**Unisa Innovation Support Programme (ISP)**

**For staff members**

***(Pre-Seed Programme)***

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2025**

**Closing date: 30 August 2025**

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1. **General**

The Innovation Support Programme (ISP) is designed to propel innovative projects towards commercialisation, with a strong emphasis on addressing pressing societal challenges. Central to the ISP is alignment with the university’s ***Catalytic Niche Areas***, which serve as strategic pillars for transformation and impact. Proposals that directly contribute to one or more of these priority areas will be given precedence during the selection process. The programme offers competitive pre-seed funding to a maximum of ten (10) projects per year, with each project eligible for up to **R250,000** in funding over 12 months.

1. **Who is Eligible to Apply?**

* All Unisa staff members (Academic and Support).
* Staff members on contract provided that the unexpired term of the contract is more than 12 months at the time the decision on the investment is made.

1. **Eligible Projects**

* Projects must aim to develop a solution for a specific societal challenge. Preference will be given to projects that seek to build/test/adapt technologies in the Unisa IP portfolio towards specific practical application(s).
* Projects must be at Technology Readiness Level 2, seeking to create a proof of concept or scale up.
* The project must align with one or more of the Unisa Catalytic Niche areas.
* Preference will be given to collaborative or joint projects.
* Eligible projects from all disciplines will be considered, whether of a social, environmental or technical nature.

1. **How to apply?**

* Complete the IS Application form , which should be signed by the applicant or lead innovator.
* A detailed technology development proposal (Proposal) including any supporting documentation or prototype (if applicable), CVs of all innovators working on the project, as well as a detailed/ itemised budget as an addendum to the application (cross-referenced to the proposal).
* The application forms should also be endorsed as follows:

For an academic staff member:

* The Chair of the Department
* The Chairperson of the College Research and Innovation Committee (CRIC)
* Director of School
* Executive Dean

For a non-academic staff member:

* The Director and Executive Director of the Department where the innovator is based

1. **ISP Assessment Process**

Unsuccessful

Unisa Innovation Support Programme

Call for Proposals

Internal Screening

Launch

ISP Selection Committee

Contracting

International Exchange

Funding

Accelerate

M&E

Incubation

Mentorship

Start-up Academy

1. **Deadline**

* The closing date is **30 August 2025**

For enquiries and to submit the completed application form and the required documentation(s), send an email to: [innovation@unisa.ac.za](mailto:innovation@unisa.ac.za)