



PSSA YPG: Professional Innovation Project 2025

Call for Submissions and Application Form

Are you passionate about spearheading change in pharmacy or pharmaceutical sciences?

Do you have an innovative idea that could benefit your community or the profession?

Well, this is your opportunity to make a real impact!

The Professional Innovation Project, hosted by the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa (PSSA) Young Pharmacists' Group (YPG), empowers young pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists to translate ideas into action. By applying, you not only stand a chance to win a grant but also to share your vision nationally, build your leadership profile, and shape the future of pharmacy in South Africa.

We encourage you to approach this opportunity with passion, creativity, and confidence. Your ideas have the power to shape the future of pharmacy and positively impact the communities we serve. Whether your project focuses on innovative service delivery, public health promotion, or advancing pharmaceutical science, your voice matters, and this platform is here to amplify it.

We look forward to your brilliant submissions and supporting your journey toward professional innovation. Good luck — and thank you for being an indispensable player in our field!

Applications are now open for 2025!

Let's create solutions together, or find out why the problem exists to begin with...

Table of Contents



	1
PSSA YPG: Professional Innovation Project 2025	1
1. General Information	3
1.1 Eligibility Requirements	3
1.2 Contact Information	3
3. Application Process	3
3.1 Application Checklist	3
3.2 Submission Method	4
4. Judging Criteria	4
5. Runner-up Recognition Opportunity	5
6. Reporting Obligations	5
7. Key Deadlines	5
Timeline at a Glance	5
Project Themes	10
Project Significance	10
Part VI: Limitations and Risk Management	13
10 Helpful Tips for a Strong Application: Professional Innovation Project 2025	15
Application Form: PSSA YPG: Professional Innovation Project 2025	17
Part I: Applicant Information	17
Part II: Project Identification	18
Part III: Problem Identification	19
Part IV: Project Details	19
Project Themes	19
Project Significance:	20
Methods and Implementation Plan:	20
How Your Solution Will Work in Practice:	21
Pharmacist's Role:	21
Part V: Budget Breakdown	21
Part VI: Limitations and Risk Management	22
Part VII: Declaration and Signature	22
End of Application Form	23

1. General Information

1.1 Eligibility Requirements

- Paid-up individual member of PSSA.
- A young pharmacist or pharmaceutical scientist.
- Previous winners of the Professional Innovation Project Grant are not eligible.
- Each applicant may only submit one project.
- Group work is allowed but must be submitted under one applicant's name.

N.B. As per YPG, a young pharmacist is defined as individual members of PSSA who are recent graduates (up to five years after graduation from their first degree in pharmacy) or are below the age of 35 years.

1.2 Contact Information

- For queries pertaining to the Professional Innovation Project, contact **the Professional Innovation Project Coordinators: Ms Aisha Adam - aishadam09@gmail.com and Ahmed Setar - ahmedsetar1@gmail.com**

2. Award and Recognition

- Winner will receive a **grant of R15,000** to implement the project.
- Top 3 applicants will be shortlisted and invited for interviews to select the final winner.
- Runner-ups will be given the opportunity to submit a 3 minute video showcasing their project **for social media exposure through official PSSA channels.**
- All shortlisted projects will receive recognition through certificates and publicity.

3. Application Process

3.1 Application Checklist

- Completed application form.
- Applicant's curriculum vitae (maximum 2 pages).

3.2 Submission Method

- Submit your completed application and attachments via email to ypg@pssa.org.za AND CC all three email addresses: aishadam09@gmail.com , ahmedsetar1@gmail.com & kevin_baloyi@icloud.com
 - Subject line: PIP Application 2025 – [Applicant Full Name]
 - Applications must be submitted by 30 June 2025
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4. Judging Criteria

Applications will be judged on the following criteria:

Criterion	Description	Points (Max 20)
Innovation	Creativity, originality, and practical relevance	20
Feasibility	Practicality and likelihood of success within 1 year	20
Impact	Potential positive change for the profession/community	20
Scientific Rationale	Sound understanding of problem and approach	20
Budget Planning	Realistic, justified, efficient use of grant funds	20

- Shortlisted Top 3 will be invited for a virtual interview with the judging panel.
- The interview process provides the judging panel with an opportunity to ask clarifying questions and explore key aspects of each shortlisted project, with a particular focus on feasibility, implementation strategies, and anticipated challenges. This allows the panel to make

a fully informed and balanced decision, ensuring that the final selection reflects not only the written proposal but also the candidate’s ability to successfully execute their project in practice.

- **Final selection will be based on both written applications and interview performance.**
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5. Runner-up Recognition Opportunity

- The two runner-ups will be invited to submit a 2–3 minute video summarising:
 - Their project idea
 - The problem they tackled
 - Their innovative solution or understanding
 - Anticipated community/professional impact
 - **These videos will be featured on PSSA YPG social media platforms and newsletters**, giving visibility and exposure to young talents.
 - Runner-ups can use this opportunity to build professional portfolios and attract future collaborations.
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6. Reporting Obligations

If selected, the **grant recipient must submit project progress reports every three months**, as indicated on the timeline in Section 7.

Reminders and templates will be provided.

7. Key Deadlines

Timeline at a Glance

Stage	Date	Description
Call for Submissions Opens	6 May 2025	Launch of application window

Application Deadline	30 June 2025	Last day to submit completed applications
Shortlisted Top 3 Announced	1 August 2025	Notification of shortlisted candidates
Interview Period	4–6 August 2025	Virtual interviews with judging panel
Winner Announcement	9 August 2025	Winner and runner-ups officially announced
Project Start Date	1 September 2025	Grant awarded; projects begin
Runner-up Video Submissions	31 October 2025	Latest date for runner-ups to forward their video submissions, to be circulated by YPG
Quarterly Project Progress Report Due	30 November 2025	A brief update outlining activities completed, challenges faced, and any adjustments needed during the first 3 months of the project
Mid-Project Progress Report Due	28 February 2026	A detailed progress report and project abstract with preliminary results for a PSSA/Sector Conference, summarising achievements to date, budget usage, and anticipated changes for the remainder of the project

Three-quarterly Project Progress Report Due	31 May 2026	A brief progress report An update after 9 months focusing on near-completion activities, final preparations, and any outstanding issues that may affect project closure
Project End Date	31 August 2026	Project completion
Final Project Report Due	15 September 2026	A comprehensive report evaluating overall project outcomes, impact assessment, final budget reconciliation, lessons learned, and sustainability recommendations
Podium Presentation	2026/2027	Present at a PSSA/ Sector Conference on the completed project

Professional Innovation Project 2025 — Application Completion Guide

This guide explains how to complete each section of the application form based on the official requirements. Follow this guide carefully to maximise the clarity, professionalism, and strength of your submission.

N.B. Only applications that fully comply with the requirements outlined in the Professional Innovation Project 2025 guidelines will be accepted for review. Submissions must be complete, accurate, and follow the specified format. Incomplete or non-compliant applications will not be considered.

Part I: Applicant Information

This section identifies who you are and confirms your eligibility.

What to include:

- Full Name & Surname: Your full legal name, exactly as registered professionally.
- Date of Birth/ ID number: For verification purposes.
- PSSA Membership Number: Proof that you are a paid-up member of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa.
- Occupation: Your current job title (e.g., Clinical Pharmacist, Pharmacy Manager, Research Scientist).
- Organisation/Employer: Where you are currently employed or professionally affiliated.
- Email Address: Use a professional email you monitor regularly.
- Cell Phone Number: Your main personal contact number.
- Work Phone Number: (Optional) A secondary work-based contact number.
- Residential Address and Postal Address: Accurate physical and/or postal addresses.

Tip: Ensure consistency with your professional records (especially your name, employer, and membership number).

Part II: Project Identification

Project Title

A short, clear, and informative title that quickly tells reviewers what your project is about.

Example: Enhancing Access to Chronic Medication in Underserved Communities via Mobile Pharmacy Services.

Project Overview

A concise description summarising the project's purpose, main objectives, target audience, scope, and intended impact.

Key questions to answer:

- What are you trying to achieve?
- Who will benefit?
- What is the general plan?

Example: This project seeks to establish a mobile pharmacy service aimed at improving chronic medication access in rural communities of Limpopo Province. Through monthly clinics, we aim to serve over 500 patients, reduce missed doses, and promote adherence by integrating pharmacists into community outreach teams.

Part III: Problem Identification

Problem Statement

Clearly identify the problem or issue your project addresses.

Your project should either:

- Create a new solution to solve or improve the problem, or
- Deepen the understanding of the root causes, barriers, or challenges surrounding the issue.

You must explain:

- What is the problem?
- Why is this problem significant to the community or profession?
- What are the potential consequences of not addressing it?

Example: Access to essential chronic medication remains a significant challenge in rural Limpopo. Without reliable access, patients experience worsening health outcomes, increased hospitalisations, and greater strain on healthcare systems. If not addressed, this will widen healthcare inequalities.

Outcome of the Project

Specify which approach your project is taking:

- Creating a solution to the problem, or
- Deepening the understanding of the problem's root causes, barriers, or challenges.

Example (Creating a Solution): The project will create a mobile pharmacy system to directly solve the access gap for chronic medication in remote areas.

Example (Deepening Understanding): The project will research and document barriers to medication access among rural populations, leading to better-informed interventions.

Part IV: Project Details

Project Themes

Applicants may select up to three (3) themes relevant to their project, or specify their own.

Examples include:

- *International Cooperation*
- *Emerging Trends in Pharmacy Practice*
- *Access to Medication*
- *Vaccination Services*
- *Healthcare Promotion*
- *Disease Outbreak Management*
- *Rural Healthcare Development*
- *Research & Model Designs*
- *Novel Community Pharmacy Services*
- *Biotechnology & Pharmacogenetics*
- *Other (specify)*

Project Significance

Describe how your project will create positive impact:

- On the community
- On the profession
- On the advancement of pharmaceutical sciences/ services

Focus on tangible, measurable outcomes.

Example: The mobile pharmacy model will directly improve medication adherence rates by 30% in the pilot communities. Professionally, it will demonstrate the expanded role pharmacists can play in primary care settings.

Scientific Background

Provide a rationale based on:

- Published scientific information (if available), or
- Relevant professional observations if formal research is lacking.

What to Include:

- Summarised literature references, health statistics, pilot project results.
- Personal clinical experiences (if no published data).

Example: A 2022 South African Medical Journal study found that mobile health units increased chronic disease follow-up rates by 45%. Observations in my district have shown that patients miss appointments due to transportation barriers.

Methods and Implementation Plan

Present a step-by-step, practical project plan.

- Clearly describe the steps you will take to carry out the project, including specific activities, timelines, and resources needed. Explain how each step contributes to achieving your goals, and ensure your plan is realistic, practical, and directly aligned with solving or understanding the identified problem.

Checklist for Completing the Methods and Implementation Section:

- Outline the main activities and tasks you will carry out.
- Specify the timeline for each key step or milestone.
- Describe the resources, equipment, or support needed.
- Explain how each activity links to your project goals.
- Ensure the plan is realistic, practical, and achievable within the project timeframe.

- Identify who will be responsible for each task (if working with a team).
- Mention any partnerships or collaborations, if applicable.

Example Activity Plan Table:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Resources Needed</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>
<i>Health worker training</i>	<i>Month 1-2</i>	<i>Training materials and venue</i>	<i>Project leader/ grant recipient</i>
<i>Community outreach events</i>	<i>Month 5+</i>	<i>Flyers and portable health stands</i>	<i>Project leader/ grant recipient</i>

- Applicants may use any format of their choice for the Methods and Implementation section, as long as all points outlined in the checklist are clearly addressed. While a table format has been provided as an example for convenience, it is not mandatory. Applicants are encouraged to choose the structure that best presents their project plan clearly and logically.
- **All projects must be executed within a one-year timeframe.** Applicants must clearly outline in the Methods and Implementation section how their activities, milestones, and goals will be achieved within this one-year period. A detailed timeline is required to demonstrate that the project is realistic and feasible within the specified duration.

How Your Solution Will Work in Practice

Describe practically how your project will operate or how it will advance professional practice.

Example: The mobile pharmacy will visit villages on a biweekly schedule, supported by trained health workers for patient registration, education, and medication dispensing.

Pharmacist's Role

Explain why pharmacists or pharmaceutical scientists are uniquely positioned to solve or investigate the problem. Highlight required professional skills, expertise, and contributions.

Example: Pharmacists have specialized knowledge in medication management, counselling, and public health. Their expertise ensures safe dispensing, medication adherence support, and community education, critical components for the project's success.

Part V: Budget Breakdown

Provide a detailed, reasonable, and justified breakdown of all requested funds.

You must submit a full proposed budget using the format below:

Item/Activity	Amount Requested (ZAR)	Justification for Expense	Ownership after Project
Example: Printing educational materials	R2,000	Needed for patient education workshops	Not applicable
Example: Blood pressure monitors	R1,500	Required for community screening events	Remains with clinic partner

Important Notes:

- Grant funds cannot be used for salaries or personal income.
- Ownership of durable goods purchased must be declared.
- Budgets must be reasonable and linked to project activities.

Part VI: Limitations and Risk Management

Applicants must briefly identify:

- Any foreseeable limitations (e.g., funding shortages, supply chain issues, community engagement challenges)
- Risk mitigation strategies (e.g., alternative suppliers, contingency plans)

This demonstrates realistic planning and improves your project's credibility.

Part VII: Declaration and Signature

- Affirm that all information you provided is truthful and accurate.
- Confirm your eligibility and agreement to all conditions.
- Signature, place, and date are mandatory.

10 Helpful Tips for a Strong Application: Professional Innovation Project 2025

1. Focus on Creating Tangible Change

Design your project to create a visible, meaningful difference in your community, profession, or scientific field. Reviewers are looking for projects that do something — whether that's improving access to healthcare, introducing new services, or generating insights that will guide future practice. Your objectives must be action-driven, not vague aspirations.

2. Base Your Project on Evidence and Science

Support your project rationale with data, research findings, statistics, and relevant literature wherever possible. Even if your project is innovative, grounding it in scientific evidence shows that it is not just theoretical, but practical and informed by real-world knowledge. Mention sources, even briefly, to add credibility.

3. Demonstrate Feasibility and Realism

Propose a project that can be successfully completed within one year and within a reasonable budget. Ambitious projects are welcome, but they must be realistically achievable with the time, resources, and staffing available. A well-thought-out, step-by-step plan with achievable goals is much stronger than an overly broad idea.

4. Highlight Multidisciplinary Collaboration

Working across fields (e.g., pharmacists with nurses, researchers, medical practitioners, public health officials) strengthens your project. It shows you are leveraging multiple areas of expertise to solve complex problems and can greatly improve project outcomes. If possible, mention any partnerships or teamwork structures in your application.

5. Use Existing Resources Where Possible

Show that you will maximise impact by using existing resources — like equipment from your workplace, volunteer networks or partnerships with universities. This demonstrates good stewardship of grant money by reserving funding for truly necessary new expenses rather than duplicating what's already available.

6. Ensure Smart Allocation of the Budget

Every item in your budget should have a clear and strong justification. Avoid vague or unjustified costs. Prioritise spending that directly supports the project's goals (such as educational materials, equipment,

or service delivery expenses) rather than administrative overhead. Make it easy for reviewers to see how every Rand spent leads to a result.

7. Map Out a Realistic Timeline

Break your project into clear phases with dates or periods attached (e.g., "Training phase: January–February," "Implementation phase: March–September"). Projects that show when and how key activities will occur throughout the year are much more convincing. Avoid plans that rely on last-minute delivery or compressed schedules.

8. Show Deep Knowledge of the Problem

Demonstrate that you understand the problem in depth. Reference studies, official statistics, surveys, or credible professional observations. Explain the root causes of the issue, not just the symptoms. Projects that show a deep, nuanced understanding are more likely to be seen as credible and impactful.

9. Explain the Practical Impact on Practice or Policy

Don't just say what your project will do — explain how it will change pharmacy practice, patient care, or pharmaceutical sciences. Will it establish a new service model? Inform health policy? Improve treatment adherence? Reviewers want to see how your work will leave a lasting impact.

10. Prepare a Well-Organised, Clear, and Professional Application

Presentation matters. Use clear headings, bullet points, tables (where helpful), and professional language. Stick to the requested format and answer each part of the form completely. A clear, organised application makes it easier for reviewers to understand your project — and to recommend it for funding.

Application Form: PSSA YPG: Professional Innovation Project 2025

Please complete the application form in English, following the Professional Innovation Project 2025 guidelines and respecting all word limits. Attach your current CV with your submission. For group applications, submit a short CV for the nominated representative, whose details must be entered under "Applicant Identification." Only complete and compliant applications will be considered.

To be filled in by the YPG
Reference number:

Part I: Applicant Information

Full Name and Surname:

Date of Birth / ID Number:

PSSA Membership Number:

Occupation (Current Position):

Organisation / Employer:

Email Address:

Cell Phone Number:

Work Phone Number (Optional):

Residential Address:

Postal Address:

Part II: Project Identification

Project Title:

Provide a short, clear, and descriptive title.

(10-15 words)

Project Overview:

Summarise the project's purpose, objectives, scope, and intended impact.

(150-200 words)

Part III: Problem Identification

Problem Statement:

What problem are you addressing? Why is it important? What will happen if it is not addressed?

(200-250 words)

Outcome of the Project:

Will the project create a solution OR deepen understanding of the problem?

(150-200 words)

Part IV: Project Details

Project Themes

The topics listed below are examples. The applicant is free to define new themes/subjects applicable to the project.

Please tick a maximum of 3 boxes.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> International cooperation | <input type="checkbox"/> Compounding & drug development | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging trends in practice | <input type="checkbox"/> Research & model designs | <input type="checkbox"/> Continuous professional development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rural healthcare development | <input type="checkbox"/> Diagnostics and clinical practice | <input type="checkbox"/> E-pharmacy & new technologies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to medication | <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmaceutical analysis | <input type="checkbox"/> Novel community pharmacy services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vaccination services | <input type="checkbox"/> Biotechnology & pharmacogenetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Medication management practices |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare promotion | <input type="checkbox"/> Epidemiology & post market research | |

- Managing disease outbreaks
- Drug targeting and drug delivery
- Professional development & promotion
- Anti-drugs/substance abuse
- Herbal & traditional medicines
- “Seven star” pharmacist
- Disadvantaged people
- Other (specify*)
- Other (specify*)
- Other (specify*)

Project Significance:

Explain the positive impact your project will have on the community, the profession, and pharmaceutical services.

(150-200 words)

Scientific Background:

Provide scientific rationale based on available literature, professional observations, or related research.

(250 - 300 words)

Methods and Implementation Plan:

Describe your activities, timeline, resources needed, milestones, responsibilities, partnerships, and how you will measure success. Ensure your project can be completed within one year.) Applicants may use any format (paragraphs, tables, charts) that covers all required points.

(400 - 500 words)

How Your Solution Will Work in Practice:

Explain how your project will operate or impact professional practice.

(150 - 200 words)

Pharmacist's Role:

Explain why pharmacists or pharmaceutical scientists are suited to lead or support this project.

(150 - 200 words)

Part V: Budget Breakdown

(Provide a full and justified budget linked to project activities.)

Item/Activity	Amount Requested (ZAR)	Justification for Expense	Ownership after Project
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Example: Printing materials	R2,000	Needed for patient education workshops	Not applicable
Example: Blood pressure monitors	R1,500	Required for community health screening events	Remains with clinic partner

(Add or extend table rows as needed.)

Part VI: Limitations and Risk Management

Identified Limitations:

(What challenges could arise?)

Risk Mitigation Strategies:

(How will you manage or minimise these risks?)

Part VII: Declaration and Signature

By signing this application, the applicant agrees and understands that any monies received or paid as a result of this application are subject to the following terms:

- All information contained in this application is truthful and accurate to the best of your knowledge, and no relevant information has been withheld.
- Funds granted as a result of this request are expended for the project described in this application.
- The Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa (PSSA) has the right to make available and to use all data provided in this form for the purposes of managing the grant and to publicise the outcomes of the project.

- The applicant must promptly inform the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa (PSSA) of any proposed project changes.
- In the event of winning the grant, the applicant is obliged to submit reports and updates as required by the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa (PSSA).
- I affirm that this application for the Young Pharmacists/Pharmaceutical Scientists' Professional Innovation Project is original and has been independently developed by the author. I further affirm that I have read and understand the rules of the competition.

Applicant's Full Name: _____

Place: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

End of Application Form