



The purpose of the PSSA Outreach Project Grant is to provide funding (max R5 000) for projects that incorporate evidenced-based practice and promote palaeoscience within local communities. The primary function of the Grant is to provide limited support to postgraduate students (MSc or PhD) and Post-doctoral fellows for their outreach endeavors.

We seek applications that demonstrate clearly defined target audiences and well-researched solutions that offer longevity and sustained implementation.

Scope

The PSSA Outreach Project Grant seeks to address the themes listed below. Successful applications need to make specific references to these themes and the impact their proposed outreach project will have. The PSSA encourages projects that can demonstrate ongoing, lasting impact rather than once-off activities.

The **PSSA Outreach Project Grant** seeks to:

1. Promote Southern African Palaeoscience Awareness

- *Enhance the understanding of fossils and evolutionary history within underserved or underrepresented communities.*
- *Highlight the importance of palaeoscience in understanding global issues like climate change, biodiversity loss, and conservation.*
- *Instil a sense of national pride in the strength and breadth of Southern Africa's fossil record and how it has uniquely shaped humanity's understanding of life on earth and our relation to it.*

2. Empower Postgraduate Students and Researchers

- *Equip MSc, PhD, and post-doctoral researchers with resources to lead outreach projects, fostering responsibility and skills in science communication and public engagement.*
- *Provide an opportunity for post-doctoral researchers to link their academic expertise to real-world community benefits.*

3. **Foster Inclusion and Accessibility in Science**

- *Support initiatives that break down barriers to science education and make palaeoscience relatable and accessible to diverse audiences, including (but not limited to) children, educators, and community leaders.*

Eligibility

- The recipient of the PSSA Outreach Project Grant must be a PSSA member in good standing i.e., payment of membership fees is up to date. If you are unsure about your status or would like to become a member, please email palaeosa@gmail.com
- An applicant can only submit one application per year and cannot be awarded more than one PSSA Outreach Project Grant per degree. i.e., if your application is successful during your MSc degree, you will only be eligible again if you start a PhD. If you have “upgraded” your MSc into a PhD, you will only be eligible for one award during that degree but will become eligible again should you take-up a post-doctoral fellowship. Post-doctoral awardees are to contact the PSSA Outreach Project Grant committee if they are moving between fellowships or into full-time employment.
- The applicant must currently be registered at a Southern African university for one of the following: MSc degree, PhD degree, post-doctoral fellowship within the palaeosciences.
- Applicants should readily have access to the community their project seeks to serve. E.g., Postgraduate students based in Gauteng should not make Capetonian residents their focus (unless that student conducts fieldwork close to a Cape Town community). Such instances should be motivated.

Application procedure:

The call for applications will be open from 01 March 2026 and closes on 10 April 2026. Completed applications, proof of registration (current Southern African university), a 2 page CV and letter of support from a supervisor must be submitted to palaeosa@gmail.com with “Name Surname 20XX PPSA OPG” as the email subject line AND name of the document (in PDF format). Outcomes will be released by 10 May in the year of application. Successful applicants are **required** to submit an article to PalNews detailing their outreach activity in the following year.