



**RESEARCH EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ADVERT: CALL FOR APPLICATIONS TO PRIVATE
RESEARCH ENTITIES AND PUBLIC HIGER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

The Services Sector Education and Training Authority (Services SETA) invites researchers, public and private research providers, institutions, employer associations and professional bodies to partner with the Services SETA in delivering skills development research project related to **compiling a comprehensive economic profile of the services sector and a review of the clustering of economic activities for operational efficiencies.**

The application window will open on **27 May 2026** at 8:00 AM and will close on **24 June 2026** at 4:00 PM.

Applications must be submitted through this email address: research2026@serviceseta.org.za

For detailed information please refer to our website www.servicesseta.org.za

2026-27 Research Expression of Interest (EOI) Applications: Call for Proposal to researchers, public and private research providers, institutions, employer associations and professional bodies to partner with the Services SETA in delivering skills development research projects to compile a comprehensive economic profile of the services sector and review of the clustering of economic activities for operational efficiencies

Introduction

The Services Sector Education and Training Authority (Services SETA) hereby invites suitably experienced private research providers, public higher education institutions and/or consortia of private providers and public higher institutions, including member companies, to apply for discretionary grant to implement a research project on economic profiling of the services sector industries and review of the clustering of economic activities for operational efficiencies.

These grants are intended to meet the Services SETA's research needs that have been derived inter alia from the *National Skills Development Plan*, *National Development Plan*, and the *White Paper for Post-School Education and Training* and the Department of Higher Education and Training's *Research Agenda*. This window prioritises a research project on "a comprehensive economic profile of the services sector and review of the clustering of economic activities for operational efficiencies" to enable robust skills planning.

Specifications for this research project is attached as **Annexure 1** and contain the scope of work for each project.

Who can apply?

All private research providers and public HEIs with the requisite capacity and good standing legally may therefore apply for this discretionary grant funding.

Requirements

A proposal that includes the following minimum elements. Failure to comply may lead to disqualification:

- a) Understanding of the research and the specifications (background to the research, rationale, purpose, objectives).
- b) Approach, design and methodology for the research (e.g., literature and documentation review, data collection tools, sample, suggestions for elaboration or changes to scope and methodology as outlined in the project specifications, examples of research questions suggested, process elements).

- c) Activity-based plan (including number of person days per activity and time frame linked to activities).
- d) Activity-based budget (in South African Rand, including VAT).
- e) Competence (include list of related projects undertaken of main contractor and subcontractors, making clear who did what, and contact people for references);
- f) Team (team members, roles and level of effort of each person involved in the project).
- g) Quality assurance plan (to ensure that the process and products are of good quality).
- h) Research policy nexus (indicate how the research findings can be engaged with to promote utilisation).
- i) Risk and quality assurance plan for the research study (to ensure that the process and products of this study are of good quality).

Application process

In order to be considered for this application, the following mandatory supporting documents need to be submitted on the online portal. Failure to do so may lead to immediate disqualification.

- Valid Tax Clearance or Exemption Certificate
- Company Registration Documents
- Declaration of Interest (Form 1a)
- Declaration of Authorised Person (Form 1b)
- POPIA Declaration (Form 1c)
- Detailed Proposal/s with budget
- BBBEE Certificate
- References for related research undertaken by the service providers
- CVs of key personnel

Evaluation criteria

The evaluation of the applications will follow the following process:

- Stage 1 – Submission through the designated email address
- Stage 2 – Compliance and evaluation – evaluation of mandatory documentation submitted through a dedicated email address
- Stage 3 – Due diligence – Applicants that go through to this stage may be requested to present the submitted proposal to a Service SETA evaluation committee.

Applications must be submitted through this email address:

research2026@serviceseta.org.za

Queries and challenges experienced with the portal to be directed to: Helpdesk email to:

research2026@serviceseta.org.za Telephone: 011 276 9600