

## **Bilateral research cooperation with Brazil and the Latin American Region 2017-2020**

### **Call for one-Year Research Merger**

The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) has mandated the University of St.Gallen as Leading House for the bilateral collaboration with partner institutions in Latin America, and to explore new partnerships in the region.

In 2017, the Leading House inaugurates the first call of the current funding period. The Call for the one-Year Research Merger aims to consolidate partnerships with all Latin America and to create scientific links between Switzerland and the region. For the period 2017-2020, the Leading House will support cooperation with potential new partners, promoting mono- or interdisciplinary research projects in any Latin American country and involve bilateral or multilateral partnerships.

### **Goals and objectives**

The goal of the one-Year Research Merger is to promote sustainable research cooperation between Swiss and Latin American scholars and produce accountable scientific outcomes in domains which have been identified as priority by both Latin American and Swiss institutions.

This instrument is also meant to give an opportunity for the maturation of existing cooperation, to follow up on a project, apply for larger funding, and increase the chances for further activities on both sides of the partnership. The one-year Research Merger includes the organisation of collective workshops, conferences, and fieldwork. It is also to foster initiatives for mobility of 1 or 2 researchers (PhD candidates and PostDocs) of the group and will support their stay between two weeks and two months (requiring a clear previous research plan).

The one-Year Research Merger shall achieve the following objectives:

- intensify existing scientific cooperation between Swiss scientists or institutions and those of the Latin American partner countries, putting it on a long-term solid foundation
- identify and establish new research partnerships of mutual interest and benefit
- promote mono- as well as interdisciplinary sustainable research in collaboration with Latin American partners
- provide a medium-size format that goes beyond the Seed Money Grants
- give an opportunity for the maturation of existing projects
- connect existing but separately funded research projects in Switzerland and the Latin American partner countries

- produce accountable scientific outcomes such as publishing in academic journals and sharing results with a larger community
- promote mobility of young researchers

## **Eligibility**

The call is open for activities in all scientific disciplines and fields for mono- or interdisciplinary research projects.

A Swiss Principal Investigator/Researcher holding a position in an eligible Swiss Institution must act as the main applicant and is qualified to submit the proposal. Proposals that include master and doctoral students must be submitted by their supervisors. Researchers of federal and cantonal universities, universities of applied sciences and universities of teachers' education, as well as public research institutions are eligible to apply.

The Principal Investigator/Researcher in Latin America must be affiliated to an accredited university or a public research institute and must hold a faculty or senior scientist position or a doctoral degree in addition to several years of research experience.

In addition to the Latin American and the Swiss Investigators/Researchers, other collaborating partners, including scholars affiliated to international organisations and think tanks may also qualify to participate if they have a solid track record of research and publications.

## **Funding and Budgeting**

One-Year Research Merger are for projects between **CHF 30,000 and CHF 50,000**. The grant will be disbursed in two instalments: 90% after signing the grant contract and 10% after approval of the final report.

A detailed research plan (including budget) is required when submitting the project proposal, following instructions in the application form. All expenses must be justified and related to the proposed research activities. Financial contributions from each side of the partnership are expected and should be made very clear in the application form.

The full cost of the project should be made explicit, including the contribution of all partners and the remaining amount requested via the one-Year Research Merger. The mutual commitment of the partners in both countries will serve as an indicator for the strength of the partnership and the financial sustainability of the project. This includes reliability of funds and/or in-kind resources by

all partners. The Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries (KFPE) Guide for Transboundary Research Partnerships<sup>1</sup> shall be used as a guideline for the project process.

## **Evaluation and Selection**

Projects between CHF 30'000 and CHF 50'000 will be evaluated by invited external experts. The evaluation is based on the following criteria:

- Merit: Scientific and technological merit of the anticipated outcomes and scientific production (publications, workshops, etc.)
- Expertise and complementary proficiency of the partner laboratories/institutes and the applicants
- Contribution to Science and Society
- Originality and feasibility of the proposed activities
- Financial sustainability: Contributions by all partners, including funding and in-kind
- Follow-up: Potential for long-term collaboration, other funded projects and follow-up activities
- Inclusion: Promotion of young and female researchers

## **Reporting, accountability and dissemination**

The Swiss main applicant is responsible for administrating the funds and for reporting. He or she must submit a final scientific and financial report one month after the termination of the one-Year Research Merger. Latest deadline for reporting is March 31, 2019.

All Swiss researchers whose projects are granted support via the one-year Research Merger commit to present results during the Annual Research Fair promoted by the Leading House for the Latin American Region to take place in April/May 2019 in Bern or St. Gallen.

## **Application**

Applications shall be submitted in electronic format only. Please email your full application to the University of St.Gallen Leading House:

leadinghouse@unisg.ch

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.naturalsciences.ch/organisations/kfpe/11\\_principles\\_7\\_questions/9505-a-guide-for-transboundary-research-partnerships-2nd-edition--2014-](http://www.naturalsciences.ch/organisations/kfpe/11_principles_7_questions/9505-a-guide-for-transboundary-research-partnerships-2nd-edition--2014-)

## Timeline

Call launched:	6 July 2017
<b>Deadline for submission:</b>	<b>30 September 2017</b>
Evaluation and funding decision:	October/November 2017
Notification:	1 December 2017
Project start:	15 December 2017 to 1 March 2018
Project duration:	10 – 12 months
Project report due:	31 March 2019

## Contact

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