Research Partnership Grants 2021 – FAQ
Bilateral research cooperation with the Latin American Region 2021-2024

What is the aim of the Research Partnership Grants 2021?

− The goal of the Research Partnership 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.

− Research Partnership 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).

Will there be another Seed Money Grant call?

− No. The Seed Money Grant was updated and became the current Research Partnership Grants.

Who is eligible to apply for Research Partnership Grants 2021?

− Each proposal must have one principal applicant based in Switzerland and one in Latin America.

− The Swiss Principal Investigator has to hold a permanent position of at least 40% as a scientist in an eligible Swiss institution (Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology, Cantonal Universities, Federal and Cantonal Research Institutes, Universities of Applied Sciences) with several years of academic experience. The Swiss PI has to hold a PhD.

− The Latin American Principal Investigator must be affiliated to an accredited university or a public research institute. The Latin American PI has to hold a faculty or scientist position or a doctoral degree in addition to several years of academic experience.

− Co-Investigators based in Switzerland and Latin America can be Master and PhD students. Researchers from other Swiss or Latin American institutions can also participate as Co-Investigators.

Who holds the main responsibility for the project?

− 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 at the end of the project.
What happens if the Swiss PI leaves the research institution or cannot continue with the project?

− The Swiss PI must inform the Leading House for the Latin American Region about him/her leaving the institution.
− In order for the project to continue, he/she has to present a suitable substitute to the Leading House. The Leading House will assess the replacement.

What happens if the Latin American PI leaves the research institution or cannot continue with the project?

− The Swiss PI must inform the Leading House about his/her Latin American colleague leaving the institution.
− In order for the project to continue, he/she has to present a suitable substitute to the Leading House. The Leading House will assess the replacement.

Can you provide contact information of Swiss or Latin American researchers and universities who could support my project?

− No. We do not provide applicants with any contacts of researchers or institutions. This is the responsibility of the main researchers applying for the grant.

Is the call restricted to certain disciplines?

− No. The call is open to all disciplines and fields for mono– or interdisciplinary research projects.

Is the call restricted to certain SDGs or thematic areas?

− Yes. The 2021 Research Partnership Grant call aims to promote research related to the SDGs 3 (good health and well-being), 10 (reduced inequalities), 11 (sustainable cities and communities), 13 (climate action), and the two thematic areas of COVID-19 pandemic and digitalisation. It has to be stated clearly in the Proposal which SDG or thematic area the project will approach.

I/we already received a grant (e.g. from the SNF or Leading House). Can I/we apply again?

− Yes, 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. However, priority is given to researchers/projects that have not received previous funding.

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.
What language do I have to apply in?
− All information and application documents must be in English.

Do the partner institutions in Latin America and Switzerland have to provide financial contribution?
− Yes. Financial Contributions have to represent a significant commitment of the Swiss and Latin American partner’s institution(s). 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.

What is the difference between Financial, In-Kind, and Third-Party Contributions?
− Financial Contributions are monetary contributions made by the Swiss and Latin American partner’s institutions to effectively complete the project.
− In-Kind Contributions are contributions made by the Swiss or Latin American partner’s institutions without any money being paid towards the project.
  e.g. salaries, free use of infrastructure, hardware, provision of goods
− Third-Party Contributions are contributions made by external partner(s) through effective payments.
  e.g. grants, scholarships, awards.

Can the grant be used to pay for salaries for researchers?
− No. The Research Partnership Grant cannot be used to pay a salary, nor is it meant to be a scholarship.

Can the grant be used to pay for outsourcing?
− Yes, partially. Due to the travel restrictions caused by COVID-19, up to 20% of the total grant amount may be used to cover the outsourcing of project tasks (e.g., data collection and processing). Local researchers in Latin America can be hired to conduct fieldwork tasks. This outsourcing can be extended to non-academic organizations and staff (e.g., NGOs, Think Tanks), but only when they can demonstrate scientific excellence.

Can the Research Partnership Grants be used to purchase hardware?
− No. It is assumed that all Swiss based researchers have access to their own equipment via their institutions.

Can the Research Partnership Grants be used to purchase software?
− Yes, partially. Research Partnership Grants can fund software for qualitative and quantitative remote data collection and processing (e.g., online data management, survey platforms) and communications software for virtual
seminars/workshops (e.g., Zoom, Skype). The platform subscription must be justified, and this fee can only be covered if the Principal Investigator’s university does not provide it.

**Are there any guidelines for contributions to transport, accommodation and consumables?**

- **Travel expenses**: up to CHF 2,200 per person may be granted. This covers all travel expenses for one person within Switzerland and Latin America (e.g. flights, car, train, bus etc.) plus Covid-tests if requested to travel. Only economy class flights between Switzerland and the Latin American country can be funded. Costs for taxis and Uber can only be accepted in exceptional cases and with a thorough justification.

- **Accommodation**: max CHF 120-150/night in Switzerland, max CHF 60-80/night in Latin America, depending on the country, may be granted.

- **Consumables**: max CHF 60/day in Switzerland, max CHF 40/day in Latin America, depending on the country, may be granted.

- Please bear in mind that the Leading House for the Latin American region reserves the right to cut the budget if it is regarded as too high.

**Is travelling mandatory with a Research Partnership Grant?**

- No. Due to Covid-19 and all travel restrictions, the Research Partnership Grant 2021 can be used to fund other research related costs. The Leading House strongly encourages the use of remote methods. For ideas and inspiration, you can refer to the online seminars on remote fieldwork held by the Leading House for the Latin American Region held in December 2020 and February 2021.

**Do I need to have a receipt for all expenses?**

- Yes. All expenses have to be accounted for in form of a receipt of invoice. They need to be presented to the Leading House for the Latin American Region with the final Financial Report.

**What shall I/we do if the planned activities or the approved use of the funds change due to Covid-19 circumstances?**

- The Swiss PI is to inform the Leading House immediately about any unforeseen obstacles and changes. leadinghouse@unisg.ch

**How and until when must I submit the application?**

- All applications must be submitted via the relevant website of the Research Partnership Grant 2021 by June 25, 2021.
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