



ADVERTISEMENT

Manager: Science Engagement Partnerships

Contract type: Permanent

Job Level: Management

Work Location: Pretoria, Gauteng

The National Research Foundation (NRF) is a government mandated research and science development agency established through the National Research Foundation Act (Act No. 23 of 1998). The agency supports and promotes research and human capital development through innovative grant funding and partnerships, the provision of National Research Facilities and science engagement platforms and supporting and promoting public awareness of science to the broader community, in all fields of science and technology, including natural science, engineering, social science and humanities.

The South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA) is a business unit of the National Research Foundation (NRF) with the mandate to advance public awareness, appreciation and engagement of science, engineering, innovation and technology in South Africa and has been appointed by the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation to be the national coordinator for Science Engagement in South Africa.

The National Research Foundation (NRF) seeks to make an appointment for the position of Manager: Science Engagement Partnerships who will report to the Managing Director: SAASTA, within Research, Innovation and Impact Support and Advancement (RIISA).

The purpose of this job is to build and maintain relationships with the public and private sector in order to create value and maximise impact for the SAASTA through strategic partnerships. The position will be based at NRF RIISA business unit SAASTA in Pretoria CBD.

Key Responsibilities:

- * Manage the development of the science engagement partnerships strategy;
- * Identify key partnerships for science engagement;
- * Develop science engagement stakeholder engagement plan;
- * Represent the organization in relevant sector engagement; Identify, source and negotiate partnership opportunities in the relevant sectors;
- * Provide leadership in developing and harnessing relationships with appropriate public and private entities in order to support the science engagement coordination objectives;
- * Provide strategic management of stakeholders and partners;
- * Develop and implement systems and process to ensure coordinated engagement with the relevant sector;
- * Coordinate the engagement with internal and external stakeholders on matters of common interest;
- * Facilitate cooperation through stakeholder awareness programmes;
- * Coordinate the science engagement initiative at sector level
- * Coordinate the science engagement calendar for the specific sector
- * Contract management
- * Ensure the maintenance of science engagement stakeholder database;
- * Ensure utilization of SEIMS by relevant stakeholders; and
- * Manage the compilation of quarter and annual reports on science engagement initiatives with partners
- * Manage human resources and finances in the department.

Key Requirements:

Qualification:

- * A Master's Degree (NQF 9) in Science, engineering, social science or business domain.
- * 5 years work experience.

Experience:

- * 5 years experience in Partnerships and Stakeholder Management in Public, Research, Innovation or Higher Education sector
- * 3 years management experience.
- * Partnerships and Stakeholder management experience

Knowledge:

- * Knowledge of the Science Engagement sector and the National System of Innovation (NSI).
- * Knowledge of relevant policies, legislation and regulations in South Africa.
- * Networks in the NSI.

Additional Notes:

- * Human Resource Management skills
- * Project Management skills
- * Financial Management skills
- * Communication and presentation skills
- * Strong Leadership skills
- * Good interpersonal skills
- * Problem solving skills
- * Time Management skills
- * Organisational skills
- * High level of Computer Literacy
- * Diplomacy skills
- * Proven quantitative and qualitative analytical capabilities.

Information:

The website www.nrf.ac.za provides more details on the NRF initiatives and activities.

Applications:

Applicants should submit a comprehensive CV by logging to <https://ess.nrf.ac.za/Account/Recruitment> and apply online. Applications should be accompanied by a letter of motivation indicating the applicant's suitability for the position. The names and contact details of at least three referees should be provided.

Closing Date: 29 October 2025

The NRF offers a challenging career and competitive remuneration package which is commensurate with qualifications and experience. The NRF is committed to employment equity and redress and the appointment to the position will be made in line with the NRF Employment Equity Plan.

The NRF reserves the right not to make an appointment.

Correspondence will be sent to short-listed candidates only