



SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION



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Indo-Swiss Joint Research Programme (ISJRP)

**Joint Research Projects:
Call for Proposals 2013-2016**

Opening date: 06.01.2014

Closing date: 31.03.2014

1. Introduction

The Indo-Swiss Joint Research Programme (ISJRP) was initiated by the Indian and Swiss governments in 2005 in order to further step-up the bilateral cooperation in scientific and technological areas of strategic relevance to both countries. The programme supports cutting-edge research that brings together faculty and young researchers from Switzerland and India. The ISJRP is financed by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) in Switzerland and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) in India on the principle of reciprocity, parity and activity matching funding. An Indo-Swiss Joint Committee on Science & Technology defines the strategic goals and orientations of the programme.

1.1 1st phase: 2008-2012

During the first phase, the ISJRP offered four different funding schemes for researchers from a variety of academic disciplines: Joint Research Projects (JRPs), Public Private Partnership Projects, Institutional Partnership Projects and Exchange Grants. In numerical terms, the ISJRP has financed 122 projects and grants in 2008-2012.

1.2 2nd phase: 2013-2016

In the current phase, the funding scheme JRP will be managed by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) in India and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) in Switzerland. The DST and the SNSF are mandated to launch the JRP call, organise the evaluation of the submitted proposals and monitor the funded projects in collaboration. For all other activities within the ISJRP, the EPFL remains the ISJRP Leading House in Switzerland.

This document covers the 2013-2016 call for proposals for Joint Research Projects.

2. Joint Research Projects (JRPs)

Grants for JRPs are meant to promote collaborative projects with clearly defined goals involving at least one Swiss and one Indian partner. Applications should describe ambitious research and propose innovative approaches. The research is to be carried out at the research facilities involved; reciprocal visits and short stays in Switzerland for researchers from India and vice versa are also possible within a JRP.

Project duration: the duration of the JRPs can be from 24 to 36 months.

3. Research fields

In order to make targeted use of the financial resources available, the following thematic areas were chosen for this call:

- Translational biomedical research and medical technology
- Renewable energy research

Proposals outside of the thematic areas defined above will not be accepted.

4. Eligibility

Each proposal for a JRP must have at least one main applicant based in Switzerland and one main applicant based in India; they are the lead scientists on the Swiss and Indian side respectively. They bear the main responsibility for the project including its technical and administrative coordination as well as timely delivery of scientific and financial reports. Further applicants based in Switzerland and/or in India can also participate in the consortia, but the co-applicants in India must be from the same Institute as that of the main applicant.

Eligibility criteria in Switzerland

The SNSF eligibility criteria apply to applicants requesting funding. Each applicant can only apply for one project. Furthermore, private sector partners are welcome to participate but will not be eligible for funding.

Eligibility criteria in India

Faculty, Professors, scientists/researchers and post-doctoral researchers from Indian universities and those in permanent employment at public funded R&D research institutes are eligible to apply. Private companies are welcome to participate in the project; however, NO grant/funding is available to private companies under the scheme.

5. Funding

JRP proposals contain two separate budgets: one budget in INR for the Indian applicant(s) (paid by the DST according to the DST's rules) and one budget in CHF for the Swiss part (paid by the SNSF according to the SNSF's rules). On the Swiss side, money is earmarked for funding between 20 to 26 projects. However, the final number of projects to be supported under this call shall be mutually decided between the DST and the SNSF. Typically, the funding per project is sufficient for each side to support the salary of a PhD student for three years or the salary of a postdoc for two years as well as consumables, some minor equipment and the mobility costs related to the project.

Eligible costs in Switzerland

The maximum permissible budget for a project is CHF 250,000.

The funding categories are:

- **Equipment:** costs of material of enduring value (indicate manufacturer, type and distributor). Quotations – if possible, from different competitors – must be enclosed for items whose purchase price exceeds CHF 20,000.
- **Research funds:** funds needed to carry out the project, such as travel costs, room and board costs, field expenses, expendable items and unavoidable sundry expenses. The SNSF does not finance the acquisition or maintenance of expendable items that are part of the infrastructure of an institution (books, PCs, rental costs, etc.).
- **Salaries:** the funding is sufficient to support the salary of a PhD student for three years or the salary of a postdoc for two years (salaries for main or co-applicants are not eligible).
- **Social security contributions**

The SNSF regulations apply to the Swiss budget. However, overhead costs are not admissible.

Eligible costs in India

The maximum permissible budget for a project is Rs. 40 Lac for a total duration of 3 years.

The funding categories are:

- **Minor equipment:** (max cost Rs. 5.0 Lac) costs of material of enduring value (indicate manufacturer, type and distributor). Quotations – if possible, from different competitors – must be enclosed.
- **Research funds:** funds needed to carry out the project, such as chemicals & other related consumables, etc.
- **Salaries:** the funding is sufficient to support the salary of a PhD student for three years or the salary of a postdoc for two years (salaries for main or co-applicants are not eligible).
- **Mobility expenses:** generally, two visits per year from each side will be funded with the maximum duration of each visit to be restricted to 90 days per year per visit.

Visiting costs between Switzerland and India

When budgeting visits between the Swiss and Indian partners, the international travel related expenses are to be charged to the budget of the visiting side and the living expenses (local hospitality etc.) to the budget of the hosting side. Health/medical overseas insurance should be included in the budget of the visiting side.

Research visits between Switzerland and India must be balanced in number and duration.

The following flat-rates are to be used:

- Living expenses for visiting scientists from India to Switzerland:
 - Short-term visits (up to two weeks): CHF 160 per day
 - Long-term visits: CHF 3600 per month
- Living expenses for visiting scientists from Switzerland to India:
 - INR 2,500 per day for each person plus fully furnished institutional guest house accommodation on actuals subject to maximum of Rs. 4,000 per day.
- Travel expenses for visiting scientists from India to Switzerland: INR 75,000 per person
- Travel expenses for visiting scientists from Switzerland to India:
 - To Delhi: CHF 1200 per person
 - To other places in India: CHF 1700 per person

6. Submission

Proposals are to be jointly prepared by the Swiss and Indian applicants. However, they must be submitted separately to the SNSF and the DST. The research plan (see Annex 1 for indications regarding the requested structure) must be identical in both applications.

Submission in Switzerland:

The proposal must be submitted by the Swiss main applicant to the SNSF via its electronic submission system (*mySNF*, www.mysnf.ch). Indian partners can have access to the electronic submission system through their Swiss partner.

After logging in, the correct funding scheme must be chosen (Programmes (national and international) > Bilateral Co-operation (Initiatives of the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation) > Indo-Swiss Joint Research Programme).

The application consists of two parts:

- The administrative part, which must be completed online
 - Personal data of the Swiss main applicant
 - Personal data of the Indian main applicant
 - Personal data of the co-applicant(s) from Switzerland and/or India
 - Personal data of the private partner(s)
 - Basic data of the project (e.g. title, field of research, starting date, duration, summary)
 - Declaration stating whether the application is use-inspired
 - Funding requested from the SNSF
 - Information on authorisations required in Switzerland
 - Other information (e.g. indication if the project is related to other SNSF projects, indication of the Swiss university/research institution at which the planned project will be implemented, indications concerning national and international collaborations, indications concerning already available funds or funds requested elsewhere)
- PDF documents that are to be uploaded to *mySNF*
 - The research plan (must have the structure indicated in Annex 1)
 - The CVs and publication lists of all applicants and other researchers involved
 - If applicable, equipment quotes
 - Other documents

For specific questions related to www.mysnf.ch, please contact the support team by e-mail (mysnf.support@snf.ch) or telephone (+41 31 308 22 00). Please note that you need a user account in order to submit proposals via *mySNF*. To open an account, please register with the SNSF as a user. Applicants with existing user accounts need not apply for new ones.

Submission in India:

Indian applicants are required to send only ONE original hard copy of the complete application form (including an administrative part, a joint research plan and annexed documents), along with an electronic copy in a single soft file in MS Word or PDF format as an email attachment, to:

Mr R.K. Sharma
Principal Scientific Officer (Scientist-D)
International Bilateral Cooperation Division
Dept. of Science and Technology (DST)
New Mehrauli Road
New Delhi - 110 016
Email: sharma_rk@nic.in

The original copy must be signed by the main applicant and forwarded from the head of institute by the Indian (written signature) and Swiss (electronic signature) main applicants.

Deadline for submission of applications: 31.03.2014 (midnight CET). Incomplete applications and applications received after the deadline will not be considered. No request for extension of the deadline shall be considered.

Language: all documents submitted to the SNSF and the DST must be in English.

7. Evaluation

The applications will be evaluated independently in Switzerland (by the SNSF according to its regulations) and in India (by the DST according to its regulations).

Evaluation criteria: (not listed in the order of priority)

- Scientific relevance and interest
- Originality of the aims and objectives
- Appropriateness of the methodology
- Experience and past performance of applicants
- Competence of research partners with respect to the project
- Complementary qualities of research partners
- Feasibility of the project
- Application potential (added on 05.02.2014)

Proposals involving Swiss industrial partners will in addition be reviewed by experts proposed by the Swiss innovation promotion agency: Commission for Technology and Innovation (CTI).

Based on both the Indian and the Swiss evaluation results/grades, the list of proposals to be jointly supported shall be mutually decided by the SNSF and the DST and submitted to the Indo-Swiss Joint Committee for final approval. The applicants shall be informed only of the final joint decision by the respective sides.

The evaluation results will be communicated to the Swiss main applicant by the SNSF and to the Indian main applicant by the DST during the last quarter of 2014.

Starting date for the JRPs in India: 01.01.2015

Starting date for the JRPs in Switzerland: between 01.01.2015 and 01.04.2015

8. Reporting

Swiss and Indian project partners will report separately to the SNSF and the DST respectively. Scientific and financial reports are to be submitted yearly. The SNSF and the DST will prepare a common template for the scientific report, so that the consortia will only need to prepare one report to be submitted to both organisations.

In Switzerland:

The Swiss main applicant will be responsible for the reporting to the SNSF. Both for the financial and the scientific report, the standard SNSF regulations will apply. However, scientific reports are to be submitted yearly. They include a qualitative (template provided) and a quantitative part (output data).

In India:

The Indian main applicant will be reporting to the DST both for the financial and the scientific report, the standard DST regulations will apply.

9. Payments

In Switzerland (SNSF funding):

The standard SNSF rules apply. In principle, the budgets for JRPs are transferred in annual instalments to the Swiss principal investigator (PI) at the beginning of a project year.

In India (DST funding):

Standard DST (Govt. of India) rules/norms apply.

10. VAT

In Switzerland (SNSF funding):

The JRP grants are not subject to VAT or other taxes and charges. However, research expenses are not excluded from VAT. Therefore, all costs budgeted in a JRP (e.g. equipment, consumables, etc.) can be charged to the programme, VAT included, unless the research institution (e.g. university, public research organisation, etc.) is able to recover the VAT.

In India (DST funding):

Prevailing Govt. of India rules apply.

11. Publications and intellectual property

The PIs are obliged to publish research results coming from the JRPs in appropriate form and according to SNSF and DST standards.

Applicants must consult both the Swiss and Indian host institution concerning their internal intellectual property regulations. For market-oriented projects, it is important that an agreement be made before the project starts.

12. Further information and contacts

In Switzerland

Swiss National Science Foundation

Andrea Landolt

International Co-operation division

Wildhainweg 3, P.O. Box 8232

CH-3001 Berne

E-mail: andrea.landolt@snf.ch or international@snf.ch

Website: www.snsf.ch

In India

Mr R.K. Sharma

Principal Scientific Officer (Scientist-D)

International Bilateral Cooperation Division

Dept. of Science and Technology (DST)

New Mehrauli Road

New Delhi - 110 016

E-mail: sharma_rk@nic.in

Website: www.dst.gov.in

Annex 1: Guidelines for writing the research plan (scientific part of the proposal)

The research plan should be organised in 5 sections (2.1. – 2.5.), preceded by a summary (1.). We kindly ask you to use the section headings indicated below. The proposals will be sent out for external review. In order to ensure that the scientific content of your proposal can be adequately assessed, please provide a detailed research plan which sets out clearly the aims, objects and methods of the project you are planning.

1. Summary of the research plan (max. 8,000 characters)

Should include the most important features of your research plan and place your project in a broader scientific context. For Swiss applicants: this summary should be an exact copy of the one you have written in the *mySNF* data container “Basic data II”.

2. Research plan

The research plan must not exceed 20 pages and 80,000 characters including blank space, figures, tables, formulae and references. The font size should be 10 pt with a line spacing of 1.5. In general, appendices are to be avoided.

2.1 Current state of research in the field

By citing the most important publications in the relevant field, please set out the scientific background and basis of the project, explain the need to perform research on the topic you propose and briefly describe important research currently being conducted internationally.

2.2 Current state of own research and partnership aspect

- Please describe briefly the work done by the different applicants in the relevant research field or in related fields and indicate the relevant publications.
- Explain how the different applicants complement each other for the proposed research project.
- Describe past collaborations that involved the Swiss and Indian partners (if applicable).

2.3 Detailed research plan

Information on aims, rationale, methods and data

Against the background described in sections 2.1. and 2.2., please state the aims that you plan to attain during the lifetime of the project. Please consider the following points:

- Which investigations and / or experiments do you plan to carry out / are necessary to attain the stated aims?
- What is the rationale for getting the project started and how will the work most likely develop later on?

Information concerning the methods necessary to attain the aims:

- Which are the methods available to you?
- To which other methods do you have access and how?
- Which methods need to be developed?

Data and data collection:

- Which data are available to you and from where?
- Which data need to be collected?

2.4 Work division, schedule and milestones

- Please indicate how you plan to divide the work among the different partners.
- As far as possible, please give an approximate schedule for the work to be carried out within the project and indicate the most important milestones. In particular, please describe the major tasks of the staff to be employed within the project by the different partners.
- List the planned visits between the Swiss and Indian research groups (visiting scientist, hosting scientist, purpose of visit, date and duration of visit).

2.5 Importance, impact and results

Scientific importance and impact

Please describe briefly the importance of your research for the scientific community and the impact you expect from the project on research and training/teaching in your field/discipline.

Please indicate how you will publish/communicate your results.

Expected results and dissemination plan

Describe in detail the project outcomes you envisage. Explain how you will share these findings with stakeholders and the community. Address the potential for knowledge transfer to industry (if applicable).

Broader impact

If you have indicated (on *mySNF*) that your application involves use-inspired research, please state whether and to what extent the proposed project will have a broader impact and what this impact will be. The following points should be addressed:

- Need for research as perceived by practitioners/industry: are there any knowledge gaps? Are innovations and improvements expected?
- Transferability of results: to what degree can research results be put into practice?
- Other potential impacts: in which spheres outside science could the implementation of the research results entail changes and what is the nature of these changes?

3. Ethical, safety and regulatory issues

Does your proposed work raise ethical, safety or regulatory issues? If yes, how will you deal with them? Indicate clearly!

4. Research requiring authorisations or notifications

Indicate whether the proposed research includes:

	YES	NO
Humans, human tissue samples or individual medical data		
Vertebrates, decapods or cephalopods		
Pathogens or genetically modified organisms		
Human embryonic stem cells		

Please note that research on humans, human embryonic stem cells, vertebrates, decapods, cephalopods, pathogens and genetically modified organisms requires authorisation and/or notification in Switzerland. For more information please see

http://www.snf.ch/E/funding/Pages/_xc_meldepflichtige_versuche.aspx

5. List of ongoing and/or recent research projects between the Indian and Swiss applicants

Project title	Research area	Project duration (xx/yy/zz - xx/yy/zz)	Amount of funds & funding source

Insert additional rows into the table if required.

6. Planned visits

6.1 (India to Switzerland)

(only two visits per year from each side with up to 30 days duration for senior scientists and up to 90 days for PhD students)

	Visiting scientist(s)	Period & duration of visit	Purpose of visit
1st year			
2nd year			
3rd year			

6.2 (Switzerland to India)

(only two visits per year from each side with up to 30 days duration for senior scientists and up to 90 days for PhD students)

	Visiting scientist(s)	Period & duration of visit	Purpose of visit
1st year			
2nd year			
3rd year			

Insert additional rows into the table if required

7. Requested funds

7.1 Swiss applicant

These figures should be the same as those you indicated in the *mySNF* data container “Requested Funding”

Year	Equipment	Research funds	Salaries	Social security contributions	Total
1st year					
2nd year					
3rd year					
TOTAL					

7.2 Indian applicant

Year	Mobility expenses for visits from India to Switzerland, i.e. international air-fare and overseas insurance only	Mobility expenses for visits from Switzerland to India, i.e. accommodation, per diem, etc.	Manpower JRF/SRF or post-doc	Minor equipment/accessories etc	Chemicals and consumables, if any	Total
1st year						
2nd year						
3rd year						
TOTAL						

- i. Either one PhD student (three years) or one postdoctoral fellow (two years)
- ii. Only two visits per year from each side are allowed.
- iii. Please indicate per diem and accommodation charges (budget) separately according to the duration of the visits and norms specified above.