# Evaluative Framework for Social Impact Funding
## at
## Stellenbosch University

## 1. Introduction

The **purpose of funding** made available for Faculty and PASS Social Impact (SI) initiatives is to support and enhance SI in environments, with an emphasis on initiatives that **cannot be financed by means of normal faculty funding mechanisms**. The funding plays the role (co-)supporting initiatives that promote SI through engaged scholarship and collaboration within faculties, PASS environments and external partnerships. Funding of initiatives is in the primary instance a once-off award. In exceptional cases, however, repeat funding requests may be considered, although these must be well motivated. Funding is not limited to a specific amount, but environments must note that funding awarded through the SIFC is limited.

The SIC adopted seven themes based on the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations as part of the criteria that help to form the above- mentioned framework. The thematic programmes alluded to in the SISP will be developed according to these themes, based on existing and on new initiatives generated by faculties. The framework is based on **the vision of the faculties**, on **the existing initiatives of the faculties**, on **the description of initiatives for funding** and on **the criteria used to evaluate these initiatives**.

## 2. SI vision and mission of faculties

Faculties and PASS environments should have a clear SI vision and mission, and these should be aligned with the SISP. The initiatives of environments are registered on the [Social Impact Knowledge Platform.](#) The SI committees of faculties coordinate calls for funding proposals that should first and foremost align with their specific SI vision, and initiatives should be connected to their SI theme or themes. For PASS environments direct support is provided via the Centre for the Advancement of Social Impact and Transformation (CASIT). For more information contact [socialimpactfunding@sun.ac.za](mailto:socialimpactfunding@sun.ac.za)

Support for initiatives that **encourage collaboration between environments** and that address areas of expertise that are underdeveloped is strongly encouraged.

To guide the funding application process, the SI committee of each faculty and, where necessary the PASS environment/CASIT is tasked with establishing an SI funding subcommittee that includes an SIC member and that can include a staff member from the Centre for the Advancement of Social Impact and Transformation. This subcommittee receives, evaluates, and collates the applications received and submits these to the SIFC.

## 3. SI funding subcommittee (SIFC)

Annually the SIC will appoint a funding subcommittee to evaluate each faculties and PASS environment's submissions and to allocate proportional funding to the initiatives. Environments may submit proposals that total any amount, with the understanding that funding received should be seen as 'seed' or partial funding. Deserving initiatives that cannot be funded through SI funds may be submitted for further consideration by the Development and Alumni Relations Division. Student initiatives are funded through the Engaged Citizenship Portfolio of CASIT.

## 4. Description of initiatives

Funding requests will be evaluated, and funding will be awarded according to the proposals submitted, which should be concise and accurate. Applications for funding should be submitted using the template developed in accordance with the logic model and provided in Annexure A. The template may also be used for feedback reporting. Criteria should be addressed in the narrative report, with the questions used as a guideline.

## 5. Funding of popular publications

In 2020, the SIFC introduced a new funding category, that of more popular publications, since it would like to support more popular social impact publications (such as those involving the geographical, sport, art and cultural stories of historically disadvantaged communities and stories of compassion and care during e.g. COVID-19) that do not always meet research funding criteria.

In such a case, the following criteria would apply:
- Funding could not be secured via the Research Development Division or the specific environment.
- The publication should not be linked to future DHET subsidies (as a book chapter or peer-reviewed journal articles).
- The publication disseminates original research and new insights into specified disciplines, subdisciplines or fields of study.
- The publication complies with the SI funding criteria of engaged scholarship, of collaboration internally and/or with an external partner/s, of evidence of reciprocal benefit and of alignment with SU themes.

## 6. Criteria for evaluation

Please see the evaluative framework as well as annexure B on criteria for more information. Please also note that funding is not meant to cover the normal running costs of environments or to subsidise existing programmes; neither is it meant for staffing or equipment costs.

Faculties and PASS environments should put appropriate measures in place for evaluating how funds awarded in the previous year were spent. In this regard, reporting should be directed and evaluated by the individual faculty and PASS environment SI committees.

## 7. Funding rounds

As far as possible, there will be two SI funding rounds. The number of funding rounds will be communicated annually.

For 2025 there will be one, primary funding round and, should additional funding be available, a second call will be shared.

The proposed timeframes for submissions are as follows:

**2025 Funding cycle**
- Proposals should be submitted to faculty and PASS environment SI committees and these structures can determine the specific submission date and timeline for reviewing applications. However, this must align with the general submission date as stated below.
- 31 March 2025: SI committees should submit proposals to the SIFC.

**Proposed process for 2026 and beyond**
At the Feb 2025 meeting of the SI Committee, the committee agreed that the funding cycle will be changed effective 2026.  As such funding applications for 2026 will be reviewed before the end of 2025 and funding will be made available for 2026. The specific dates and timelines are still to be determined.

**All final proposals should be sent to [socialimpactfunding@sun.ac.za](mailto:socialimpactfunding@sun.ac.za)**

8.  **SIFC composition**

The SIFC consists of the following members:
Leslie van Rooi, Senior Director: Social Impact and Transformation (Chair) Representative of the Centre for the Advancement of Social Impact & Transformation
Chevaan Peters, Manager: Knowledge Information Systems and Marketing

Joanne Williams, Project Coordinator: Office of the DVC: Social Impact, Transformation and Personnel
A representative of the Development and Alumni Relations Division determined by the Division itself.
A representative from the Research Development Division determined by the Division itself.
2 x SIC representatives nominated by the SIC at the first annual meeting.

## TEMPLATE FOR SOCIAL IMPACT FUNDING PROPOSALS

| DETAILS OF PERSON APPLYING | |
|---|---|
| **SURNAME:** | |
| **NAME:** | |
| **DIVISION/DEPARTMENT:** | |
| **FACULTY:** | |
| **EMAIL:** | |
| **CONTACT TEL:** | |

1. **Name of the initiative**

   *Name should not exceed 15 words and be descriptive of the initiative.*

2. **Is this initiative currently registered on the SI Knowledge Platform**

3. **Alignment to faculty/environment vision and theme(s)**

   *What is the faculty's vision for SI, which themes does the faculty focus on and how does the initiative link to that?*

4. **Objectives**

   *The objectives state what is to be accomplished with the initiative.*

5. **Inputs**
   *The resources needed such as human resources, equipment, materials, logistics.*

6. **Collaboration**
   6.1. **Internal partners and collaborators**
   *Who are the internal collaborators and what is their role in the initiative?*

   6.2. **External partners and collaborators**
   *Who are the external partners, what is their role and how does the relationship provide for participation and reciprocal benefit?*

7. **Activities**
   *Outline the main activities that must happen to accomplish the objectives.*

8. **Outputs**
   *What are the specific, immediate countable products of the initiative such as social groups benefitting and enabling opportunities created.*

9. **Outcomes**
   *Indicate how objectives will be achieved through the described activities and outputs.*

10. **Possible Impact(s)**

   *What are the expected impacts of the initiative? Impacts are sustained significant change in effects in the wider environment beyond immediate boundaries (not always possible). Change might be on practices, systems, policy or enabling mechanisms in a social sphere.*

11. **Budget**

   *State all sources of income and expenses. An explanation of the sustainability measures taken, should be included. Please use template below:*

| Budget Template | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (Every budget item should be motivated in such a way that it justifies the amount(s) requested | | | | | | |
| Budget Line Item | Description | Qty | Justification/Details | Funding required / estimated amount | Funding received (if applicable) | Additional notes for consideration |
| 1. **Transport Costs** | Include transportation costs for travel to partner sites, field visits, or related outreach activities. | | Justify based on distance, frequency, and mode of transport incl sites where possible. | | | |
| 2. **Personnel Costs** | Include any costs for temporary staff or contractors/students (Not SU Permanent Staff Members) related to the initiative (e.g. facilitators, project coordinators). | | Specify roles and hourly rates | | | |
| 3. **Materials & Supplies** | List all necessary materials like printing, office supplies, or other resources | | Explain the necessity of each item | | | |
| 4. **Equipment Costs** | If applicable, list any equipment required (excluding routine faculty or department items). | | Specify each item and its relevance to the initiative | | | |
| 5. **Event Costs** | Cost related to hosting events, such as venues, catering, or AV equipment. | | Specify types of events (workshops, conferences, etc.) | | | |
| 6. **External Partner Costs** | Payments for any services or collaborations with external partners. | | Detail each partner's contribution and cost-sharing model | | | |
| 7. **Monitoring & Evaluation** | Costs related to evaluating the success and impact of the initiative (e.g. surveys, data analysis). | | Justify the method of evaluation | | | |
| 8. **Publications/Dissemination** | Costs for producing and distributing any publications or promotional material for the initiative. | | Specify format (booklets, reports, etc.) and expected audience | | | |
| 9. **Training/Capacity Building** | Costs for developing training materials or sessions for internal or external | | Detail the target group and training objectives | | | |

| | | stakeholders | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10. | Contingency/Other Costs | Unforeseen costs that may arise during the course of the initiative. | Provide a brief rationale for including this. | | | | |
| | | | **Total** | | | | |

- **Total Funding Requested:**
- **Funding Received (if applicable):**
- **Remaining Funding Needed:**

- **Future Funding Plans:** Describe any steps being taken to secure additional funding for the future. If applicable, list other sources of funding (internal or external) or expected cost savings.

**Additional Comments:** Provide any further information or clarification regarding budget items or expected financial needs.

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| | | SOCIAL IMPACT EVALUATION CRITERIA | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **CRITERIA** | **SUB-CRITERIA** | **QUESTIONS TO HELP FORM A JUDGEMENT** | **SCORE[1] (1-10)** |
| **Engaged scholarship** | 1. **Include Students/staff in Learning &Teaching or Research & Innovation or both** | **How does the initiative promote engaged scholarship in the department and faculty? How does it add value to the Learning &Teaching or Research & Innovation?** | |
| | 2. **Include Societal partner(s)** | **How and why were the particular societal partner chosen? Were the societal partner consulted and an agreement reached on terms of involvement?** | |
| **Collaboration** | 3. **Other faculties/departments roles** | **Who are the internal participants in this initiative and briefly describe their roles? How do the internal participants contribute to the objectives of the initiative?** | |
| | 4. **Societal partner role** | **Do the coordinators/researchers consult the societal partner in the module/programme/research design? How are the societal partner enabled to contribute to the module/ programme/research?** | |
| **Reciprocity** | 5. **Benefit for university** | **To what extent has this initiative contributed to research products, e.g. publications, performances, programmes? To what extent has this initiative positively impacted on students and academics? Other: To what extent has this initiative positively impacted on areas other than Learning &Teaching or Research & Innovation** | |
| | 6. **Benefit for Societal partner** | **Do the aims of the initiative meet societal needs/utilize societal assets? To what extent does this initiative positively affect the participants currently and beyond?** | |
| **Sustainability** | 7. **The initiative is sustainable in terms of all resources involved?** | **How will the initiative find the needed resources to continue running into the future? What policies or mechanisms support the ongoing success of the initiative?** | |
| **Alignment with SU Themes (see below)** | 8. **What is the alignment to the formalized development goals?** | **To which extent does the initiative directly align to one or more of international, national, African or provincial goals? (SDG's, NDP, Agenda 2063, PSG's) and SU themes.** | |
| | **TOTAL** | | |
| | **AVERAGE SCORE (divide total by 8 to give a score out of 10)** | | |

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[1] Key: 1-2 Poor, 3-4 Below Average, 5-6 Average, 7-8 Above average, 9-10 Excellent

Employment and Inclusive Economic Development

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

1 NO POVERTY

Resources and Infrastructure

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Themes for SU SI

Education for all

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Safety, security & good governance

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Social Justice

5 GENDER EQUALITY

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
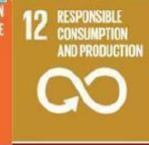
Environment and sustainability

15 LIFE ON LAND

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

13 CLIMATE ACTION

Food security and health

2 ZERO HUNGER

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

## ADDITIONAL CRITERIA/PARAMETERS TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE SOCIAL IMPACT FUNDING COMMITTEE

- Unless otherwise determined the Social Impact Funding Committee (SIFC) will meet in April and September annually. At times one primary annual funding round will be considered, with the possibility of a secondary round should funding be available.
- The Social Impact funding remains 'seed funding' for initiatives within faculties and PASS environments. As such additional internal and external sources of funding must be secured by the individual environments.
- Given the nature of the initiatives and requests, the SIFC will link directly with the SU Division for Development and Alumni Relations (DAR) in an attempt to secure additional funding possibilities for initiatives should it be necessary.
- Where needed the committee might request that applications be presented to the committee by the initiative owner as to better inform the committee before it decides.
- All initiatives linked to funding applications must be registered on the Social Impact Knowledge Platform. Please liaise with Chevaan Peters (chevaan@sun.ac.za) should you have any questions regarding the registration process.
- As part of the Social Impact Strategic Plan and directly linked to the SU Vision, Mission and Strategy, SIFC will prioritise funding for collaborative initiatives. By doing this the committee would like to encourage multi-disciplinary, trans-disciplinary and cross-cutting work. Where possible the committee will encourage initiative owners to collaborate with other, similar initiatives.
- Although there is no set amount of funding that will go to a faculty or PASS environment, environments are encouraged to send through a list of prioritised applications. The SIFC will consider all the nominations sent through by the faculty committees.
- All funding reports must go to the faculty committees and not the SIFC. Reporting is guided by the general funding criteria that forms part of the application. The faculty committees will be requested to complete a short report that indicates how the allocated funding was spent and how the funded initiative will continue.

### Initiatives that SIFC do not fund:
- Staff and Staff related issues;
- Operational costs, Buildings, electricity;
- Salaries of staff members;
- Funding requests from student bodies, this should be considered by the Engaged Citizenship Portfolio in CASIT.