

## **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: INNOVATION ADVANCEMENT FUND (GES 4.0 SI)**

The UJ Technology Transfer Office hereby invites UJ researchers and student entrepreneurs with projects who are willing to be linked to researchers in faculties to submit applications for funding to assist in advancing relevant projects/project outcomes towards the market.

Researchers and student entrepreneurs are encouraged to take the following into consideration:

### **1. Purpose**

The goal of the funding is to provide financial support for early-stage technology development and to fill a funding gap in the innovation value chain before external funding sources can be accessed.

### **2. Eligibility**

- Projects with outcomes that have clear application in the market (commercial and/or social impact)
- Funding will only be made available to UJ research projects, where intellectual property (IP) is owned by UJ.
- Where IP is co-owned by UJ, eligibility will be decided on the merits of the application, taking into account – without limitation – the respective roles and contributions of UJ and the co-owner, commercialisation plans, and potential benefits to UJ should funding be awarded.
- Up to R200 000 for eligible activities.
- Institutional approval (either from HOD, Vice Dean: Research or Executive Dean)
- Project Duration: 9 months (reporting to be completed by October 2025)
- Applications are to be received by the **deadline of 25 March 2025, 17:00**.

### **3. Fundable Activities:**

- Proof of concept.
- Product, process and prototype development (comprehensive technology package).
- Sourcing of IP opinions.
- Production of market samples and/or associated testing, analytical data and method development and specification sheet development.
- Refining and implementing designs.
- Field studies.
- Certification activities.
- Piloting, scale-up and techno-economic assessment.
- Market research.
- Specialist consulting.
- Business plan development.
- Specialised equipment required to achieve a project outcome (eg to build a prototype or run a pilot).

This list is not exhaustive and other activities will be considered, subject to alignment with the funding objectives and a persuasive motivation.

#### 4. Funding Exclusions:

- No staff salaries or student bursaries may be supported by the fund. A student may, however, be employed to conduct project tasks.
- Faculty overheads.
- Research without commercial/market application (note that projects with the potential for social impact or social enterprise are deemed to have market application and therefore are included).
- General purpose equipment.
- Conference expenses will not be supported.
- Working capital.
- Operational costs not associated with a funded project.

#### 5. Evaluation/Review

The following criteria will be used by the UJ TTO to evaluate the applications:

- Commercialisation possibilities
- Market potential/impact
- IP position or other competitive advantage
- Stage of development
- Ability of the project to move the solution towards the market.
- Social Impact and Sustainability

#### 6. Allocation of funds to applicants

- The TTO will review all applications.
- Applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application.
- Successful applicants will be required to abide by UJ policies and procedures and will also be required to sign a Recipient Funding Agreement which will include obligations to report on progress and expenditure.
- A dedicated cost centre needs to be opened for funds to be disbursed.

This call is accompanied by the “Innovation Advancement Fund Application Form” to be completed by applicants and is required by the UJ TTO to assess applications.

Please click on [download](#), to download the Fund Application Template.

Any queries or correspondence may be directed to Ms Charmaine Niemand at [charmainen@uj.ac.za](mailto:charmainen@uj.ac.za). The deadline for submission is **25 March 2025@ 17:00**. No late submissions will be considered.