

Evaluative Framework for Social Impact Funding at Stellenbosch University

1. Introduction

The Social Impact Strategic Plan (SISP) mandated the establishment of a Social Impact Committee (SIC) of Senate. This Committee was constituted on 9 February 2017. The Committee is responsible for the governing of and the provision of strategic direction to the implementation of social impact (SI).

Linked to the outcomes of the SISP, a task team was established to develop a framework to evaluate, award and assess SI funding applications received from faculty and professional administrative support service (PASS) environments. This framework is used as a guideline by the SI Funding Committee (SIFC), a subcommittee of the SIC, to evaluate the funding requests received from environments.

The **purpose of funding** made available for faculty and PASS 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 office for Social Impact and Transformation (SI&T).

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/SI&T is tasked with establishing an SI funding subcommittee that includes an SIC member and that can include a staff member from the Office for 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 faculty's 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 SI&T.

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

Criteria for evaluation were developed by researching other decentralised models of funding and aligning the criteria with the SISP. The criteria serve as an instrument both for self-evaluation and for the evaluation of the funding subcommittees. Scores awarded should be realistic and should be substantiated.

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.

The initiation of engaged teaching modules may be funded for one year, after which such modules should be integrated into the module or programme budget.

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 proposed timeframes for submissions are as follows:

Round 1

End of February: Proposals should be submitted to faculty and PASS environment SI committees.

25 March: SI committees should submit proposals to the SIFC.

Round 2

End of July: Proposals should be submitted to faculty and PASS environment SI committees.

30 August: SI committees should submit proposals to the SIFC.

All final proposals should be sent to 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 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. 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?

3. Objectives

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

4. Inputs

The resources needed such as human resource, equipment, materials, logistics.

5. Collaboration

Who are the internal collaborators and what is their role in the initiative?

Who are the external partners, what is their role and how do the relationship provide for participation and reciprocal benefit.

6. Activities

Outline the main activities that must happen to accomplish the objectives.

7. Outputs

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

8. Outcomes

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

9. 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.

10. Budget

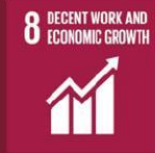
State all sources of income and expenses. An explanation of the sustainability measures taken, should be included. Please use template below:

Budget Template		
<i>(Every budget item should be motivated in such a way that it justifies the amount(s) requested</i>		
Line item followed by detailed description: <i>(Transport: Visits to plant 50km @ R2.00 per km x 10)</i>	Funding received	Funding needed
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
Total		

SOCIAL IMPACT EVALUATION CRITERIA			
CRITERIA	SUB-CRITERIA	QUESTIONS TO HELP FORM A JUDGEMENT	SCORE¹ (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)			

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

Employment and Inclusive Economic Development



Resources and Infrastructure



Themes for SU SI

Safety, security & good governance



Education for all



Social Justice



Environment and sustainability



Food security and health

