



Comisión Nacional de Investigación  
Científica y Tecnológica – CONICYT

## TERMS & CONDITIONS OF FONDECYT 2012 POSTDOCTORAL GRANTS COMPETITION

The Superior Councils for Science and Technological Development (hereinafter the Councils) call for the 2012 FONDECYT Postdoctoral Grants Competition, in accordance with the D.F.L. No. 33 of 1981 of the Ministry of Education and the Regulations contained in the D.S. No. 834 of 1982 of the same Ministry.

### I. GENERAL ASPECTS

- 1.1. The FONDECYT, created as an instrument to promote the scientific and technological development of Chile, promotes the initiative of individuals and research groups by funding scientific and technological research projects in all areas of knowledge. Resources are allocated through annual public competitions, and projects are selected on the basis of their intrinsic quality and the merits of applicants without distinction of areas, institutional affiliation or gender.
- 1.2. The FONDECYT grants funds exclusively for scientific and technological research initiatives; that is, leading to new knowledge or applications foreseen through working hypotheses stated in the proposals. It does not fund artistic initiatives, compilations, preparation of catalogues or inventories, book printing, essays, translations, audiovisual material, school texts or other similar activities.
- 1.3. The aim of this competition is to stimulate productivity and scientific leadership of researchers who hold a Doctorate degree, with a view to their employment in the academic world or other, through their incorporation into well established research groups that will influence the scientific development of the postdoctoral candidate and that will also be strengthened by his/her participation in a group.
- 1.4. The projects will last **2 or 3 years** and the Principal Investigator will need to have a full-time commitment to the research work. However, the project execution is compatible with other paid academic, research and/or extension activities that involve a commitment of up to 6 hours per week in the Sponsoring Institution. The Councils may, exceptionally, authorize more hours than those previously established in the Sponsoring or other institution, under the conditions determined by the Councils and if they do not interfere with the execution of the projects.
- 1.5. The projects must be executed in Chile by Chilean or foreign researchers who can commit to carry out the project from its established starting date to the end of its execution period.
- 1.6. Chilean and foreign researchers with permanent residence in Chile whose proposals are approved may, if authorized by the Sponsoring Researcher, request the Councils authorization to conduct part of the research (up to 12 months) abroad.
- 1.7. The projects will begin 1 October, 2011. Thus, the first year of execution -2012- includes the period between 1 October, 2011 and 30 September, 2012.
- 1.8. The Councils shall establish evaluation modalities and conditions for the approval or rejection of the submitted proposals as established in the D.F.L. Regulation N°33 of 1982, of the Ministry of Public Education that created FONDECYT.
- 1.9. Veracity of the information: Both applicants and awardees are responsible for the veracity of the information provided in the application form and/or during the project execution. Thus, they must be prepared to provide appropriate support documentation if so requested by the Councils. Omitting or providing any false or misleading information in the application or during the execution of the project may

constitute grounds to invalidate the application, the award, or lead to early termination of the project, whichever is applicable.

- 1.10. Inappropriate behavior such as fabricating or falsifying data and the substantial copy of other people's works without proper citation (name of the author, title of the work, date and mean of publication) will not be permitted in any phase of a FONDECYT competition, from submission of the proposals to publication of the results. The above includes unauthorized use of original ideas or methods obtained through privileged communication, such as proposals or manuscripts under peer review.

Substantial copy is understood as the essential or fundamental coincidence involving phrases or paragraphs that may deceive the reader in regard to contributions made by the author. The determinant factor is not the number of words copied or the place in the manuscript where the phrase in question is found (title, introduction, methodology, hypothesis, etc.), but the wrong impression that the reader develops in regard to the authorship of such a phrase. Phrases of general use that do not mislead the reader are not considered for this purpose.

**In the application, every literal text, paragraph or phrase from a bibliographical reference shall be presented within quotation marks or italics. Every bibliographical citation shall be duly identified in the text and in the references list.**

Proposals showing this behavior will be declared as non-compliant with the Terms & Conditions of the competition.

Principal Investigators whose proposals were declared as non-compliant due to the above cause in the 2010 and 2011 funding competitions will not be allowed to apply to this one, unless duly authorized by the Councils.

- 1.11. The Councils are the bodies entitled to establish the meaning, scope and interpretation of the Terms & Conditions of the competition. Likewise, they reserve the right to reduce budget allocations requested in relation to the objectives, proposed activities and/or the budget availability of CONICYT/FONDECYT.

## **II. APPLICATION**

### **2.1. REQUIREMENTS**

- 2.1.1. Researchers who have been awarded a Doctorate degree between **1 July, 2008 and 10 June, 2011** are eligible to apply. For female researchers who have given birth within the above dates, the degree award period is from **1 July, 2007**. In this case, the child's birth certificate must be attached to the application.

As a proof of degree, **applicants must attach a simple copy of their Doctorate degree to the application**. In absence of the above, a certificate issued by the University's Director of Postgraduate Studies, including the date of approval of the thesis defense, must be attached to the application.

For applicants unable to meet the above requirements by the closing date of the competition, the deadline for attaching this certificate is **17 June, 2011** at 4:00 pm. Chilean Continental Time.

- 2.1.2. Projects shall be submitted by an applicant and sponsored by a researcher. Only one proposal per applicant will be accepted in this competition. The project shall be executed within a University or other Institution that will act as the Sponsoring Institution. The Sponsoring Researcher will be responsible for directly supervising the academic execution of the project.

The Sponsoring Researcher must have at least a one-half time appointment at the Sponsoring Institution.

## 2.2. RESTRICTIONS

2.2.1. It is expressly declared that researchers may apply as Principal Investigators to this one as well as to the 2011 Initiation into Research and/or the 2012 Regular Funding competitions. However, only the first proposal submitted through the Online Application System will be considered. The remaining applications will be declared as non-compliant with the Terms & Conditions of the competition.

2.2.2. The following cannot apply:

- As Principal Investigators:

- a) Those who have been awarded a FONDECYT Postdoctoral Grant in previous competitions.
- b) Principal Investigators of FONDECYT projects whose final reports and applicable expenses declarations have not been approved by this competition closing time for researchers.
- c) Researchers who have a project under CONICYT's National Contest for Placement of Advanced Human Capital in Academia if it is in a different thematic area.

- As Sponsoring Researchers:

- d) Principal Investigators of FONDECYT projects with approval of final academic and/or financial reports still pending by this competition closing time.

## 2.3. PROJECT

2.3.1. The application will be completed through the online platform at <http://concursos.conicyt.cl/fondecyt/>. The application must conform to this competition Terms & Conditions and attached instructions, which are regarded as integral part of the Terms & Condition regulating this competition. It is mandatory to provide all the information requested in each and all sections. All applications must be submitted through the available online platform.

**The project shall be regarded as non-compliant with the Terms & Conditions if the application is incomplete or fails to provide the essential information requested.**

2.3.2. Submitted proposals must not contain, in its essence aspects included in other projects that are either finalized or under execution, or in scientific publications or other forms of dissemination.

### 2.3.3. Recommendation Letters:

Two (2) Recommendation Letters from national or foreign researchers, **excluding the Sponsoring Researcher**, shall be submitted. The request for a recommendation letter shall only be made through the Online Application System. Reception of both letters is required to submit the application for institutional sponsorship.

### 2.3.4. Certifications – Authorizations:

Researchers from FONDECYT projects must comply with the current guidelines and standards regulating scientific activity in the areas addressed by the project.

Projects involving studies in/with:

- a) Human beings and/or biological material;
- b) Animals, animal samples and/or biological material;
- c) Materials that are a risk to biosafety;
- d) Archaeological sites;
- e) Protected species, protected wild areas, entry of foreign species;

- f) Archives and/or data bases that contain sensitive information. Specific certifications and/or authorizations shall be attached pursuant to what is set out in Item X of the "Application Instructions", which are regarded as a constituent part of these Terms and Conditions.

Applicants who fail to attach the appropriate certifications to their proposals pursuant to the above paragraph will be able to do so, in **PDF format**, until **1 July, 2011, at 4:00 PM Chilean Continental Time**. Projects that fail to attach such documentation will be regarded as non-compliant with the Terms & Conditions.

The Councils reserve the right to request an ethical and/or bioethical statement from the FONDECYT Bioethics Advisory Committee or other committee when deemed necessary. The institutional Ethics and/or Bioethics Committees will be in charge of auditing, at least once during the project's execution period, fulfillment of all regulations and protocols defined for it and approved by the FONDECYT Bioethics Advisory Committee. The audit reports of these committees shall be included in the Progress Report or Final Report of the project.

- 2.3.5. Chilean Antarctic Institute (INACH). Projects considering studies in the Antarctic territory and/or interested in having logistic support from the Chilean Antarctic Institute (INACH) to carry out activities in that territory, must attach a logistic feasibility letter issued by the Institute to the application. For this purpose, the following forms shall be sent to INACH before **27 April, 2011**: Logistic-Operative and Environmental Requirements (available in the competition call for proposals: Terms & Conditions and Documents).

In this feasibility letter, INACH must state that if the project is approved by FONDECYT, it will count on logistic support from the institute.

INACH, pursuant to the Collaboration Agreement signed with CONICYT on 22 March, 2007, commits itself to provide logistic support, including transportation between Punta Arenas – Antarctic Territory – Punta Arenas; travels within the Antarctic Territory, stay in Chilean bases and camps, arrangements for accommodation in foreign bases and camps and provision of food during the stay of the researchers in the Antarctic Continent.

**Projects that do not comply with the provisions established herein will be declared non-compliant with the Terms & Conditions and will not be able to continue participating in this competition.**

### III. BENEFITS

- 3.1. Expenses covered by FONDECYT:

**The maximum funding amount that can be requested for a project, excluding Initial Expenses, is \$20,800,000 (twenty million eight hundred thousand Chilean pesos) for each year of execution.**

**This amount includes funding for the following items:**

- 3.1.1. **Staff:** The maximum amount that can be requested for Salaries is **Ch\$16,800,000 (sixteen million eight hundred thousand Chilean pesos).** - per year, paid to the Principal Researcher in 12 monthly payments each of which must be declared with a receipt for professional fees.

This amount is subject to increment - provided there is budgetary availability - in the 2nd and 3rd year of execution, if applicable, by matching it to the amounts defined for the following FONDECYT Postdoctoral competitions or otherwise, according to the percentage variation experimented by the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Additionally, each applicant may request up to **CH\$4,000,000 (four million Chilean pesos)** per year for Travel Expenses and/or General Expenses.

3.1.2. **Travel:** Resources for tickets and travel allowances for domestic and/or international travels will be approved for the project's Principal Investigator for activities directly related to execution of the project or presentation of its results. Payments for the mandatory health insurance for EU countries that signed the Schengen Agreement<sup>1</sup> are included in this item.

3.1.3. **Operational Expenses:** This item includes items such as: computer supplies, laboratory reagents and supplies, books, journals and subscriptions, registrations in congresses, purchase of services, minor expenses, equipment acquisition and others. Funding may only be requested for scientific publications generated by the project and in journals included in the ISI database or an equivalent according to the nature of the discipline. In the case of books, the manuscript preparation but not the publication costs will be funded.

**The purchase of furniture and/or minor conditioning of physical spaces that correspond to the nature and appropriate execution of the project may be considered.**

3.1.4. **Initial Expenses:** This item provides funding for the Principal Investigator travel to Chile in order to start the project. Up to **CH\$1,500,000 (one million five hundred thousand Chilean pesos)** may be requested for tickets and/or expenses for setting up in the country. Only researchers who do not have public resources to finance their travel to Chile will be entitled to use this benefit.

#### IV. EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Each project that complies with the requirements and conditions established herein will be evaluated by the FONDECYT Study Group it is assigned to. In cases where deemed necessary, the opinion of an external expert will be requested. The process will consist of completing an evaluation form in which each aspect is scored using the following scale:

- Outstanding: from 100 to 91 points
- Very Good : from 90 to 76 points
- Good : from 75 to 50 points
- Poor : from 49 to 1 points

Aspects of the submitted projects to be evaluated are:

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| • Quality of the Proposal:                                   | 40 % |
| • Capability and Productivity of the Principal Investigator: | 40 % |
| • Capability and Productivity of the Sponsoring Researcher:  | 20 % |

#### V. RESOLUTION OF THE COMPETITION

5.1. The Superior Councils of Science and Technological Development of FONDECYT will decide the results of the competition, which will become official through an Administrative Ruling by CONICYT. The results will be published through CONICYT's and FONDECYT's websites.

The Councils' decision will be communicated via certified mail to the address indicated in the application. Additionally, it may be transmitted to the email address provided by the applicant in his/her application. The communication includes: the position of the project in the competition, the scores assigned, the evaluation comments, the allocated budget and, if applicable, the report of the FONDECYT Bioethics Advisory Committee.

5.2. The competition resolution may include a waiting list in case any of the applicants whose proposals have been approved either declines the offer or due to other reasons that prevent him/her from executing the

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<sup>1</sup> To date, countries included are: Germany, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Czech Republic, Romania, Sweden, and Switzerland.

project. Awardees through the waiting list will have 10 working days from the date of notification by FONDECYT's Superior Councils to accept the allocation in writing from 1 October, 2011. If there is no communication on the matter by such date, the applicant will lose his/her rights in this competition. The waiting list will be effective through **2 December, 2011**.

## **VI. SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

### **6.1. AGREEMENTS**

- 6.1.1. The Agreements shall be in force from the date established therein and shall be signed by CONICYT, the Principal Investigator, the Sponsoring Researcher and the Sponsoring Institution. Power of attorney signatures are not accepted. The Agreements shall clearly establish the rights and responsibilities of each party, the faculties of the Superior Councils and all the clauses that better safeguard the compliance of FONDECYT's purposes. In this Agreement, the Sponsoring Institutions commit to assure the appropriate execution of the project. Under specific situations, the Councils may authorize the postponement of the signature of an Agreement, which shall not modify the starting date of the project.
- 6.1.2. Foreign researchers will have to show proof of permanent residence or temporary visa status and a valid Chilean identity document at the moment of signing the project's funding Agreement.
- 6.1.3. Applicants shall commit to work full-time in the Postdoctoral proposal (with the exception established in Item 1.4 herein), which shall be carried out in the Sponsoring Institution.
- 6.1.4. The Sponsoring Institution shall provide the required infrastructure throughout the project execution period, and respect the full-time commitment of the Principal Researcher.
- 6.1.5. If the Principal Investigator changes to another Institution before signing the Agreement or during execution of the project, and if the Councils accept the new Institution sponsorship, the latter shall assume as Sponsoring Institution with all the rights and responsibilities of the original Institution. It is hereby stated that CONICYT/FONDECYT shall make no statements regarding eventual commitments or disputes arising between the researcher and his/her previous Sponsoring Institution(s), as these situations fall outside its competence.
- 6.1.6. Researchers whose projects are approved in this competition and obtain funding for a project under CONICYT's National Competition for Placement of Advanced Human Capital in Academia, in similar thematic areas, will have to request the authorization of FONDECYT's Councils in order to execute both projects. If the request is approved, the salary allocated to the researcher in this competition will be reduced to **CH\$5,000,000 (five million Chilean pesos)** for each year of execution.
- 6.1.7. Funding or allocation of resources to the research project shall only be done by annual periods. The scheduled research work and budget allocated for the following years of execution are regarded as a proposed research to be carried out and resources to be employed that does not oblige the Councils to continue its funding. Therefore, the allocation of resources is subject to:
  - Approval of technical progress reports and declaration of expenses.
  - Validity and feasibility of the purpose of the research.
  - Validity and compliance with ethics and bioethics certifications, informed consent or other certifications during execution of the project, where applicable, and also compliance with the biosafety protocols.
  - Budgetary existence and availability by CONICYT.
- 6.1.8. The academic and financial modifications associated to the execution of the project, such as: modification of objectives and/or change of Sponsoring Institution, among others, must be submitted to the consideration of the Councils through the Director of the FONDECYT Program.
- 6.1.9. The Councils are entitled to demand total or partial restitution of allocated resources if the Principal Investigator fails to comply with the obligations undertaken by him/her.

## 6.2. TRANSFER OF FUNDS

- 6.2.1. Resources allocated to a project approved under this competition will be transferred once the CONICYT administrative ruling approving the funding allocation is processed in full and provided the Principal Investigator has no prior commitments or pending situations with CONICYT. If by 13 January, 2012, the Principal Investigator maintains any unresolved situation with CONICYT, this allocation will be declared null and void.
- 6.2.2. Resources are allocated in non-adjustable national currency (except for the Principal Investigator salary pursuant to Item 3.1.1 herein) and will be transferred for every approved year of execution. Expenses may be charged to the project **only from the starting** date established in the Agreement, except for Initial Funds. Resources will be transferred under the following modality:
- a) **Staff:** Salaries will be transferred to the Principal Investigator in 12 monthly payments for the gross amount, without income tax deduction, on the last working day of each month. This income shall be declared through a receipt for professional fees (boleta de honorarios) issued by the Principal Investigator. Payment of taxes on this income is his/her sole responsibility.
  - b) **Travels and Operational Expenses:** These resources will be transferred to the Principal Investigator at the beginning of each year of execution whether in partial payments or in its full amount pursuant to budgetary availabilities of CONICYT/FONDECYT, under the conditions set forth in the Agreement.
  - c) **Initial Expenses:** If applicable, these resources will be transferred to the Principal Researcher at the beginning of the execution of the project. Unused funds for this purpose must be reimbursed to CONICYT.
- 6.2.3. The Councils are entitled, in view of well-founded reasons, to suspend, modify or declare early termination of the projects, thus ending the transfer of resources pursuant to provisions in the Agreement.

## VII. TIME OF STAY

The Principal Investigator commits him/herself to remain in the country through the end of the project and for at least 6 months in each year of execution, except for the provision in Item 1.6 herein. All leaves of absence for periods of less than 6 months shall be authorized by the Sponsoring Researcher. **Notwithstanding the above, Principal Researchers must comply with the deadlines established for submission of technical reports and declarations of expenses on the dates provided in the Agreement.** In cases of non-compliance, the Councils are entitled to declare early termination of the project and request total or partial refund of the allocated resources.

## VIII. REPORTS

- 8.1. The Principal Investigator shall strictly and timely comply with the dates for submission of Technical and Financial Reports as established in the Agreement.

The Sponsoring Researcher shall attach to the annual Technical Report, a detailed evaluation of the work conducted by the Postdoctoral fellow. **No postponement of the deadline for submission of academic reports will be accepted.**

Notwithstanding the above, female Principal Investigators who have undertaken maternity leave or have a child less than 1 year old suffering from an illness may request an extension of the project's ending date. The same benefit will be granted to fathers who take a medical leave when their less than 1 year old child is suffering from a disease. In such cases, the duration of the project will be extended for the period authorized by the Councils.

In the case of a pregnancy, female Principal Researchers may request pre- and postnatal maternity leave, maintaining the same monthly salary amount while the project is in progress.

In order to access these benefits, the Principal Investigator must submit a request – of which the Sponsoring Researcher must be informed – together with a medical certificate issued by a competent professional.

- 8.2. All funds allocated to the Project must be declared through the FONDECYT Sistema de Declaracion de Gastos en Linea, by the dates specified in the Agreement. However, the Principal Investigator must maintain under his/her custody all documents that support the expenses declared and facilitate CONICYT or the Contraloria General de la Republica's access to the revision of such documents at any execution year and for a period of 5 years from the date the Councils declare the project's termination.
- 8.3. As for the Financial Report of the project, in the event that a document supports an expense in more than one project, the projects involved shall be immediately terminated and the applicable actions will be pursued to obtain full refund of the allocated resources.

## **IX. PROJECT TERMINATION**

- 9.1. A project is considered completed after the Final Report has been satisfactorily approved by the Councils and the Declaration of Expenses has been accepted.
- 9.2. The Final Report must contain results that are pertinent to the objectives and thematic scope of the project. It must include copies of the published documents and of documents undergoing editorial review. Approval of the Final Report is subject to:
  - 9.2.1. Compliance with the proposed research objectives or modifications arising during its execution known and approved by the Councils; and
  - 9.2.2. The existence of an accepted manuscript at the end of the research in journals included in the ISI database or in equivalent databases according to the nature of the discipline. An article published in a journal that belongs to the Sponsoring Institution will not be accepted as the only product of the project.

If the Councils consider that the information provided in the Final Report is not sufficient for the approval of the project, researchers will have up to 3 and half months from the date of notification to respond to the objections. If there is no response within said period, it will be understood that the project does not comply with the terms of this funding competition.

- 9.3. **Early termination of the project:** a project may exceptionally be terminated earlier than its approved duration due to the following reasons:
  - At the request of the Principal Investigator and/or the Sponsoring Researcher, or
  - By the Councils decision if it is found that the resources allocated to the Principal Investigator are not used for the purposes that were requested or did not comply with the obligations under the respective Agreement, faithfully, timely and comprehensively

In both cases the Councils will determine the requirements to proceed with the project's early termination and may request from the Principal Investigator and/or the Sponsoring Institution full or partial reimbursement of the funds allocated through the Agreement.

## **X. SUBMISSION OF THE PROJECTS**

- 10.1. The call for proposals will be published in a national circulation newspaper, with the opening date on **4 April, 2011.**
- 10.2. The Terms & Conditions and Instructions will be available from the opening date of the call in the websites



[www.fondecyt.cl](http://www.fondecyt.cl), [www.conicyt.cl](http://www.conicyt.cl) or in the FONDECYT Program office: Bernarda Morin N° 551, Providencia, Santiago.

- 10.3. The application shall be completed through the **online platform** in FONDECYT's website ([www.fondecyt.cl](http://www.fondecyt.cl)) or CONICYT's website ([www.conicyt.cl](http://www.conicyt.cl)). To that effect, the researcher will enter the requested information and attach all required documents in unprotected PDF format.

**Additionally, the applicant must send one (1) original copy, printed and ring-bound, of the official version of his/her proposal, which will be available through the online application system once institutional sponsorship has been approved.**

- 10.4. Completing the application in English is optional for projects of all areas or disciplines.

10.5. **Closing dates for applications through the online system:**

- a) Applicants: **until 4 May, 2011 at 4 pm, Chilean Continental time.**
- b) Sponsoring Institutions: **until 11 May, 2011 at 4 pm, Chilean Continental time.**
- c) Additionally, applicants must send a copy of the official version of the project, printed and ring-bound, preferably by **18 May, 2011.**

- 10.6. Once the call is closed –closing date for institutional sponsorship– and the proposal has been electronically received by CONICYT, it is not possible to modify, incorporate, eliminate or receive any additional documentation to be attached to the proposal. Therefore, projects will be evaluated with the information submitted by the closing date of the call.

Certifications and/or authorizations specifically stated in the Terms & Conditions up to the established date are excluded from this situation.

10.7. Place of submission:

- a) Online applications: FONDECYT's webpage, [www.fondecyt.cl](http://www.fondecyt.cl), until the date and time established herein.
- b) Submission of the official printed version of the project sponsored online: FONDECYT Program, Bernarda Morin 551, Providencia, Santiago, Chile.

Projects sent from regions other than the Metropolitan Region must be sent via certificate express mail or by bus, by the date established herein, and the Director of the FONDECYT Program must be informed via email to: [postulacion.fondecyt@conicyt.cl](mailto:postulacion.fondecyt@conicyt.cl) or to the fax number: (56-2) 372 08 28.

- 10.8. For questions go to: [www.conicyt.cl/oirs](http://www.conicyt.cl/oirs), or [www.fondecyt.cl](http://www.fondecyt.cl).

**THE ATTACHED APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THESE TERMS & CONDITIONS.**