The NRF requires that all researchers and students applying for funding and rating at the NRF have an ORCID* identifier.

The NRF is in the process of integrating the ORCID identifier into all application and grant management business processes and systems and will allow researchers to include their ORCID identifier when updating their CVs. The NRF is also considering the downstream integration benefits to both researchers and the NRF including automated processes for uploading research output records into a researcher's profile and annual research reports.

A unique identifier, as provided by ORCID and which researchers can associate with their name variations and their research works, is a way to ensure that these links can be made accurately and reliably. This will help researchers to uniquely identify themselves as the author of their work across all systems integrated with the ORCID registry.

The NRF membership of ORCID ensures that researchers and their institutions will benefit from access to and integration with the ORCID registry, including setting up and maintaining disambiguated records for all researchers and linking these to their publications and other research outputs, leading, in turn, to a simpler, more reliable evaluation process.

* ORCID is an international, interdisciplinary, open and not-for-profit organisation created in 2010 for the benefit of all stakeholders, including research organisations, research funders, publishers and researchers. We aim to transform the research ecosystem by providing a registry of persistent unique identifiers for researchers and scholars and automating linkages to research objects such as publications, grants and patents (www.orcid.org)