

Record of Grant Management at Wits

The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (Wits) was established in 1922 as a public university. It is currently associated as a result of an enabling act of the parliament of South Africa (Higher Education Act Number 101, 1997).

As an independent public university it reports annually using the integrated reporting process suggested by the latest King Report on good governance. Recent annual and integrated reports can be found at these websites (<https://www.wits.ac.za/about-wits/governance/strategic-leadership/annual-reports/> and <http://www.wits.ac.za/about-wits/governance/strategic-leadership/integrated-reports/>). The Council (Statement on University governance, 2016), the senior leadership body of the University, manages risk via its risk sub-committee using internal audit, currently provided by KPMG (<https://home.kpmg.com/za/en/home.html>), and external audit, currently provided by PwC (<http://www.pwc.co.za/>).

Within the governance and management framework Wits pays great importance to the ethical management of grants, bursaries, donations and similar cash transfers. Consequently most major research funders are happy to invest in our work. Listed below are some recent examples of large grants awarded to Wits.

National Agencies

The National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa (<http://www.nrf.ac.za/>) is the largest local funder of research. Wits secures significant funding from this agency annually as shown in figure 1 below. Amongst the many grants that make up this annual investment the DST-NRF Centres of Excellence (CoE) are the largest. Two out of the six that are hosted (or co-hosted) at Wits include:

- DST-NRF Centres of Excellence in Strong Materials – R13 607 279 per annum for 15 years
- DST-NRF Centres of Excellence in Paleoscience – R11 576 250 per annum for 15 years

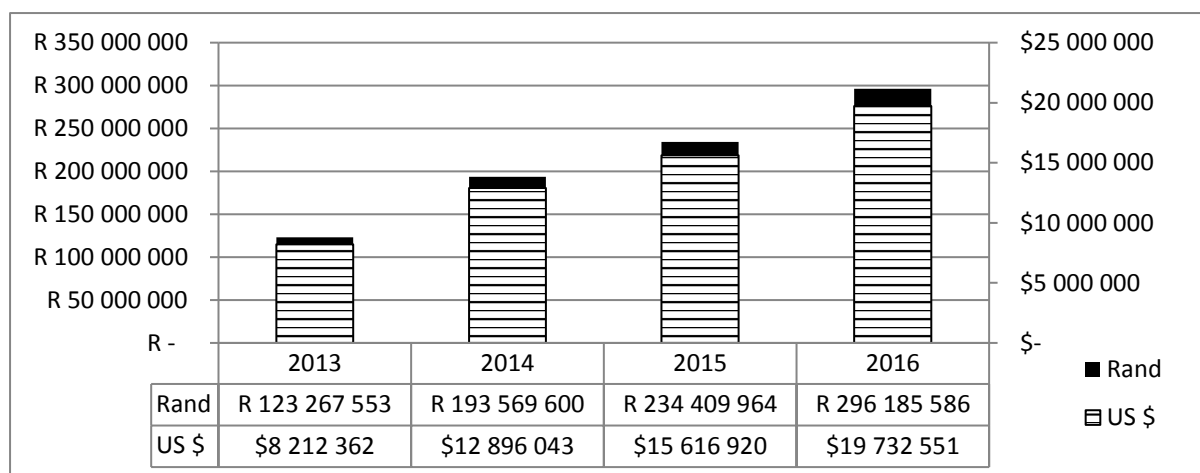


Figure 1: Annual grant investment made by the NRF into Wits¹

¹ Rand – US \$ Exchange rate used was R15.01 = US \$ 1; 29 June 2016

International Foundations

Wits secures considerable grant investment from large Foundations that use rigorous accounting processes. Some examples include:

- Andrew W Mellon Foundation
 - Retired Mentors Mentorship Programme – US\$ 700 000 for four years (2011)
 - History Research Group – US\$ 460 000 for four years (2014)
 - Medical Humanities: A first for South Africa – US\$ 880 000 for four years (2014)
 - Support for the Development of Academic Staff. Staff within 5 years of PhD graduation – US\$ 100 000 for four years (2014)
 - The Everyday Public History – US\$ 1 000 000 for five years (2017)
 - The Arts and Creative Practice as Research – US\$ 800 000 for five years (2017)
- The Kresge Foundation – South Africa
 - The *Siyaphumelela* (“We Succeed”) initiative grant to use data analytics to enhance South African university student success – US\$ 100 000 per annum for three years (2015)
 - ARUA Support Grant – US\$ 200 000 for two years (2016)
- Carnegie Corporation of New York
 - Transformation Grant – US\$ 200 000 for three years (2013)
 - Capacity Development Grant For Clinical Medicine And Global Change – US\$ 656 000 for three years (2014)
 - ARUA Support Grant – US\$ 100 000 for two years (2015)

International Agencies²

Wits secures considerable grant investment from international funding agencies that use rigorous accounting processes. Some examples include:

- Family Health International; FHI
 - HIV Prevention Trials Network: HPTN 068 Protocol – US\$ 829 393 for two years (2014)
- National Institute of Health (NIH)
 - CAPRISA HIV - 1 neutralizing antibodies: Harnessing ontogeny for immunogen design – US\$ 174 892 per annum for four years (2015)
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the NIH (NIAID)
 - Leadership and Operations Centre (LOC): Microbicide Trials Network - MTN-020, MTN-015, MTN-016 – US\$ 747 642 for one years (2015)

² Operated through Wits Health Consortium a wholly owned subsidiary of Wits University

Conclusion

Wits research is supported by major local and international sponsors that demand high standards of accounting and financial control. The governance system in place is stable and ethical enabling this level of accountability.

Further specific information can be provided on request.

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Bibliography

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Statement on University governance. (2016). Retrieved June 29, 2016, from University of the Witwatersrand: <https://www.wits.ac.za/about-wits/governance/>