

The SAMRC's Division of Research Capacity Development (RCD) is a well-established research funding division that runs streamlined funding programmes to support the growth of health research capacity, by offering multiple strategic capacity development grants in the national research priorities and directly contributing to National Targets for research capacity development as well as transformation. The strategic goal # 4 of the SAMRC is “building sustainable health research human capacity in South Africa”. The RCD Division runs two funding portfolios namely: the Research Grants Portfolio and the Scholarship Portfolio.

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS – RCD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMES

Programme caters for: PhD students and Masters (in scarce skills and emerging areas). Scholarships include stipend and tuition; and in some programmes tuition fee, protected time and/or research project funds.

Funding programme	Funding start year	Call opening date	Call closing date	Awarding	Application Process
SAMRC Postgraduate Research Associate Programme	2025/2026	30 May 2025	21 August 2025, 23:59	December 2025 – January 2026	Read more about the programme here .
SAMRC Researcher Development Award	2025/2026	01 June 2025	15 September 2025, 23:59	December 2025 – January 2026	Read more about the programme here .
SAMRC Clinician Researcher Development Programme	2026/2027	25 June 2025	22 September 2025	April 2026	Read more about the programme here .
Bongani Mayosi National Health Scholars Programme	2026/2027	TBC	TBC	2026	Request for Application TBC – Read more about the programme here .
Specialized Training in Vaccinology	TBA – Read more about the programme here .				
UPCOMING CALLS					
Biostatistics Capacity Development Initiative	2025/2026	November 2025 – December 2025	December 2025	January 2026 – February 2026	Read more about the programme here .
Events/Workshops Click here to see latest events	19 & 20 November 2025: Early Career Scientist Conference (Cape Town)				

* *Disclaimer: Dates are subject to change, updated versions will be posted on the Research Capacity Development [website](#).*

Read more about the Division for Research Capacity Development [here](#).



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS – RCD GRANT PROGRAMMES

Programme caters for: Postdoctoral Candidates; Early Career Scientists; Mid-Career Researchers; and MSc and PhD students in the RCDI programme

Funding programme	Funding start year	Call opening date	Applicant closing date	Awarding	Application Process
SAMRC Mid-Career Scientist Programme	2026/2027	November 2025 TBC	15 December 2025 TBC	April 2026	Read more about the programme here .
SAMRC Research Capacity Development Initiative (RCDI) Programme at Selected Universities (closed call – SMU, WSU, UWC, MUT)	2026/2027	March 2026	May 2026	September 2026	Read more about the programme here .
SAMRC Early Investigators Programme (EIP)	2027/2028	01 July 2026	30 September 2026	April 2027	Read more about the programme here .
SAMRC Extramural Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme	2027/2028	01 September 2026	15 December 2026	April 2027	Read more about the programme here .
CURRENT OPEN CALLS					
SAMRC Research Capacity Development Initiative (RCDI) at Selected Universities Programme (closed call – UFH, UniZulu, UL, UNIVEN)	2025/2026	23 September 2025	31 October 2025, 22:59	Feb-March 2026	Apply here .
SAMRC Intramural Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme	2025/2026	13 October 2025	14 November 2025	January 2026	Apply here .
SAMRC Extramural Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme	2025/2026	13 October 2025	23 November 2025, 22:59	January 2026	Apply here .

* *Disclaimer: Dates are subject to change, updated versions will be posted on the Research Capacity Development [website](#).*

Read more about the Division for Research Capacity Development [here](#).

