

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

THE SCIENCE DIPLOMACY SUMMER SCHOOL



The Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) calls for applications for the Summer School on Science Diplomacy, scheduled to take place from 15–24 October 2025 at the Birchwood Hotel and OR Tambo Conference Centre, Johannesburg.

1. Purpose of the Summer School

Science diplomacy is emerging as a critical instrument for addressing shared global challenges. Leveraging the principles of international collaboration, mutual trust, and evidence-informed policymaking, science diplomacy offers unique pathways for advancing sustainable development. The 10 day programme developed in collaboration with government departments (DIRCO, DSTI), local and regional think tanks (The Science Diplomacy Capital of Africa (SDCfA), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR,) Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS), the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) and The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) aims to equip participants with the knowledge, skills, and networks to leverage science-policy-diplomacy interfaces for Africa’s sustainable development and global engagement.

2. Structure of the programme

The Summer School will comprise keynote lectures, and practical exercises to apply lessons learnt. The programme will be structured as follows

- Online introductory sessions: 15-17 October
- In person content sessions: 19-24 October (hybrid)
- Online evaluation sessions: 24 October



3. Eligibility and application process

Applications are invited from:

- Researchers (early to mid-career) in the social and natural sciences based in Africa.
- Policymakers and government officials engaged in international cooperation and evidence-informed policymaking across the continent.
- The Diplomatic community

Interested applicants are requested to submit:

- A completed online application form (link will be provided).
- A motivation letter (maximum 200 words) explaining interest, relevance to their career, and expected contribution.
- A short CV (maximum 3 pages).
- Endorsement letter from their employer/host institution confirming support and availability for the 10-day programme.

4. Important dates

- Call for Applications Opens: **05 September 2025**
- Deadline for Applications: **22 September 2025**
- Notification of Selected Participants: **26 September 2025**
- Programme Dates: **15–24 October 2025**

5. Support

The programme is offered at no cost to selected participants. Limited support towards travel and/or accommodation may be considered for participants based outside South Africa, subject to availability. Applicants are requested to indicate in their application if they would like to be considered for such support. Kindly note that HSRC sponsorship will not cover personal expenses, visa fees, medical costs, or incidental expenses.

5. How to apply?

Applications should be submitted online via the [Science Diplomacy Summer School Portal](#) by no later than 22 September 2025 (23:59 SAST).

For enquiries, please contact:

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