

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

### **Call for Seed Money Grants 2018**

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 program and the mapping of scientific links between Switzerland and Latin America carried out during the funding period 2013-2016.

In the period 2017-2020, the Leading House will also support cooperation endeavors with other potential partners in the region, promoting mono- or interdisciplinary research projects in any Latin American country and involving bilateral or multilateral partnerships.

This is the second Seed Money Grants call in the period 2017-2020.

Grants between CHF 10,000 and CHF 25,000 will be awarded.

### **Aims and objectives**

The aim of the Seed Money Grants is to strengthen or initiate scientific exchange between Swiss and Latin American researchers and institutions in all disciplines by enabling them to jointly undertake preliminary research and organize meetings, conferences, or workshops.

Seed Money Grants are particularly useful to develop joint project proposals, to be submitted to large funding agencies in Latin America, Switzerland, and Europe or to combine already existing and independently funded projects in Switzerland and the partner countries for long-lasting cooperation. Seed Money Grants should be used for preparing a larger research proposal (e.g. to SNF, ERC). Applicants ought to indicate to which call and funding agency the research team plans to submit its proposal in a next step.

Projects already granted with a Seed Money Grant should consider alternative funding instruments.

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.

Applications that include Master and PhD 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 besides bringing along several years of research experience.

In addition to the Latin American and the Swiss Investigators/Researchers, other collaborating partners, including researchers affiliated to international organizations 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: 90% upon 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 – likewise third party contributions, if applicable – and should be detailed in the application form.

The full costs 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 co-funding by all partners and eventually third party

contributions. 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**

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.)
- Relevance, objectives and justification: Briefly describe the current state of the art in the area of research. Explain the relevance and innovation of the research proposal
- Expertise and complementary proficiency of the partner laboratories/institutes and the applicants
- Reasons for bilateral or multilateral partnership with Latin America
- Contribution to science and society
- Follow-up: Potential for long-term collaboration, other funded projects and follow-up activities
- Originality and feasibility of the proposed activities
- Contributions from both the Swiss and Latin American partner are expected; mutual commitment is an essential indicator for the sustainability of the project
- Third-party sources should be mentioned (if applicable)
- 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/she must submit a final scientific and financial report one month after the termination of the Seed Money Project. Latest deadline for reporting is on January 31, 2020.

All Swiss researchers whose projects are granted via Seed Money Grants commit to present their projects in December 2018 and the results in December 2019 during the Annual Research Slam organized by the Leading House for the Latin American Region in St.Gallen.

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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-)

## 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](mailto:leadinghouse@unisg.ch)

## Timeline

Call launched:	16 April 2018
<b>Deadline for submission:</b>	<b>16 June 2018</b>
Evaluation and funding decision:	July – September 2018
Notification:	October 2018
Contract:	November 2018
Research Slam:	December 2018
Project start:	December 2018
Project duration:	10 – 12 months
Project report due:	31 January 2020

## Contact

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