

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

Call for Seed Money Grants

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.

The current Call for Seed Money Grants aims to consolidate partnerships with priority countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru) according to past activities of the programme and the mapping of scientific links between Switzerland and Latin America carried out during the Funding period 2013-2016. In addition, for the period 2017-2020, the Leading House will support cooperation with potential new partners in the region, promoting mono- or interdisciplinary research projects in any Latin American country and involving bilateral or multilateral partnerships.

In 2017, the Leading House inaugurates the first call of the current funding period.

Goals and objectives

The goal of the Seed Money Grants is to strengthen or initiate scientific exchange between Swiss and Latin American researchers and institutions in all disciplinary areas by enabling them to jointly undertake preliminary research and organise workshops. Seed Money Grants are particularly useful to develop common project proposals to be submitted to funding agencies in Latin America, Switzerland, and Europe or to combine already existing and independently funded projects in Switzerland and the partner countries. Proposals linked to larger national and international research programmes are particularly welcome.

The Seed Money Grants shall achieve the following objectives:

- intensify existing scientific cooperation between Swiss scientists or institutions and those of the Latin American partner countries
- establish new research partnerships of mutual interest and benefit
- promote mono- as well as interdisciplinary research in collaboration with Latin American partners
- connect existing but separately funded research projects in Switzerland and the Latin American partner countries

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 entitled 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 researchers 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

Seed Money Grants are for projects between **CHF 10,000 and CHF 25,000**. The grant will be disbursed in two instalments: 80% after signing the grant contract and 20% 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 explained 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 Seed Money Grant. 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 commitment of funds and/or in-kind resources by all partners. The Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries (KFPE) Guide for Transboundary Research Partnerships¹ shall be used as a guideline for the project process.

¹ http://www.naturalsciences.ch/organisations/kfpe/11_principles_7_questions/9505-a-guide-for-transboundary-research-partnerships-2nd-edition--2014-

Evaluation and Selection

Applications up to CHF 10'000 will be evaluated by an internal panel, composed of members from different Swiss Leading Houses. Projects between CHF 10'000 and CHF 25'000 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 Seed Money Project. Latest deadline for reporting is February 28, 2019.

All Swiss researchers whose projects are granted support via the Seed Money Call 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

Timeline

Call launched:	15 June 2017
Deadline for submission:	30 August 2017
Evaluation and funding decision:	September/October 2017
Notification:	1 November 2017
Project start:	15 November 2017 to 31 January 2018
Project duration:	10 – 12 months
Project report due:	28 February 2019

Contact

Centro Latinoamericano-Suizo
de la Universidad de San Gallen
CLS-HSG
Leading House Latin America
Müller-Friedberg-Strasse 8
CH-9000 St.Gallen
leadinghouse@unisg.ch