Leading House for the Latin American Region

FAQ – Frequently asked questions about Seed Money Grants 2018

What is the aim of the Seed Money Grants 2018

⇒ The goal 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 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 and present bigger projects (e.g. to SNF, ERC).

Who is eligible to apply for Seed Money Grants 2018?

⇒ As stated in the application form, every researcher working in Switzerland can apply for a grant regardless of his/her nationality. Each proposal must have one principal applicant based in Switzerland and one in Latin America. The Swiss Principal Investigator has to hold an employment in an eligible Swiss institution. 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 academic experience. The Swiss Principal Investigator bears the main responsibility for the project including its technical and administrative coordination as well as timely delivery of scientific and financial reports. Additional researchers based in Switzerland and/or Latin America are also invited to participate. Proposals that include Master and PhD students must be submitted by their supervisors.

Who is eligible to be the main applicant of a Seed Money Grant proposal?

⇒ Only researchers employed by Swiss institutions can propose a project as Principal Investigator.
Do I have to be employed at a research institution in Switzerland in order to be eligible to submit a proposal?

⇒ Researchers holding positions in a qualified Swiss institution (Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology, Cantonal Universities, Federal and Cantonal Research Institutes, Universities of Applied Sciences) are eligible to apply.

I am a Latin American researcher. Can you provide me with contact information of Swiss researchers and universities who could support my project?

⇒ We do not provide applicants with any contacts of researchers or institutions. This is the responsibility of the main researchers applying for the grant.

I have a pure mathematics project, can I apply?

⇒ The calls are open to all disciplines and fields for mono- or interdisciplinary research projects. Innovative proposals are more than welcome.

How much financial contribution do the partner institutions in Latin America and Switzerland have to provide?

⇒ Reciprocity is an important pillar of collaboration between Swiss and Latin American researchers. Contributions from both the Swiss and Latin American partners are expected; mutual commitment is an essential indicator for the sustainability of the project. This includes co-funding by all partners and, if available, third party contributions.

We already received a Seed Money Grant for a project last year, can we apply again?

⇒ You can apply again, but it cannot be with the same project. Additionally, we will need to see the final report of the previous project and how it has evolved. Please keep in mind that Seed Money Grants should be used for preparing a larger research proposal. Applicants therefore ought to indicate to which call and funding agency the research team plans to submit a proposal in a next step.
Is it necessary to attach the CVs of all participant researchers to the proposal?

⇒ It is a requirement that all PIs (in Switzerland and in Latin America) attach their 2-page CVs to the proposal. It is relevant to include the CV of other active participating researchers, but not those of PhD students or other research assistants.

Do I have to apply in English?

⇒ Yes, all the information provided in the administrative part and all uploaded documents must be in English.

Can the grant be used to pay salaries?

⇒ No, the Seed Money Grant cannot be used to pay a salary, nor is it meant to be a scholarship. Seed Money Grants can be used to pay project related costs (e.g. flight and accommodation for field research, if justified within the proposal). The outsourcing of project-tasks (e.g. data collection and processing) can only be covered in exceptional cases.

Can the Seed Money Grants be used to purchase hardware?

⇒ No. It is assumed that all Swiss based researchers have access to their own equipment via their institutions. However, software that is deemed essential for the research project could be purchased using part of the Seed Money Grant.

How are applications evaluated?

⇒ The Leading House for the Latin American Region awards grants according to the principle of competition and ensures equal opportunity for all applicants. Proposals will be reviewed according to international blind peer review standard procedures. Members of the evaluation panel will designate external peer review experts, if needed.

How and until when must I submit an application?

⇒ All applications must be submitted in electronic form to the Leading House leadinghouse@unisg.ch. Instructions and deadlines can be found on the Website. You have access to the official call and application form under “Downloads”.