



## **GES 4.0 SI Call for Proposals 2024** ***Impacting Society Positively***

As new technologies rapidly advance worldwide, there is a concurrent recognition of the growing national, continental, and global risks stemming from issues such as unemployment, extreme poverty (including energy poverty), political instability, social injustices, climate change, food insecurity, and pandemic diseases. In response to these challenges, universities are playing a pivotal role in adapting to meet societal needs. The University of Johannesburg (UJ) is committed to promoting a more equitable, sustainable, and technologically advanced future for South Africa, Africa, and the world. Through a combination of skills development, youth empowerment, and cutting-edge research, UJ is actively contributing to addressing these pressing issues and shaping a better tomorrow.

The Global Excellence and Stature 4.0 for Societal Impact (GES 4.0 SI) initiative, led by UJ's Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Letlhokwa Mpedi, Acting DVC Research & Innovation, Professor Sarah Gravett, and DVC Academic, Professor Sehaam Khan, aims to provide financial support for single and/or multi-year inter-cross-multi and/or transdisciplinary projects. These projects should have a positive societal impact. Examples include initiatives related to social justice, poverty reduction, good quality health and education, and sustainable development, all aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Leveraging technologies for the future and other aspects of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), the initiative seeks to catalyse advancements in these and other areas of societal impact.

UJ remains the only South African, and indeed African, university to be included in the prestigious Universitas 21 global network which promotes *"Shared excellence. Shared knowledge. Shared experience."* Through this association of world-leading, research-intensive universities, UJ expands its global footprint. Preference will be given to projects that include collaborations with Universitas 21 partners.

Universitas 21 members: <https://universitas21.com/u21-members/our-members>

### Details around the call:

1. Funding period: 1, 2, or 3 year projects will be considered.
2. Large, multi-year projects (limited to 2/3 years) will be supported up to R1 million and smaller projects that need funding for a year will be supported up to R200 000/R250 000.
3. Student bursaries cannot be supported through this call – various other funding call avenues (e.g. NRF, GES 4.0 bursaries, URC bursaries, etc.) should be explored to support students. Partial bursaries, such as to offer a service (as a research assistant), can however be considered.
4. Calls must be inter-cross-multi and/or transdisciplinary in nature.
5. Successful recipients will be expected to provide periodic updates on their projects.
6. In addition to research, innovation and/or creative outputs, case studies and op-eds that will share the research impact with the public-at-large are also encouraged.
7. Projects should be supported in principle by the Head(s) of Department and Dean(s) of the relevant Faculty(ies).
8. Projects that have applied for and/or secured partial co-funding elsewhere will be prioritised.
9. The call will end on 31 July 2024.

**IMPORTANT**

Applicants will be required to upload the following documents:

1. Your project outline and include reference to its academic impact and/or socioeconomic and/or policy impact.
2. A single PowerPoint slide to provide the following:
  - (a) name of PI and/co-PI and faculty(ies)
  - (b) project title and brief description (50 words)
  - (c) an image that provides a visual description of the project
  - (d) timeline
  - (f) total budget required
3. A detailed budget (EXCEL format)

Additionally, applicants must confirm:

- Support in principle from the Head(s) of Department and Dean(s) of the relevant faculties.
- Discussions regarding the project submission with the Faculty Vice-Dean (Research portfolio).

Submit your proposal [here](#)