

STANDARD COST GUIDELINES

Applicant summary | FY2027 Call for Proposals

Summary of CT-GUIDE-2026-001 version 1.1, effective 1 April 2026. These guidelines set the maximum allowable rates for every cost category in a research proposal submitted to Coaltech. All amounts are in South African Rand, exclusive of VAT; VAT at 15 percent is stated separately in the budget. Rates are reviewed annually.

HOW TO APPLY THE RATES

- **Budget by financial year.** Projects under the FY2027 call start on 1 April 2027, so Year 1 of your budget uses the 2027/28 column. Later-year figures are indicative, escalated at 5 percent; the CPI rate applying at the time governs.
- **Classify every person.** Name each team member, classify them by level or role, and state their FTE involvement and total days or months in the budget schedule.
- **Rates above the maximum.** Any rate exceeding the guideline maximum by 10 percent or more requires written motivation.
- **Subcontractors.** Itemise subcontractor costs separately, at the consultant day rates below, to a maximum of 40 percent of the total project budget without prior approval.
- **Overhead.** Universities and public research entities may claim an institutional overhead levy of up to 15 percent on direct costs, excluding stipends, equipment over R50,000 and VAT; the institutional rate policy must accompany the proposal. Private firms claim no separate overhead; day rates are inclusive.
- **Co-funding.** All co-funding, from any source, must be disclosed in full in the budget schedule.

A. UNIVERSITY AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTION RATES

Student stipends (per annum, ex VAT)

Stipend	Unit	2026/27 (R)	2027/28 (R)	2028/29 (R)
Doctoral (PhD)	pa	162,000	170,100	178,605
Master's (MSc)	pa	134,000	140,700	147,735
Honours / BTech	pa	72,000	75,600	79,380
Vacation student / intern	6-month	22,000	23,100	24,255
Postdoctoral research fellow	pa	340,000	357,000	374,850
Senior postdoctoral fellow (3+ yrs post-PhD)	pa	370,000	388,500	407,925

Research specialists and academic project leaders (annual amount billed to the project, ex VAT)

These are the amounts charged to the Coaltech project, not full salaries. State each person's FTE involvement.

Role	Unit	2026/27 (R)	2027/28 (R)	2028/29 (R)
Senior researcher / scientist	pa	153,000	160,650	168,683
Data specialist	pa	120,000	126,000	132,300
Specialist scientist / technologist	pa	96,000	100,800	105,840
Research technician	pa	72,000	75,600	79,380
Project administrator	pa	23,000	24,150	25,358
Professor / Associate Professor (PI)	pa	80,000	84,000	88,200
Researcher (Co-PI)	pa	55,000	57,750	60,638
Early-career researcher	pa	38,000	39,900	41,895

B. PRIVATE CONSULTANT AND INDUSTRY PARTNER RATES

Maximum billing rates per working day of 8 hours, ex VAT. The hourly rate is the day rate divided by 8. Day rates include all overheads; no additional company overhead may be claimed. Classify each team member by level and state the total days engaged.

Level	Role and experience	2026 (R/day)	2027 (R/day)	2028 (R/day)
L1	Project director / partner · 15+ years	9,100	9,555	10,033
L2	Principal consultant / senior expert · 10–15 years	5,400	5,670	5,954
L3	Senior consultant / specialist · 5–10 years	3,800	3,990	4,190

Level	Role and experience	2026 (R/day)	2027 (R/day)	2028 (R/day)
L4	Consultant / associate · 2–5 years	2,100	2,205	2,315
L5	Junior professional / research assistant · 0–2 years	1,200	1,260	1,323

C. TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE (DOMESTIC)

Category	Unit	2026/27 (R)	2027/28 (R)	2028/29 (R)
Meals and incidentals (SARS prescribed rate)	per day	683	717	753
Accommodation, regional towns	per night	1,650	1,733	1,820
Accommodation, metropolitan (JHB / CPT / DBN)	per night	2,500	2,625	2,756
Private vehicle mileage (SARS approved rate)	per km	5.25	5.51	5.79
Air travel, economy class only	actual	Actual cost	Actual cost	Actual cost

International travel requires prior CEO approval, economy class only, with a post-travel report within 10 working days. Coaltech does not contribute to travel, accommodation or fees for national or international symposia.

D. PAYMENT RULES

- **All other project costs** are paid on delivery of the service and after approval by the Steering Committee, against the milestones in the signed agreement.
- **Final payment** is contingent on compliance with all reporting and documentation requirements.