

# UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

## RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT EQUIPMENT

### GUIDELINES

#### 1. PURPOSE

To provide funding for research equipment which exceeds R50 000, in order to support the research endeavours of the University through infrastructural development and provision of equipment, as well as facilitate research capacity development for emerging researchers and postgraduate students.

#### 2. OBJECTIVES

The programme seeks to:

- support established researchers in acquiring equipment to further their research endeavours;
- support emerging Faculty members and those with a high post-graduate component for the purpose of developing research capacity among academically young staff and post-graduate students.

#### 3. CRITERIA

A multi-criteria approach will be used, including the following general criteria:

- The use of the equipment to support the research initiative of emerging researchers and postgraduate students
- Multi-user benefit of the equipment
- Anticipated research output
- Outputs from previously funded equipment grant (if applicable)
- Appropriateness of the area of research to research priorities and focus in the School, Faculty and University
- Effective sustainable utilization of the equipment

In addition the following criteria will apply to the categories mentioned:

**Support to established researchers:**

- Must have a PhD
  - Must have accumulated a minimum of 75 PUs per year over the past 3 years preceding the year of application (which should include but not limited to supervision, peer reviewed presentations at conference and peer reviewed articles/books/chapters in books)
  - Demonstrate evidence of ability to source external funding
  - Evidence of research capacity development of younger peers.
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- NRF Rating will be an advantage
  - Research productivity over the past three years preceding the year of application
  - Information on capacity development and mentorship

**Support for equipment to be used primarily for research capacity development**

- Application to be made within three years of appointment of the applicant or within three years of completing the doctoral degree

**4. Distribution of Funds**

The budget would be divided as follows:

50% of available funds will be allocated to support established researchers; and

50% of available funds will be allocated to development initiatives.

This percentage split will be reviewed after two years.

**5. Procedure for submitting applications**

An annual call will be made for the submission of applications. Applications should in the first instance be at School level and forwarded to the Head of School for prioritising equipment requirements and then forwarded to the Faculty Research Committee.

The Faculty Research Committee will thereafter consider the applications and forward Faculty priority recommendations to the Research Office for submission to the Research Development Equipment Committee. Applications will thereafter be considered by the Research Development Equipment Committee and the decisions will be sent to UREC for information.

A Score Card system will be used at faculty and RDE Committee level to rate applications for equipment.

## **6. CONDITIONS**

It is a requirement that each recipient submit a detailed progress report indicating the benefits derived from the use of the equipment in terms of publication outputs and other achievements annually, commencing 18-24 months after purchase, eg, number of academically young staff and postgraduate students who benefited from the use of the equipment. Should a grant holder apply for another piece of equipment within a period of two years of the previous award, evidence of outputs arising from the previous award has to be provided.

## **7 EXPENSES NOT CONSIDERED**

Salaries, training and operating expenses are not to be included. Provision should, however, be made for these expenses within other budgets.

Equipment costing less than R50 000 will not be considered.