OMT
OPPENHEIMER MEMORIAL TRUST

NEW FRONTIERS RESEARCH AWARD

The OMT New Frontiers Research Award recognises the efforts of visionary early-to-mid-career researchers determined to build high-performance research teams and the South African academy.

The award is intended to provide researchers with the freedom and flexibility to pursue their research, without bureaucratic constraints, helping them produce significant work and gain international recognition.

It is a five-year award, with a monetary value of **R1.5 million per annum**.

Who we award

We are looking to back forward-thinking innovative individuals with a clearly defined research vision, who want to build a team around them to perform cutting-edge research. You need to be committed to collaboration and have a proven research track record combined with leadership experience. The research must have relevance not only to South Africa, but also regionally or globally.

We encourage applications from all disciplines. The award is open to anyone who wants to pursue research at a recognised research institution based in South Africa.

How to apply

Your concept note must be submitted on our underlined applications portal, and **no** emailed documents will be accepted by the Trust.

If your concept note is accepted, you will be invited to submit a full application. Shortlisted applications will be interviewed by our panel in person in Johannesburg in early 2024.

Please be mindful of the timeframes indicated below.

Please contact newfrontiers@omt.org.za if you have any queries.

Deadlines and guidelines

Concept note submissions open:	15 August 2023
Deadline for concept note submissions:	30 September 2023
Full applications open:	30 September 2023
Full applications close:	30 November 2023

Application form

All questions in the application form are mandatory. We have included sections to upload supporting documents where applicable.

Personal Information

Applicants are to indicate/provide the following:

Gender
Ethnicity
Date of birth
Citizenship
ID / permanent residence / passport number and related document
Professional photograph

Highest qualification held
Applicants to include details of when and where this qualification was obtained

Professional Activities
Applicants to list any significant professional research activities. Examples could include: advisory panels, editorial boards, consulting, etc.

Research Experience

Research Excellence
Applicants to provide detail on:
   a) Academic Awards
   b) Scholarships or research grants awarded (description, year, amount)
   c) Any other awards / accolades relevant to this application

Supervision and Leadership Experience
Applicants to list the number and level of students supervised and provide detail of other leadership responsibilities.

Research culture and mentoring
Applicants to provide detail on their actions, practices, and approaches to sharing research findings and provide mentorship and professional development to other scholars.

Experience raising research funding
Applicants to describe any previous experience raising research funding.

Research Activity
Applicants are requested to:
   a) Upload a list of their top 5 publications, including a summary of the significance and impact of the selected contribution, as well as their role.
   b) Upload a list of their 3 most recent conference presentations, and any keynote lectures (topic, date, location, significance of audience reached)

Intended Research

Research Programme Description
Applicants must provide a description of their ongoing and planned research programme and activities, including a few figures and a list of key references where applicable.
Applicants must elaborate on their short to medium term goals and how this research will contribute to this.

Knowledge area
Applicants must describe their field of expertise, as well as their vision to expand this knowledge domain.

Relevance and significance of research
Describe:
   a) The benefit(s) of conducting this research in South Africa
   b) The benefits to Africa and/or globally?

Proposed Research Team
Applicants must include their plans to build a world class research team, including the types of researchers (qualifications, experience) that they would want to include in your team. Please also provide specifics of the intended team, their qualifications, experience and short motivation (where possible).

Community engagement and outreach
Applicants to explain how they envisage their research involving / impacting local communities?

Budget
Applicants must provide detail on how they will allocate the R1.5 million per annum.

Host Institution

Host Institution
Applicants must provide detail on the level of commitment and support they have from the institution who will host their work. Applicants could include the amount of time that would be available for research, as well as access to resources (libraries, labs, equipment), mentoring and academic support, financial contributions, etc). Please include any letters of support / MOUs, etc

Collaborations
Applicants must describe any relationships they have with other faculties, institutions, centres of excellence (locally and/or internationally) and how they envisage leveraging these.

References

Applicants must nominate 3 references and provide their email addresses.
Referees must be familiar with applicant's current research activities and be well-placed to attest to the quality of their work, leadership ability and academic achievements.
Please note, applications cannot be considered for adjudication until all reference letters have been submitted.