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| Logo  Description automatically generated | **Call for Applications**  **Faculty of Health Sciences Research Committee (FRC)**  **Start-up Emerging Researcher Award (SERA)**  **SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 22 MAY 2025** |  |

The Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) is seeking applications for the 2025 Start-up Emerging Researcher Award (SERA). This competitive award is aimed at supporting emerging researchers, recently appointed in the FHS, who want to start their own research at UCT. Support is provided in the form of funding for a research project to be conducted by the applicant.

# **Eligibility**

* Hold a PhD or a MBChB/Allied Health Professional degree with some research experience (these qualifications must have been awarded within the last 5 years).
* Appointed in the FHS in an academic or joint staff position within the last 24 months (i.e. appointed after April 2023) OR appointed in the FHS for longer than 24 months if they obtained their PhD within the last 2 years.
* Hold a position up to Senior Research Officer/Senior Lecturer or equivalent.
* Employed as a permanent staff member or on a T2 contract for the period of the award (up to May 2027).
* Previous SERA awardees are **NOT** eligible to apply.

# **Value and Conditions of Award**

* Up to R100 000 available per award.
* Awards to be paid out in one tranche and spent over a period of up to 2 years.
* Awards may be used to support research activities that include but are not limited to:
  + Generation of preliminary data
  + Fieldwork costs and participant reimbursement
  + Consumables and minor equipment
  + Statistical advice
* Awards may **NOT** be used for:
* Salaries
* Student scholarships/bursaries
* Laptops/tablets/hard drives
* Conference travel and conference attendance
* Awards will not be disbursed until ethical and/or biosafety approval (if applicable) has been obtained.

# **Reports**

Successful awardees will have to submit a detailed mid-period report (due end May 2026) and a final report (due end May 2027).

# **How to apply**

* Complete the attached application form, including obtaining the endorsement of your Departmental Research Committee Chair and your Head of Department
* Save the document (max 7 pages including a 1-page CV) **as a single PDF file** (using your first name and surname, followed by ‘SERA 2025’, as the filename)
* Email the application to [research.health@uct.ac.za](mailto:research.health@uct.ac.za), with the subject line ‘**SERA 2025 Application**’ on or before 22 May 2025.
* Applications that do not follow the above guidelines will be rejected.

All queries to be sent to [research.health@uct.ac.za](mailto:research.health@uct.ac.za)

**SERA Application Form**

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| **Details of Applicant** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **First Name and Surname** | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Gender** | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Ethnic Group** | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Department/Division** | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Position (e.g. Senior Research Officer)** | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **PhD** | | | | **YES** | |  | | | **NO** | | |  | | **Year Awarded** | | | | |  | |
| **Type of Health Professional degree (if applicable) e.g. MBChB, BSc Physiotherapy** | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | **Number of years of research experience** | | | | |  | |
| **Appointment type** | | | | **Academic** | | | | | |  | | | | **Joint** | | | | |  | |
| **Contract type** | | | | **Permanent** | | | | | |  | | | | **T2** | | | | |  | |
| **Appointment start date** | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Appointment end date (if T2 contract)** | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **Details of Project** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Title of Project** | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Other funding:** Please list another funding you have applied for and/or received for the proposed project | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Does the study have ethical and/or biosafety approval?** | | | | **YES** | | |  | | | | **NO** | | | |  | | **N/A** | | |  |
| **Short description:** *Scientific abstract of project (max 150 words)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **Aims and Objectives**: *State the aims and objectives of the proposed research study* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **Background, Rationale, Significance**: *Describe the problem under investigation and why the study is important. Include relevant literature and a list of references cited* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **Research Design and Methods**: *Describe the research design and the methods that will be used to achieve the aims and objectives* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **Research Plan:** *Please provide a basic Gantt chart detailing the main project aims, associated activities as well as milestones and deliverables* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **Expected outputs, outcomes and impact**: *Outline the expected direct and indirect outputs, outcomes and impact of the research study* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **Personal Motivation**: *Describe how this start-up grant will help you start your own research career at UCT* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **Budget**: *Provide an itemised list of financial requirements to carry out the research successfully. The SERA can only support projects up to R100 000. Proposals requesting more than the stipulated amount or ineligible items will be rejected (see advert).* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Item** | **Description** | | | | | | | **Unit cost** | | | | | **No. of units** | | | **Total cost** | | **Amount requested** | | |
| Eg. Catering | Catering for training workshop for fieldworkers | | | | | | | R 250 | | | | | 3 | | | R 750 | | R 750 | | |
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| **TOTAL** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | R | | |
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| **Budget Justification**: *Provide a motivation for* ***each*** *line item requested* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Example: A training workshop will be held at UCT to train 3 fieldworkers on how to administer the data collection questionnaires. The cost of the catering is R250 per person. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **Applicant Signature** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Signature | | |  | | Date | | | | | | | | |  | | | | | | |

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| **Endorsement of Departmental Research Committee (DRC) Chair**: *Comment on the relative scientific merits of the proposal as well as how the applicant and their research will contribute to the vision of the Department/Division (200 words max)* | | | |
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| Name |  | Date |  |
| Signature |  | | |
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| **Endorsement of Head of Department**: *Confirm that the applicant will be provided with access to the appropriate departmental research infrastructure relevant to the study (200 words max)* | | | |
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| Name |  | Date |  |
| Signature |  | | |

**Attach a 1-page (max) CV including summary information on your publications, student supervision, research experience and successful funding applications.**