORIA  
SOUTH AFRICA



## BACKGROUND

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The Future Earth Africa Hub and the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre (ISTIC) under the auspices of UNESCO, have established a strategic partnership aimed at advancing South-South Cooperation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This collaboration is dedicated to enhancing sustainability research across countries in the global South.

In recognition of the critical need to elevate research capacities and funding opportunities, ISTIC and the Future Earth Africa Hub are organizing a specialized training workshop focused on "Mastering Research Proposals: Integrating Transdisciplinary Approaches for Impactful Research." This initiative addresses two fundamental needs:

1. **Proposal Writing for Transdisciplinary Research:** The workshop is designed to equip researchers with the skills necessary to craft high-quality proposals for transdisciplinary research. This type of research integrates insights and methods from multiple disciplines to address complex sustainability challenges that cannot be solved from a single perspective. Effective proposal writing is crucial for securing funding and communicating the value and feasibility of these integrative research projects.
2. **Building Capacity for Impactful Research:** By focusing on transdisciplinary approaches, the training aims to enhance the ability of researchers to develop proposals that address pressing sustainability issues such as climate change, food and water security, and poverty. This capacity-building effort is essential for empowering researchers to produce impactful, cross-disciplinary solutions and for fostering collaboration across diverse fields and sectors.

The need for this training stems from the observation that many researchers in the global South face significant challenges in securing funding for innovative, cross-disciplinary research. The competitive nature of grant applications and the complexity of proposal requirements necessitate targeted support to overcome these barriers.

This workshop will provide early to mid-career researchers with practical skills in proposal writing, specifically tailored to the nuances of transdisciplinary research. By enhancing their ability to develop persuasive and well-structured proposals, the training aims to increase their access to funding and support impactful research initiatives that contribute to sustainable development.

Through this strategic initiative, ISTIC and the Future Earth Africa Hub seek to bridge the gap in research funding and capacity, ultimately fostering a culture of excellence and collaboration in sustainability research across the global South.

## OBJECTIVES

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The key objectives of the training are to:

1. Develop participants' skills in crafting clear, persuasive, and compelling grant proposals.
2. Provide an understanding of the grant landscape by providing insights into the overall landscape of grant opportunities, various funding sources, and the expectations of different funding agencies.
3. Guide participants in understanding the essential components of a grant proposal, including project design, objectives, methodologies, and expected outcomes.

4. Share relevant case studies and best practices in grant writing proposal writing, offering real world examples that illustrate successful approaches.
5. Encourage collaboration among participants, fostering a supportive network for ongoing assistance and collaboration in the realm of grant seeking.

## **TARGET GROUP**

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Early to middle-career researchers (EMCR).

## **METHODOLOGY**

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The training will adopt a participatory approach, combining lectures, interactive discussions, practical exercises, and case study analysis. Participants will be encouraged to bring their own project ideas for hands-on application of the skills learned during the sessions.

## **DURATION**

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The proposed training programme is a 4-day workshop, allowing for in-depth exploration of key concepts and providing ample time for practical exercises and discussions.

## **VENUE**

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Future Africa, University of Pretoria and National Research Foundation South Africa

## **EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

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1. Improved understanding of the process and skills in crafting clear, compelling, and well-structured proposals;
2. Enhanced skills in crafting persuasive and impactful project narratives;
3. Enhanced ability to navigate the grant application process, leading to increased success in securing funding for research projects;
4. Increased proposal quality by improving the understanding of key elements, such as project design, objectives, methodologies, and expected outcomes;
5. Increased ability to develop realistic and comprehensive project budgets;
6. Strengthened confidence in submitting successful grant proposals.

## **ORGANIZERS**

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1. International Science, Technology, and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC)
2. National Research Foundation (NRF) South Africa
3. Future Earth Africa Hub (FEAH)
4. Future Earth Africa Hub Leadership Centre (FEAHLIC)

