higher education & training
Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

CREATIVE RESEARCH OUTPUTS AND INNOVATIONS REPORT 2024

1. Introduction

South African universities annually submit their creative outputs and innovations subsidy claims to the Department of Higher Education and Training (the Department) for evaluation and subsidy allocation. All submissions must meet the requirements stipulated in the Policy on the Evaluation of Creative Outputs and Innovations Produced by Higher Education Institutions (2017) and the Implementation Guidelines (2021). The policy recognises quality creative research outputs; evaluated outputs serve as a proxy for research, which determines the subsidy granted to universities. The policy covers the following subfields: Fine and Visual Arts; Music; Theatre; Performance and Dance; Design; Film and Television and Literary Arts. For innovations, the policy recognises: Patents and Plant Breeder's Rights.

The Department, in conjunction with the National Research Foundation (NRF) developed the Research Outputs Submission System (ROSS), for capturing all research outputs produced by universities. To ensure quality of the evaluation process, submitted creative research outputs and innovations are evaluated by field-specific panel of experts using pre-determined evaluation requirements in line with the policy and the Implementation Guidelines (2021) developed for this purpose.

Submitted creative research work is assessed by the respective subfields to ensure scholarly merit and rigour. The approved submitted outputs may be allocated either 0.5, 1 or 2 units. However, the final unit allocation is based on author/contributor proportion. This report presents the outcomes of creative research outputs and innovations for the **2024** submission cycle.

2. Overall Creative Output Units Accrued 2019-2024

This section outlines units accrued by the Durban University of Technology (DUT) from the panel evaluations from the last six cycles 2019-2024, as shown in Table 1 and Table 2, respectively.

Table 1: 2019 - 2024 Creative Outputs - Units Awarded

	CREATIVE OUTPUTS																	
	2019			2020			2021			2022			2023			2024		
HEI	Items	Units Awarded	% of Sector Units	Items	Units Awarded	% of Sector Units	Items	Units Awarded	% of Sector Units	Items	Units Awarded	% of Sector Units	Items	Units Awarded	% of Sector Units	Items	Units Awarded	% of Sector Units
CPUT	0	0	0.00%	3	4.0000	2.42%	0	0	0.00%	1	2.0000	1.38%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
CUT	1	1.0000	0.81%	1	1.0000	0.60%	1	0.6666	0.50%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
DUT	0	0	0.00%	6	7.0000	4.23%	3	3.3334	2.50%	2	1.5000	1.04%	6	6.5000	7.72%	9	6.7500	5.03%

NMU	6	7.0000	5.70%	9	7.3333	4.43%	1	1.0000	0.75%	3	4.0000	2.76%	0	0	0.00%	3	2.5000	1.86%
NWU	0	0	0.00%	5	6.0000	3.63%	3	2.5000	1.88%	2	1.5000	1.04%	1	1.0000	1.19%	1	1.0000	0.75%
RU	3	3.0000	2.44%	3	4.0000	2.42%	0	0	0.00%	3	3.0000	2.07%	8	10.0000	11.88%	5	5.5000	4.10%
SU	44	51.3332	41.82%	30	34.4450	20.82%	37	34.5300	25.92%	36	39.1999	27.08%	13	14.7000	17.46%	20	22.9502	17.12%
TUT	0	0	0.00%	9	6.1110	3.69%	4	3.5000	2.63%	4	4.5000	3.11%	9	9.5000	11.29%	14	10.3460	7.72%
UCT	16	25.2858	20.60%	10	9.4167	5.69%	3	3.0000	2.25%	8	9.2078	6.36%	5	4.1879	4.98%	5	4.3166	3.22%
UFH	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1	0.5000	0.37%
UFS	5	7.3333	5.97%	7	9.0000	5.44%	22	20.4999	15.39%	12	10.5000	7.25%	3	4.0000	4.75%	10	9.5000	7.08%
UJ	3	5.0000	4.07%	15	19.3333	11.68%	13	19.0000	14.26%	16	17.8667	12.34%	11	11.1667	13.27%	10	13.5000	10.07%
UKZN	1	1.0000	0.81%	2	2.0000	1.21%	1	1.0000	0.75%	0	0	0.00%	2	0.6667	0.79%	1	0.5000	0.37%
UL	0	0	0.00%	2	3.0000	1.81%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
UNISA	0	0	0.00%	14	10.5055	6.35%	4	4.2352	3.18%	12	11.2222	7.75%	5	3.0476	3.62%	14	13.8500	10.33%
UP	12	12.9762	10.57%	34	31.9073	19.28%	18	18.2917	13.73%	18	16.9166	11.69%	9	7.0000	8.32%	27	25.0000	18.64%
UWC	0	0	0.00%	5	5.7500	3.47%	1	0.2600	0.20%	1	2.0000	1.38%	3	1.7500	2.08%	1	0.2500	0.19%
WITS	7	8.8332	7.20%	5	4.6670	2.82%	15	21.3888	16.06%	15	17.8333	12.32%	7	8.6500	10.28%	14	17.6300	13.15%
WSU	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	4	3.5000	2.42%	1	2.0000	2.38%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	**98**	**122.7617**	**100.0%**	**160**	**165.4691**	**100.0%**	**126**	**133.2056**	**100.0%**	**137**	**144.7465**	**100.0%**	**83**	**84.1689**	**100.0%**	**135**	**134.0928**	**100.0%**

Table 2: 2019 - 2024 Creative Outputs - Overall Items and Units Awarded

	CREATIVE OUTPUTS			
HEI	**Items**	**% of Sector Items**	**Units Awarded**	**% of Sector Units**
SU	180	24.36%	197.1583	25.13%
UP	118	15.97%	112.0918	14.29%
UJ	68	9.20%	85.8667	10.95%
WITS	63	8.53%	79.0023	10.07%
UFS	59	7.98%	60.8332	7.75%
UCT	47	6.36%	55.4148	7.06%
UNISA	49	6.63%	42.8605	5.46%
TUT	40	5.41%	33.9570	4.33%
RU	22	2.98%	25.5000	3.25%
DUT	26	3.52%	25.0834	3.20%
NMU	22	2.98%	21.8333	2.78%
NWU	12	1.62%	12.0000	1.53%
UWC	11	1.49%	10.0100	1.28%
CPUT	4	0.54%	6.0000	0.76%
WSU	5	0.68%	5.5000	0.70%
UKZN	7	0.95%	5.1667	0.66%
UL	2	0.27%	3.0000	0.38%

CUT	3	0.41%	2.6666	0.34%
UFH	1	0.14%	0.5000	0.06%
TOTAL	**739**	100.00%	**784.4446**	**100.00%**

In 2019, DUT received no units for creative and innovation outputs.

In 2020, DUT received 7.0000 units for creative outputs accounting for 4.23% of the overall units awarded to the sector. A total of 7 units were awarded in 2020.

In 2021, DUT received 3.3334 units for creative outputs accounting for 2.50% of the overall units awarded to the sector. A total of 3.3334 units were awarded in 2021.

In 2022, DUT received 1.5000 units for creative outputs accounting for 1.04% of the overall units awarded to the sector. A total of 1.5 units were awarded in 2022.

In 2023, DUT received 6.5000 units for creative outputs accounting for 7.721% of the overall units awarded to the sector. A total of 6.5 units were awarded in 2023.

In 2024, DUT received 6.7500 units for creative outputs accounting for 5.03% of the overall units awarded to the sector. A total of 6.75 units were awarded in 2024.

No units were awarded for innovations in the last six cycles 2019-2024.

The table shows a steady increase with accrual of units over the last six-year cycle for creative outputs. However, there has been a lack of participation in innovation submissions from the university.

3. University Submissions and Units Awarded 2024

The university submitted twelve (11) items in 2024 for subsidy claims. All items fell under the category of creative outputs, as shown in Table 3. Following the assessment which included adjustments on the proportion of internal contributors, units carried over from the previous cycle, and possible withdrawal of some units based on the reason(s) provided in the report, DUT attained a total of **6.7500** units. Table 3 further provides a breakdown of approved and declined submissions per subfield, along with the corresponding units awarded.

Table 3: Creative Outputs - Total Number of Items Concluded in 2024

The following table provides a summary of items which were concluded at the end of the reporting cycle.

Category	No. Submissions	Approved	Disapproved	Units Awarded
Design	2	2	0	1.0000
Film	1	1	0	0.2500
Fine Arts	2	2	0	1.0000
Literary Arts	1	1	0	2.0000
Television	1	0	1	0.0000

Theatre, Performance and Dance	4	3	1	2.5000
TOTAL	**11**	**9**	**2**	**6.7500**

The university's evaluation outcomes are summarised as follows:

Of the 11 items submitted 9 were approved and 2 were declined, showing 81% approval rate.

(a) Design

The university submitted 2 items for evaluation. Following the evaluations, the panel approved all the items, and a total of 1.0000 units were awarded.

(b) Film

The university submitted 1 item for evaluation. Following the evaluations, the panel approved the item, and a total of 0.2500 units were awarded.

(c) Fine Arts

The university submitted 2 items for evaluation. Following the evaluations, the panel approved all the items, and a total of 1.0000 units were awarded.

(d) Literary Arts

The university submitted 1 item for evaluation. Following the evaluations, the panel approved the item, and a total of 2.0000 units were awarded.

(e) Television

The university submitted 1 item for evaluation. Following the evaluations, the panel declined the item. The declined item, along with their reason(s) is listed in Table 5.

Table 4 shows items declined by Peer-Reviewers in 2024, along with their reason(s).

Table 4: Creative Outputs - Items Declined by Peer-Reviewers in 2024

The following items were not approved by the peer-reviewers or had missed their deadlines and cannot be rolled over to the following year, as they will no longer fall within the n-3 range.

Year Created	Category	DHET No	Title Of Output	Reasons For Disapproval
2021	Theatre, Performance and Dance	COTPD1	SARDINES	Peer-Review Deadline Missed

Table 5 shows declined items for creative outputs, along with their reason(s).

Table 5: Creative Outputs - Items Declined by Sub-Panel in 2024

The following items were not approved by the sub-panel.

Year Created	Category	DHET No	Title Of Output	Reasons For Disapproval
2023	Television	COTV1	The Graffiti Artists of Durban	The creative output does not demonstrate scholarly rigor; The creative output does not demonstrate new research insights; The output does not meet the minimum requirements for accreditation; Other (the submission does not meet the requirements of exhibition in that it was only exhibited in the university department and is available on you-tube but with few views)

Table 6 shows items which were still under review at the end of 2024.

Table 6: Creative Outputs - Items still under review at the end of 2024

The following items did not receive sufficient reviews (positive or negative) from the peer-reviewers or were held back by the institution pending an additional review. Consequently, these items did not proceed to the sub-panel for the current reporting cycle. They will be rolled over to the next reporting cycle, as they remain eligible within the mandatory n-3 submission window.

Year Created	Category	Year Submitted	DHET No	Title Of Output
2023	Fine Arts	2024	COFA2	Waste Auto Oil Filters: Mitigating environmental Degradation
2023	Fine Arts	2024	COFA3	Black Diamonds Series
2023	Fine Arts	2024	COFA5	Anatomy: Using Printmaking to Interpret Poetry
2023	Film	2024	COF2	Maskanda and the Professor - Editing
2023	Film	2024	COF3	Maskanda and the Professor - Directing
2022	Theatre, Performance and Dance	2024	COTPD3	Pieces of An African Drum
2023	Theatre, Performance and Dance	2024	COTPD5	natal
2023	Theatre, Performance and Dance	2024	COTPD7	BOMBAY CHASERS 2 - THE RETURN OF KRISHNA AND RADHA

Table 7 shows awarded items for creative outputs, along with author/ contributor proportion, and unit allocation.

Table 7: Creative Outputs - Items approved in 2024

The following items were approved by the sub-panel.

Year Created	DHET No	Category	Title Of Output	Reasons For Approval	Proportion Of Internal Contributors	Units Awarded By Panel	Units Awarded
2022	COD1	Design	Menstruation Narratives	Other; The creative research output demonstrates significant academic merit.	1.0000	0.500	0.5000
2022	COD2	Design	Up and Down	Other; The creative research output demonstrates significant academic merit.	1.0000	0.500	0.5000
2022	COFA1	Fine Arts	Herd, Herder and the rest of us; A disconnect of co-habitation	Other; The creative research output consists of a single work.	1.0000	0.500	0.5000
2023	COFA4	Fine Arts	The Children of Lir'	Other	1.0000	0.500	0.5000
2023	COF1	Film	Maskanda and the Professor - Cinematography	Other; The creative research output is appropriate to its intended purpose in terms of form and duration.	0.5000	0.500	0.2500
2022	COLA1	Literary Arts	OlduvAI to AI. We with our tech tools	The creative research output embodies philosophical imagination enriching the narrative with depth and complexity. The creative research output integrates research insights with creative acumen providing for a rich multidimensional narrative.	1.0000	2.000	2.0000
2022	COTPD2	Theatre, Performance and Dance	Pieces of An African Drum	The creative research output meets all the minimum requirements of creative originality, scholarship, new research insights, appropriate duration and is well located in its discipline.	1.0000	1.000	1.0000
2023	COTPD4	Theatre, Performance and Dance	Whispers in the Corridors (2023) Writing	The creative research output meets all the minimum requirements of creative originality, scholarship, new research insights, appropriate duration and is well located in its discipline.	1.0000	1.000	1.0000
2023	COTPD6	Theatre, Performance and Dance	natal	To sufficiently evaluate the creative research output, a more complete performance text would be helpful. The annotation would benefit from a more in-depth discussion and the inclusion of evidence of application.	1.0000	0.500	0.5000
TOTAL							**6.7500**

4. Recommendations

Overall, the university has complied with the policy requirements for the submission of creative outputs. However, there are some areas for improvement to increase unit accrual and minimise declined items. In this context it is strongly recommended that the university:

- Should ensure that all submissions align with the recognised subfields as stipulated in the policy. Creative outputs falling outside this scope should not be submitted as they are ineligible for subsidy.
- Should ensure that the creative outputs are submitted under the most appropriate subfield panel to ensure it is evaluated by the correct experts.

- Emphasis must be placed on the annotation. This document is critical as it must clearly demonstrate scholarly rigour and the research process behind the creative work.
- While Creative Research outputs showed steady engagement, the Innovations category yielded zero units due to a lack of submissions from the university for the 2024 period. The university should encourage researchers within technical and scientific faculties to identify potential patent and plant breeder's rights for future cycle.
- Continue to conduct internal workshops on the Departments Implementation Guidelines to assist staff in aligning their work with subsidy requirements.