



	Stage 0: Novel Ideas	Stage 1: Focus/Niche Areas	Stage 2: Institutes	Stage 3: Centers of Competence
Focus/Niche	An initial idea which is novel and new with potential to open new knowledge areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear focus which is part of the university's plan • Identified research area must be aligned with an NRF Focus Area • The focus of the Research Niche Area must have scientific and technical merit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear focus which is part of the university's plan • Identified research area must be aligned with an NRF Focus Area • The focus of the Research Niche Area must have scientific and technical merit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear focus which is part of the university's plan • Identified research area must be aligned with an NRF Focus Area or a number of Focus Areas • The focus of the Center of Competence must have scientific and technical merit <p>Centers of Competence will be project based and will allow researchers to undertake projects in a Multi-Inter and Transdisciplinary manner. Researchers from Focus areas and Institutes will therefore be able to participate to allow them to leapfrog in their development.</p>
Plans & Resourcing	The University will provide full resourcing for this idea.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University would have approved business plan with a five-year horizon which includes budget with contributing sources <p>The University provides resourcing for the area but the area too must show effort to seek external funding of at least 10%.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University would have approved business plan with a five-year horizon which includes budget with contributing sources • The Research Niche Area must strive towards obtaining at least 20% of its total research budget from sources of funding other than the University 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University would have approved business plan with a five-year horizon which includes budget with contributing sources • The Research Niche Area must strive towards obtaining at least 40% of its total research budget from sources of funding other than the University
Leadership	A Champion/leader who has a	• A champion/leader who has a minimum of Masters	• A champion/leader who has a minimum of a Doctoral	• A leader who is an established researcher (as defined by the NRF)

	minimum of Masters Qualification.	<p>qualification. In exceptional cases alternatives will be considered, if there is acceptable motivation that suitable mentoring is available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistant leader and succession planning must be in place where necessary 	<p>qualification. Exceptions will be considered, in cases where the leader is nearing completion of the Doctoral qualification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The champion must be willing to participate in the NRF Rating or be prepared to be supported through developing a professional development plan for his or her NRF rating. <p>Assistant leader and succession planning must be in place where necessary</p>	<p>and must include an NRF Rating), and who should have recognition and standing in the institution - preferably at professor or director level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistant leader and succession planning must be in place where necessary
Team members	2 additional members who are active in research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-3 additional team members who are active in research and will conduct individual research projects within the theme of the Activity Institution must be offering degrees at BTech level in the research areas identified and must have well-advanced plans to offer postgraduate degrees and/or courses in the discipline(s) which form the primary focus of the Activity. Department of Education approval to offer Master's degrees must be forthcoming within 3 years of the start of the Research Activity There must be clear plans to address redress and equity in terms of both staff and student participation in the Research Niche Area. Participation levels must be at least as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff: 30% Black; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4-5 additional team members who are active in research and will conduct individual research projects within the theme of the Institute Postgraduate students must be trained in the Research Niche Area. Department of Education approval to offer Master's degrees must be in place and approval to offer Doctoral degrees must be forthcoming within 3 years of the start of the Research Unit There must be clear plans to address redress and equity in terms of both staff and student participation in the Research Niche Area. Participation levels must be at least as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff: 40% Black; 40% Women Postgraduate students: 60% Black; 40% Women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 5 additional members of whom at least 1 should be NRF-rated Majority of participating members must have completed PhD qualifications Team members must be active in research and lead individual research projects within the theme of the Center of Competence History of Postgraduate student training by individual members and collectively There must be clear plans to address redress and equity in terms of both staff and student participation in the Center of Competence. Participation levels must be at least as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff: 40% Black; 40% Women Postgraduate students: 6 Black; 40% Women

		30% Women - Postgraduate students: 60% Black; 40% Women		
Opportunity	<p>100% Institutional financial support for an innovative idea</p> <p>The opportunity to test and build on a novel ideal</p>	<p>90% Institutional financial support for the Focus area.</p> <p>Opportunity to grow Masters degrees in key research areas</p> <p>Opportunity to work and benefit from other or more experienced researchers in undertaking research.</p>	<p>80% Institutional financial support for the Institute</p> <p>Opportunity to grow doctoral degrees in key research areas</p>	<p>60% Institutional financial support for the Center of Competence.</p> <p>Opportunity to work in a Multi-Inter and Cross Disciplinary Teams on specific strategic research projects</p> <p>Opportunity to work with high-level and experienced staff</p> <p>Opportunity to work across the institution and therefore gain insight into the nature of research across the institution.</p>
Reporting	<p>Novel ideas must be taken to the Research Committee of the Inter-Faculty Forum for consideration.</p> <p>It will report on its progress to the Research Committee of the Inter-Faculty Forum as determined by this Forum.</p>	<p>Operates within the Faculty and therefore reports to the Executive Dean, via the Faculty Research Committee to the Executive Committee of the Central Research Committee on an annual basis.</p>	<p>Operates within the Faculty and therefore reports to the Executive Dean, via the Faculty Research Committee to the Executive Committee of the Central Research Committee on an annual basis.</p>	<p>Operates across the institution and therefore reports to the Executive Director: Research, the Executive Director and the Technology Transfer and Innovation as per the requirements of the project duration and cycle.</p> <p>A committee will be established to review the annual progress of Centers of Competence. The committee will be comprised of the Executive Director: Research, Executive Director: Technology Transfer and Innovation and the Deputy Vice Chancellor: Academic and Research.</p>