



Argentinian-Swiss Joint Research Programme (ASJRP)

Joint Research Projects: Call for Proposals 2016

BILATERAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME CALL 2016 IMPLEMENTATION 2017-2020 MINCyT - CONICET – SNSF

Opening date: 01.07.2016
Closing date: 03.10.2016

1. Introduction

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (MINCyT) together with the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET) and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) call for the submission of applications to conduct three-year joint research projects (JRPs). The goal is to develop innovative projects and increase research capacity (through support of PhD students or young scientists) and the development of sustainable institutional links between the countries in order to build on existing, outstanding and established research partnerships and to foster new linkages and engagements with small cohorts of young researchers.

The activities to be undertaken are governed by an MoU signed between CONICET, MINCyT and SNSF on 26 May 2016.

2. Joint Research Projects

Grants for JRPs are meant to promote collaborative projects with clearly defined goals, involving at least one partner based in Argentina, and one based in Switzerland. 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 Argentina and vice versa are also possible within a JRP.

2.1 Duration of the project

The duration of the JRPs is three years. A detailed work plan needs to mention the activities to be undertaken with the counterpart, detailing the cooperation added value to the current project. Guidelines for the work plan are provided in Annex 1.

2.2 Area of research

Submissions from all research areas are admitted.

3. Eligibility

Each proposal for a JRP must have one research group based in Switzerland and one research group based in Argentina; the leaders of each group are the lead scientists on the Swiss and the Argentinian 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 Argentina can also participate in the consortia.

The eligibility criteria are different in each country.

3.1 Eligibility criteria in Argentina

- The main applicant must be a member of the scientific research career of CONICET. He/she shall be PI or member of an ongoing CONICET PIP or Agency PICT.

- Only one submission will be admitted from each applicant.
- The project is open to the participation of researchers, postdoctoral and doctoral fellows of CONICET and/or other institutions.
- The beneficiary of the exchange should be different in each year of implementation.
- At least 2 postdoctoral or doctoral fellowship holders of CONICET must be part of the research project. Their involvement is essential, taking into consideration that there should be complete dedication from one postdoctoral or doctoral fellow from Switzerland in the project.

3.2 Eligibility criteria in Switzerland

The SNSF eligibility criteria apply to applicants requesting funding. The SNSF Funding Regulations and the Regulations on Project Funding are applicable or applicable mutatis mutandis where not stated otherwise. Furthermore, each applicant/co-applicant can only apply for one project. Project partners are not eligible.

4. Funding

A maximum of 10 projects will be funded.

JRP proposals contain two separate budgets: one budget in ARS for the Argentinian applicants (paid by CONICET and MINCyT according to their rules) and one budget in CHF for the Swiss part (paid by the SNSF according to the SNSF's rules).

4.1 Eligible costs in Argentina

CONICET will contribute up to ARS \$ 50,000 annually for expenses of all Argentinian applicants related to the research project. A properly justified budget must be submitted, taking into account the following maximum limits:

- Consumables and minor equipment (maximum 60% of funding);
- Organization of workshops (maximum 20% of funding);
- Hiring of services (maximum 30% of funding);
- A per diem supplement during the stay abroad (maximum 15% of funding).

MINCyT will fund the missions of the Argentine researchers following the next scheme:

- Up to 2 (two) passages (Argentina-Switzerland) by execution year for stays of 15 days each, per approved project.
- Up to 2 (two) per diem (stay in Switzerland) per year of implementation for stays of 15 days each, per approved project.

4.2 Eligible costs in Switzerland

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

The funding categories are:

- **Equipment:** Costs of material of enduring value (indicate manufacturer, type and distributor). Quotes – 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**
- **Visiting costs:** When budgeting visits, all expenses of Swiss researchers (international travel related expenses, living expenses, health/medical overseas insurance) are to be charged to the Swiss budget.

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

5. Submission of applications

Proposals are to be jointly prepared by Argentinian and Swiss applicants. They must be submitted by the Swiss main applicant to the SNSF via its electronic submission system (*mySNF*, www.mysnf.ch). Argentinian partners can have access to the electronic submission system through their Swiss partner. The Argentinian main applicant must simultaneously submit the same proposal to convocatoriascoopint@conicet.gov.ar. (Proposals that are only submitted to one of the two funding agencies are ineligible.)

No hard copies will be accepted. The call process is highly competitive, and therefore an application does not guarantee funding. Only positively rated applications will be considered for funding. Neither CONICET, MINCYT, nor the SNSF will be held responsible for non-submission of the application.

5.1 Submission on *mySNF*

After login into *mySNF*, the correct funding scheme must be chosen (Programmes > Bilateral Cooperation (Initiatives of the State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation) > Argentina).

The application on *mySNF* consists of two parts:

- The administrative part, which must be completed online
 - Personal data of the Swiss main applicant
 - Personal data of the Argentinian main applicant
 - Personal data of the co-applicant(s) from Switzerland and/or Argentina
 - Basic data of the project (e.g. title, field of research, starting date, duration, summary)
 - Funding requested from the SNSF
 - Information on authorisations required in Switzerland

- Other information (e.g. indication if the project is related to other SNSF and/or CONICET/MINCYT projects, indication of the Swiss and the Argentinian universities/research institutions 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.

Deadline for submission of applications: 03.10.2016 (midnight CEST). Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Language: All the information provided in the administrative part and all uploaded documents must be in English.

6. Evaluation

Peer review: Proposals for JRPs will be reviewed according to international peer review standard procedures, jointly organised by the SNSF and CONICET. (CONICET will be in charge of evaluation for the Argentinian side.) The peer review experts are designated by the members of the evaluation panel. These external experts do a peer review of the applications in a score system, verifying the scientific quality of JRPs.

Evaluation panel: An evaluation panel will be set up; it will be composed of international experts proposed by the SNSF and CONICET. Based on the peer reviews, the evaluation panel will assign each project to one of six evaluation categories. Recommendations will include rationale. Proposals assigned to the category in which the funding line lies will be rediscussed and ranked. Priority will be given to applications in the highest categories regardless of the research area.

Decision: At the SNSF, the rating effected by the evaluation panel will need to be approved by the Specialised Committee for International Co-operation and the Presiding Board. At CONICET, the final decision has to be approved by the Board of Directors.

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

The evaluation results will be communicated to the researchers as soon as the final decision is taken and approved by all parties involved (probably in May 2017). The Swiss main applicant will receive a standard decision letter from the SNSF. In case of rejection, the main reasons leading to the decision will be given. In case of approval, the Swiss budget and the conditions will be listed. If applicable, the Swiss main applicant will be responsible for transmitting the decision to the other Swiss applicants. For Argentinian applicants, the funding decisions will be published on the CONICET website. The reasons leading to the approval or rejection of the proposal will be provided to the researchers upon request.

Earliest starting date for the JRPs: June 2017.

7. Reporting

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

In Argentina:

The Argentinian main applicant will be responsible for reporting to CONICET. For both the financial and the scientific report, the standard CONICET regulations will apply.

In Switzerland:

The Swiss main applicant will be responsible for reporting to SNSF. For both the financial and the scientific report, the standard SNSF regulation will apply. Scientific reports include a qualitative (template provided) and a quantitative part (output data).

8. 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.

9. Payments

In Argentina (CONICET/MINCYT funding):

MINCYT will provide mobility support to the researchers through the National Directorate for Institutional Integration and Cooperation (Bilateral programs) of MINCYT according to the current procedure. It is to be noted that the International Relations Directorate will deliver the approved airline ticket, which must be issued by Aerolíneas Argentinas S.A. as set out in Article 1

of the National Executive Decree No. 1191 of 2012. In the event that the mentioned airline does not reach the approved destination, flights will be completed with Aerolíneas Argentinas-affiliated airline companies.

CONICET will provide funding through the Fund Managers or Delegates as appropriate and in accordance with the provisions of Resolution D. No. 3596/09. Funds should be managed and accounted for in accordance with the rules and time limits in force in the Institution. These funds will be used to defray the current expenses as detailed in section 4, in line with the provisions of the System of the Financing and Accountability Manual, sanctioned by Resolution D. No. 3596/09.

In Switzerland (SNSF funding):

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

10. Publications and intellectual property

The PIs are required to publish research results arising from the JRPs according to CONICET, MINCyT and SNSF standards.

Applicants should consult both the Argentinian and the Swiss host institutions concerning their internal intellectual property regulations. The institutes where the Swiss researchers are affiliated shall consult CONICET and MINCyT and jointly decide on the ownership of any intellectual property or the terms of its commercial exploitation before the projects begin. Intellectual property rights shall be regulated in a separate agreement between the researchers or their host institutions, according to CONICET's or MINCyT's regulation for Argentinian researchers and to the SNSF's regulation for Swiss researchers.

The publications should include: the authors, their level of participation, and acknowledgment of the funding sources.

11. Further information and contacts

At MINCyT

Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation

Godoy Cruz No. 2320, C1425FQD

Karina Pombo:

Coordinator of Bilateral Programmes

(Coordinadora de Programas de Cooperación Bilateral)

Dirección Nacional de Cooperación e Integración Institucional

E-mail: kpombo@mincyt.gob.ar

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Azul Irazoqui:

Technical assistant

(Asistente técnico de la Coordinación de Programas de Cooperación Bilateral)

E-mail: lirazoqui@mincyt.gob.ar

Tel.: (54 11) 4899-5000 int. 4128

Website: www.mincyt.gob.ar

At CONICET

National Scientific and Technical Research Council

International Cooperation Office

Godoy Cruz No. 2290 P.O. Box C1425FQB

E-mail: convocatoriascoopint@conicet.gov.ar

Phone: (54 11) 4899-5400

Website: www.conicet.gov.ar

At the SNSF

Stéphanie Boder-Pasche / Matt Kimmich

Swiss National Science Foundation

International Co-operation division

Wildhainweg 3, P.O. Box 8232

CH-3001 Berne

E-mail: international@snf.ch

Phone: +41 31 308 22 45

Website: www.snsf.ch

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)

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

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 Argentinian and the Swiss 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 Argentinian and Swiss 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 your application concerns 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?

4. Research requiring authorisations or notifications on the Argentinian side

For the Swiss side, please see corresponding data container on mySNF. For the Argentinian side, 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		

5. List of ongoing and/or recent research projects between the Argentinian 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 Argentina to Switzerland

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

6.2 Switzerland to Argentina

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

7. Requested funds

For the Swiss side, please see corresponding data container on mySNF. For the Argentinian side, please indicate the requested amount in ARS in the table below.

Requested amount to CONICET

Year	Consumables and minor equipment (max. 60%)	Workshops (max. 20%)	Services (max. 30%)	Travel supplement (max. 15%)	Total (ARS \$)
1st year					max. 50,000
2nd year					max. 50,000
3rd year					max. 50,000
TOTAL					max. 150,000

Requested amount to MINCyT

Year	Airline ticket (max. 1 per year)	Stay in Switzerland (1 to 3 months per year)	Health insurance (1 person per year)	Total
1st year				
2nd year				
3rd year				
TOTAL				