



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

**The Halle Institute
for Global Research**

UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND,
JOHANNESBURG



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2022

Emory University and the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg 2026 Connections Grant Guidelines for Applicants

This special one-time grant, offered by Emory University's (Emory) **Halle Institute for Global Research and Learning and the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (Wits)**, fosters international research broadly with a focus on creating and expanding connections.

Applicants from all schools and disciplines are encouraged to apply. Proposals may include innovative and synergizing events, seminars, or projects built around collaborative research, and must involve regular, continuing, full-time faculty from Wits and Emory. The activities may take place at either institution and should be done collaboratively.

The hope is that these initial connections will lead to long-term collaborations, institutional, teaching and research relations, and when applicable, lead to the generation of publications, art, exhibitions, and/or external funding for ongoing collaboration. Applications that include students and/or collaborations across schools, disciplines, and units are encouraged but not required.

In 2026 one project will be funded, which should include two project leads: one from Wits and one from Emory. The successful applicants will receive up to USD\$10,000 and ZAR 160,000 from their respective institution for a total not to exceed USD\$20,000. These funds must be used for activities related to research (broadly defined) and follow the budget guidelines below.

Eligibility

Applicants on a project must be regular, continuing full-time faculty at Wits and Emory respectively. Questions about partner eligibility should be directed to the respective institution.

Key Dates

- **Call opens:** **March 18, 2026**
- **Applications close:** **April 15, 2026 (9 am EST, 16h00 SAT)**
- **Outcomes announced by:** **May 11, 2026**
- **Project should commence by:** **June 1, 2026**

- **Project should be completed by: November 30, 2026**

Emory Institutional Statement on Diversity

The Emory community is open to all who have a commitment to the highest ideals of intellectual engagement, critical inquiry, and integrity. We welcome a diversity of gender identities, sexual orientations, abilities, and disabilities, as well as racial, ethnic, cultural, socioeconomic, religious, national, and international backgrounds, believing that the academic and social energy that results from such diversity is essential to advancing knowledge, addressing society's most pressing issues, and attending to the full spectrum of human needs in service to the common good.

Guidelines for budgets

The project budget should not exceed USD\$20,000. The maximum allowable expenses for airfares, accommodation, and meals/per diems should correspond to the guidelines of Wits and Emory's Halle Institute for Global Research and Learning. Any activities not addressed below are subject to the rules and regulations of the awarding institutions.

Proposals must clearly articulate and justify all planned activities.

Allowable expenses include:

- Airfare
- Accommodation
- Local transportation
- Appropriate per diems for faculty, post-docs, or full-time enrolled student team members
- Costs for hosting a seminar, conference or workshop
- Consumables (publication/printing costs)

Non-allowable expenses:

- Salaries or salary supplementation of any kind
- Indirect and overhead costs
- Course releases
- Stipends or scholarships for students (tuition support purposes)
- Course fees for international students
- Equipment
- Computers, including laptops (excluding access to high-performance computers or other specialized applications that are justified within the project proposal), and basic computing facilities such as printers and word processing (or other standard) software

Duration and Funding Limits

Project timelines should be clearly outlined. Funds must be spent by November 30, 2026. The maximum amount that applicants can request is USD\$20,000 (up to ZAR 160,000 from Wits and plus up to USD\$10,000 from Emory.)

Application Submission

Each proposal must include the following items in the order listed below as **ONE** single PDF. Proposals will be reviewed by scholars and leaders from multiple disciplines and must be written for such an audience in jargon-free language.

The same proposal and budget for each application must be sent to Emory University and to University of the Witwatersrand, and should include:

- a. Names, titles, departments, and emails of Emory University and the University of the Witwatersrand applicants/project leads.
- b. Names of other Emory people involved, including name, title, department, role in the project.
- c. Names of other Wits people involved, including name, title, department, role in the project.
- d. One-page (maximum) narrative description of proposed project written for a non-specialist, multidisciplinary audience using the following sub-headings (11-pt font, single spaced)
 - i. Project objectives
 - ii. Background and previous work as appropriate
 - iii. Research or pedagogical approach and methods
 - iv. Explanation of how project success will be evaluated
 - v. Anticipated schedule
- e. Budget and budget justification, explaining in detail all anticipated expenditures, and including a description of other funds secured or applied for overlapping projects
- f. Emory only: Brief letter from each primary applicant's respective Department Chair endorsing the application. Applicants should start preparing their applications well ahead of the closing date to provide time for an endorsement letter from each applicant's respective Department Chair
- g. Curriculum vitae: 2-page maximum, current, for each applicant/project lead
- h. Curriculum vitae: 1-page maximum, current, for additional team members
- i. Emory only: please indicate if Halle Institute funding has been received in the past and if so, provide the name and date of the award and indicate whether an end-of-project report was submitted.

Completed applications should be submitted via email to both halle.global@emory.edu and samia.chasi@wits.ac.za and must be received **by both universities by April 15, 2026 (9 am EST, 16h00 SAT)**

Applications will be reviewed and scored by committees at Emory and Wits. Final selections will be reviewed by the Director of the Halle Institute for Global Research and Learning at Emory and the Head of the Internationalisation and Strategic Partnerships Office (ISPO) at Wits.

Assessment

The Selection Committees will assess, comment on, and score each application, based on the criteria below. Applicants must outline the aims, methods, and expected outcomes of the project and should ensure that they address all criteria.

The Review Committees will evaluate each application on the following criteria:

- **Academic quality and impact:** the academic quality of the proposed work, the likelihood of it gaining wide recognition, and/or having a high impact when completed. If appropriate, the ability to cut across disciplines, and/or include students
- **Innovation:** the extent to which the project will contribute to novel thinking and creative outcomes
- **Outcomes and Sustainability:** the likelihood that the project will lead to long-term teaching and research relationships and generate on-going collaboration. Expected outcomes may include, among other possibilities: publications, exhibitions, grant proposals, clinical interventions, technological innovations, enhanced networks and/or research-based seminar/conference/workshops
- **Partnership:** how the research partnership is anticipated to continue after the funding ends and/or how the research outcomes will be shared with broader academic communities at each institution

Results

Successful applicants will receive a letter of confirmation from their home institution and will receive an Acceptance of Award letter that must be signed and returned by the due date to the Halle Institute for Global Research and Learning at Emory and ISPO at Wits.

Payment

Successful applicants will be awarded up to USD\$10,000 (Emory) and ZAR 160,000 (Wits) from their institution for a total of up to \$USD20,000. Awardees will be responsible for managing project funds and for facilitating the sharing of funds with team members where required. Upon submitting complete award agreement documents, successful applicants will receive the funds within one month.

Emory awardees must provide a new, dedicated speedtype to be used for this award which the awardee must request and arrange through their academic unit by the due date in the award document.

Wits awardees must contact ISPO to arrange for the transfer of the funds, as will be detailed in the confirmation and award letter.

Change of Investigator If circumstances change – for example, the awardee or a team member leaves the project – awardees must provide notification to the Halle Institute at Emory University and ISPO at Wits. All changes must be approved in writing.

Extensions

Grant funds must be expended by November, 30, 2026.

Extensions will not be possible.

Publications

Any publications (e.g., abstracts, articles) or dissemination (e.g., public presentations) arising from activities supported by this Connection Grant should acknowledge financial assistance received from the Halle Institute and Wits. Copies of publications or presentations or notification of presentations should be submitted to ISPO at Wits and the Halle Institute, as follows: “Grant funding provided by the Halle Institute for Global Research and Learning at Emory University and the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.”

Forfeiture of grants

Grants not spent by the due date will be transferred back either to Emory or Wits as applicable so that unspent balances can be re-allocated.

Financial and Reporting Obligations

Recipients will be required to submit a final report within one month of completion of the project. The report should include an outline of the outcomes of the project, an indication of the project's sustainability, a summary of lessons learned in undertaking the project, and a detailed accounting of funds as required by respective university policy.

Recipients who fail to submit a final report will not be eligible for future funding from the Halle Institute and ISPO.

Further information

For further information, please contact Kelly Richmond Yates, Associate Director, Halle Institute for Global Research and Learning kyates2@emory.edu or Dr Samia Chasi, Head, Internationalisation and Strategic Partnerships Office samia.chasi@wits.ac.za.