



Comisión Nacional de Investigación
Científica y Tecnológica – CONICYT

FONDECYT 2013 POSTDOCTORAL GRANTS GUIDELINES

The Superior Councils for Science and Technological Development (hereinafter the Councils) call for the 2013 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 National Fund for Scientific and Technological Research (FONDECYT), created as an instrument to promote scientific and technological development in Chile, fosters the initiative of individuals and research groups by funding scientific and technological research projects in all fields 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 fields, institutional affiliation or gender.
- 1.2. The FONDECYT grants exclusively fund scientific and technological research initiatives that lead to new knowledge or applications foreseen through the working hypotheses stated in the proposals. It does not fund artistic initiatives, compilations, preparation of catalogues or inventories, book printing, essays, translations, audiovisual material, education texts or other similar activities.
- 1.3. The aim of this competition is to stimulate productivity and future scientific leadership of researchers who hold a Doctorate degree, with a view to their employment in academia or other areas, through their incorporation into consolidated research groups that will influence the scientific development of the postdoctoral candidate and that will also be strengthened by his/her participation in the 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 outreach activities that demand 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 as long as 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 are able to commit to remain in the country from the established starting date of the project until the end of its period of execution.
- 1.6. Chilean and foreign researchers with permanent residence in Chile whose proposals are approved may, if authorized by the Sponsoring Institution, request permission from the Councils to conduct part of the research (up to 12 months) abroad.
- 1.7. The projects will begin on October 1, 2012. Thus, the first year of execution -2013-

covers the period between October 1, 2012 and September 30, 2013.

- 1.8. The Councils shall establish the evaluation modalities and conditions for the approval or rejection of the submitted proposals, in accordance with the Regulations of D.F.L.Nº33 of 1982, of the Ministry of Public Education, that created FONDECYT.
- 1.9. The Councils have the authority to transfer projects submitted to the area of science to the area of technology and vice versa, if they deem it appropriate according to the main characteristics of the research. If a proposal submitted to the area of science involves the participation of a public institution and the Councils deem it is more suitable for the area of technology, it will not be eligible for funding. Likewise, if deemed appropriate, the Councils may assign the proposal to a different academic discipline than the one defined by the applicant.
- 1.10. Veracity of 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 supporting documents if 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 or the award, or to determine early termination of the project, whichever is applicable to the specific case.
- 1.11. Inappropriate behavior, such as fabricating or falsifying data and the substantial copy of other people's or the researcher's own work 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 the submission of proposals to the publication of 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 regarding the contributions made by the author. The determinant factor is not the number of words copied or the place within the manuscript where the phrase in question is found (title, introduction, methodology, hypothesis, etc.), but the fact that the reader may be misled into thinking that the phrase has been written by the author or that the information presented is new and not the result of previous works, when including references to the author's own work. Phrases of general use that do not mislead the reader are not considered for this purpose.

In the application, all literal texts, paragraphs or phrases obtained from a bibliographical reference –be they of the researcher's own work or that of other authors- must be duly identified in the text and in the list of references.

Submitted proposals that breach this rule or do not present information in the manner indicated above will be declared as non-compliant with the guidelines of this competition.

Principal Investigators whose proposals were declared as non-compliant due to the above cause in competitions from 2009 onwards will need to have express authorization by the Council to apply in any capacity for this competition. The above does not apply to researchers who have already been authorized to apply in previous competitions.

- 1.12. The Councils are the bodies with the authority to set forth the meaning, scope and interpretation of these guidelines. Likewise, they reserve the right to reduce budget allocations requested in relation to the objectives, proposed activities and/or budget availability of CONICYT/FONDECYT. In addition, should any project fail to fulfill the obligations required by CONICYT/FONDECYT, the Councils may render the grant ineffective or prematurely terminate the project.

II. APPLICATION

2.1. REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1.1. Researchers who have been awarded a Doctorate degree between **July 1, 2009 and October 1, 2012**, which is the starting date of the projects. For female researchers who have given birth within said period, the degree award period is from July 1, 2008. In this case, it will be mandatory to attach the child's birth certificate to the application.

In order to provide proof of their Doctorate 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, stating the date of approval of the thesis public defense, must be attached to the application. If the applicant has studied in a foreign institution, he/she will need to submit a certificate issued by the competent authority stating the date on which the Doctorate degree was awarded.

Applicants unable to meet the above requirements by the closing date of the competition will have until **July 3, 2012, 4:00 p.m. (Chilean Continental Time)** to attach this certificate to their **online application. After that date, and until October 1, 2012, these documents will be received at: postulacion@fondecyt.conicyt.cl.**

- 2.1.2. Projects shall be submitted by an applicant and sponsored by a researcher and a Sponsoring Institution, which may be a university or some other type of institution.

Only one proposal per applicant will be accepted in this competition.

The Sponsoring Researcher will be responsible for directly supervising the academic execution of the project and must hold at least a half-time appointment (22 hours per week) with the project's Sponsoring Institution.

- 2.1.3. All applications must include two (2) recommendation letters from national or foreign researchers, **other than the proposal's Sponsoring Researcher.** The application will be considered as non-compliant with these guidelines if the Sponsoring Researcher provides a recommendation letter for the project he/she is sponsoring. The request for recommendation letter can only be submitted through the Online Application system. The reception of both letters will enable the applicant to send his/her application to request institutional sponsorship.
- 2.1.4. Submitted proposals may not contain, in essence, aspects included in other finalized or current projects or in any scientific publications or any other means of dissemination.

If the submitted proposal is part of an ongoing project of the Sponsoring

Researcher, the applicant must declare this relationship and clearly state how the proposal will contribute to increase the productivity of the research group to which he/she will join.

2.2. RESTRICTIONS

2.2.1. It is expressly declared that individuals may apply as Principal Investigators to this competition as well as to the 2012 Initiation into Research and/or the 2013 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 guidelines of the competition.

2.2.2. Applicants ineligible to apply to this competition:

As Principal Investigators:

- a) Those who have been awarded a FONDECYT Postdoctoral Grant in previous competitions.
- b) Those who have received funding as Principal Investigator of a current or finalized Regular FONDECYT project or a FONDECYT Initiation into Research project.
- c) Those who have been awarded or accepted or are executing a project under CONICYT's National Competition for Placement of Advanced Human Capital in Academia.

As Sponsoring Researchers:

- a) Those who have been Doctorate tutors for the applicant to this competition.
- b) Principal Investigators of FONDECYT projects with pending approval of final technical and/or financial reports by the closing date of this competition.

2.3. PROJECT

2.3.1. The application will be completed through the online platform on the website <http://concursos.conicyt.cl/fondecyt/>. The application must conform to the guidelines herein and attached instructions for this competition, which are regarded as an integral part of the guidelines regulating this competition. It is necessary to provide all the information requested in each and all sections considered mandatory and to complete the application form available in the online system set up for that purpose. There are sections of the application that must be filled out or selected on the screen (for example, general information on the project and requested funding), while others require attaching forms in non-encrypted or protected PDF format. These must comply with the format and number of pages specified in each section.

The project shall be regarded as non-compliant with these guidelines if the application is incomplete or fails to provide the essential information requested for its adequate evaluation. Should this be the case, FONDECYT will notify the applicant via certified mail, giving them 5 working days to appeal this decision and request that the proposal be readmitted to the competition.

2.3.2. The Councils will safeguard the confidentiality of the information provided in the

proposal during the application, evaluation and execution phases; the latter, in case it is funded.

2.3.3. Certificates – Authorizations:

FONDECYT project researchers must comply with current regulations and standards governing scientific activity in the areas addressed by the project.

Projects involving studies in/with:

- a) Human beings,
- b) Native communities and peoples (“pueblos originarios”),
- c) Human biological material,
- d) Animals, animal samples and/or biological material;
- e) Materials that are a risk to biosafety;
- f) Archaeological sites;
- g) Protected species, protected wildlife areas, introduction of foreign species;
- h) Archives and/or data bases that contain sensitive information.

For all of the above situations, applicants will be required to attach specific certifications and/or authorizations to comply with what is set forth in the Annex Section of the document “FONDECYT 2013 Postdoctoral Grants Competition, Application Instructions”. The content of said document is an integral part of these guidelines.

The Principal Investigator is responsible for attaching in non-encrypted or protected PDF format the approving certifications and/or authorizations relevant for the proposal to the online application within the established time frame. However, applicants who are unable to meet the above requirements by the closing date of the competition will have until **July 3, 2012, 4:00 p.m. (Chilean Continental Time)** to attach these certificates to their **online application**. Projects that fail to fulfill this requirement will be regarded as non-compliant with these guidelines.

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 must be included in the Progress Report or Final Report of the project.

If deemed necessary, the Councils will request a report on ethical and/or bioethical aspects of the projects from the FONDECYT Bioethics Advisory Committee. Likewise, they may request independent statements on ethics/ bioethics and/or biosafety, if relevant.

- 2.3.4. Projects that involve studies in the Antarctic Territory, and/or are interested in obtaining logistic support from the Chilean Antarctic Institute (INACH) to carry out activities in that territory, must attach a “Certificate of Compliance with Environmental Regulations” and a “Letter of Logistics Certification”, both issued by INACH. To obtain them, applicants must send the following forms before **May 8, 2012** to INACH, at proyectos@inach.cl: Logistics-Operational and Environmental Requirements (available in this call for proposals, under Guidelines and Documents).

In this feasibility letter, INACH must state that, if the project is approved by FONDECYT, it will receive the necessary logistic support from the Institute.

Proponents will have until **July 3, 2012, 4:00 p.m. (Chilean Continental Time)** to attach these certificates to their online application.

INACH, in accordance with the Collaboration Agreement signed with CONICYT on March 22, 2007, commits to provide logistic support, including transportation between Punta Arenas – Antarctic Territory – Punta Arenas; travels within the Antarctic Territory, lodging 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 meet the requirements set forth in this document will be declared non-compliant with the Guidelines and will not be able to continue participating in this competition.

III. BENEFITS

3.1. Expenses covered by FONDECYT:

The maximum amount of funding that can be requested for a project is \$21,972,000.- (twenty one million nine hundred seventy two thousand Chilean pesos) for each year of execution. This amount excludes Setup Expenses, which can be requested for the first year, and the allowance for health benefits that will be allocated by FONDECYT to approved projects.

The above amount includes funding for the following items:

- 3.1.1. Honoraria: \$17,472,000.- (seventeen million four hundred seventy two thousand Chilean pesos) per year**, which will be disbursed annually in one, two or more installments, subject to budget availability of CONICYT, to the Principal Investigator and must be declared with an invoice for professional fees ("Boleta de honorarios").

This amount is subject to increment -provided budgetary availability- for years 2 and 3 of the project's execution, if applicable, by matching it to the amounts defined for the following FONDECYT Postdoctoral Competitions or according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) percentage increase.

- 3.1.2. Travel and/or Operational Expenses: \$4,500,000.- (four million five hundred thousand Chilean pesos) per year of execution.**

3.1.2.1. Travel: Resources may be requested for tickets and per diems for domestic and/or foreign travel. These will be funded only for the project's Principal Investigator and for activities directly related to execution of the project or presentation of its results. The applicant may use the fares for tickets and per diems indicated in Annex N°1 of the FONDECYT 2013 Postdoctoral Grants Competition Application Instructions as reference.

Domestic Travel: funds field trips, attendance to scientific meetings and travel within the country.

Foreign Travel: funds, among others, research visits and attendance to scientific meetings.

3.1.2.2. **Operational Expenses:** This item includes expenses such as: computer supplies, laboratory reagents and supplies, vehicle rental, payment of freight charges, purchase of books, subscriptions to journals, and membership fees in scientific societies, registration to congresses, purchase of services, payment for occasional staff –if applicable-, minor expenses, and purchase of equipment, among 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, only the manuscript preparation will be funded but not the publication costs.

The purchase of furniture and/or minor conditioning of physical spaces according to the nature of the project and necessary for its appropriate execution may be considered.

Payments for the mandatory health insurance for EU countries that signed the Schengen Agreement may be included in this item¹.

The distribution of funds requested for travel and/or operational expenses in the proposal may be modified by the researcher during the project's execution, according to its needs and following the instructions included in the document "Instructivo de Declaración de Gastos", as long as the amounts involved, if approved, do not exceed the annual allocation.

3.1.3. **Health Benefit:** FONDECYT will assign to Principal Investigators of projects approved under this competition \$396,000.- (three hundred ninety six thousand Chilean pesos) as an **annual health benefit**, which may be used to pay their monthly fees to FONASA or an ISAPRE (health insurance provider) or to supplement an ISAPRE health plan or, alternatively, to buy an independent health insurance policy. This allocation does not allow budget changes. Funds not used for this purpose must be reimbursed to CONICYT. The benefit will be lost and the Principal Investigator will need to reimburse CONICYT the full amount allocated if he/she does not use these funds, or reimburse them proportionally if he/she is hired by his/her or any other Institution and his/her honoraria are reduced because of this new condition, or due to early termination of the project. **This amount must not be included in the request for funds.**

3.1.4. **Initial Expenses:** These funds can only be requested by individuals applying as Principal Investigator who reside abroad, at the time the results of the call are communicated. This item provides funding to get settled in the country (room and board) in order to start the project, and the Principal Researcher's ticket to Chile (including temporary visa costs), if national public funds are unavailable for this purpose.

¹ 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.

Up to **\$3,000,000.- (three million Chilean pesos)** may be requested to **cover these costs during the first year of execution**. This item does not allow budget changes. Funds not used for this purpose must be reimbursed.

IV. EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Each project that complies with the requirements and conditions established in these guidelines will be evaluated by the FONDECYT Study Group it is assigned to or by an external expert if deemed necessary.

The evaluation process will consist of completing an evaluation form using a scale from 0 to 5, assessing each factor according to the following categories (intermediate categories with half points are allowed):

0	Not qualify	The proposal does not meet/address the criterion under analysis or cannot be evaluated due to missing or incomplete information.
1	Poor	The proposal does not meet/address in an adequate manner the criterion aspects or there are serious inherent deficiencies.
2	Regular/Fair	The proposal broadly meet/addresses the criterion aspects, but there are important deficiencies.
3	Good	The proposal meet/addresses the criterion aspects in a good manner, although some improvements are required.
4	Very Good	The proposal meet/addresses the criterion aspects in a very good manner, although some improvements are still possible.
5	Outstanding	The proposal successfully meet/addresses all criterion aspects. Any weaknesses are minor.

The evaluation factors for submitted projects are:

Evaluation Factors	Weight
Quality of the Proposal	50%
Productivity of Principal Researcher	24%
Recommendation Letters	6%
Productivity of the Sponsoring Researcher	20%

V. RESULTS OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

- 5.1. The Superior Councils of Science and Technological Development of FONDECYT will decide the results of this call and will award the funds through a Resolution by CONICYT. The results will be published on the CONICYT and FONDECYT websites.

Principal Investigators will be notified of the results through certified mail and e-mail to the mailing and electronic addresses indicated in the application. The notification letter will include: the position of the project in the call, the scores assigned, the evaluation comments. Additionally, in the case of approved projects, it will also include the budget approved and, if applicable, the report prepared by the FONDECYT Bioethics Advisory Committee.

- 5.2. The ruling may include a waiting list, which will become effective if the Principal Investigator declines the award or is unable to execute the project. Principal Investigators who become awardees through the waiting list will have 10 working days, from the date of notification by FONDECYT's Superior Councils, to accept the award in writing starting **October 1, 2012**. If there is no communication on the matter by that date, the applicant forfeits his or her right to the funds. The waiting list will be effective through **December 4, 2012**.
- 5.3. Pursuant to the ruling, any interested Principal Investigator may submit an appeal to CONICYT under Chilean Law N°19,880, as long as it complies with the time frames, forms and requirements established by this Law.

The deadline to present an appeal for reversal of the ruling resolution will be 5 working days from the date of notification of the ruling. CONICYT will resolve the administrative appeal in a period not to exceed 30 working days since the reception of the appeal.

VI. SIGNATURE OF THE FUNDING AGREEMENT AND ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

6.1. FUNDING AGREEMENTS

- 6.1.1. The funding agreements shall be subscribed between CONICYT, the Principal Investigator, the sponsoring researcher and the sponsoring institution. Signature through an authorization letter or mandate will not be accepted.

The agreements will be in force starting October 1, 2012 and they will expressly establish the rights and obligations of each party, the Superior Councils authority and all clauses that best safeguard compliance with FONDECYT's purposes. By subscribing the agreement, the Sponsoring Institutions commit themselves to guarantee the proper implementation of the project.

Under qualified situations, the Councils may authorize postponement of the signature of an agreement, but this will not modify the starting date of the project.

- 6.1.2. Foreign researchers must provide proof of permanent residence or temporary visa status and a valid Chilean identity document at the moment of signing the project's funding agreement. No other type of visa will be accepted for these purposes.
- 6.1.3. Researchers who are awarded funds for a project in this call must commit exclusive dedication to the Postdoctoral proposal (with the exception defined in section 1.4. of these guidelines). This requirement must be fulfilled at the Sponsoring Institution.

If the Principal Investigator is hired, in a full-time position in the Sponsoring or another institution before the beginning of the project or during its execution, he/she must request the authorization of FONDECYT's Councils to execute the project under this new condition. If this request is approved, the new institution, if applicable, will become sponsoring institution. At the same time, the honoraria assigned to the researcher in this competition will be reduced to the amount established for a Principal Investigator of a Regular project of the same year as this call, from their hiring date through the end of the project. However, for all other purposes, the project will continue as a Postdoctoral project. The Principal Investigator may present a duly justified request so that

the balance of the reduced honoraria be transferred to travel and/or operational expenses, as long as the allocated amount does not exceed the maximum established in these guidelines.

- 6.1.4. The Sponsoring Institution must provide the required infrastructure during the entire execution period of the project and respect the exclusive dedication of the Principal Investigator.
- 6.1.5. If the Principal Investigator changes Institution before signing the funding agreement or during the execution of the project, and the Councils accept the new institution, the latter shall become the Sponsoring Institution with all the rights and responsibilities of the original Institution. It is hereby declared that CONICYT/FONDECYT shall make no statements regarding possible future 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 call and obtain funding for a project under CONICYT's National Competition for Placement of Advanced Human Capital in Academia must choose one of the two grants. If the Placement Grant is awarded after commencement of the Postdoctoral project, the latter will be terminated early if the Placement grant is accepted.
- 6.1.7. Funding or allocation of resources to the research project will only be made 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 used that does not force the Councils to renew funding. Therefore, the allocation of resources is subject to:
 - Approval of technical progress reports and statements of expenses.
 - Validity, feasibility and relevance of the purpose of the research.
 - Validity, relevance and compliance with ethics and bioethics certifications, informed consent or other certifications during the execution of the project, where applicable; as well as compliance with biosafety protocols.
 - CONICYT's budget existence and availability.
- 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, committed and executed expenses, among others, must be submitted to the consideration of the Councils through the Director of the FONDECYT Program.

Unused funds by the date of each year's statement of expenses, must be reimbursed to CONICYT/FONDECYT, unless the Principal Investigator is granted an authorization to do otherwise.
- 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. CONICYT is responsible for the control and supervision of the transferred resources.

6.2. ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

6.2.1. Resources allocated to a project approved under this call, will be transferred at the beginning of its execution, once CONICYT's administrative ruling approving the funding allocation is processed in full and provided that the Principal Investigator has no prior commitments or pending situations with CONICYT. If by January 15, 2013 the Principal Investigator maintains any unresolved situation with CONICYT, the allocation will be declared null and void.

6.2.2. Resources are allocated in non-adjustable national currency (except for the Principal Investigator Honoraria as indicated under section 3.1.1. of these guidelines) 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 funding agreement, except for the setup funds which are considered from the date the grant was awarded (date in which the ruling will be available on FONDECYT's website). Resources will be transferred under the following modality:

- a) **Honoraria:** These funds will be transferred, in one or more installments, for the gross amount without income tax deduction and the Principal Investigator shall declare them through an honoraria invoice ("boleta de honorarios"). Income tax payment is his/her sole responsibility.
- b) **Travels and Operational Expenses:** These funds will be transferred to the Principal Investigator at the beginning of each year of execution whether in partial or full payments, according to the budget availabilities of CONICYT/FONDECYT, under the conditions set forth in the funding agreement.
- c) **Health Benefits:** These resources will be transferred, as in the case of honoraria, in one or more installments, in separate disbursements.
- d) **Setup Expenses:** These will be transferred to the Principal Investigator at the beginning of the execution of the project. Unused funds under this item must be reimbursed to CONICYT.

6.2.3. The Councils are entitled, in view of well-founded reasons, to suspend, modify or declare the early termination of projects, thus ending the transfer of resources as indicated in the Agreement.

VII. PERMANENCE IN THE COUNTRY

The Principal Investigator commits himself/herself to remain in the country until the end of the project and for at least 6 months during each year of execution, except as established under section 1.6 of these guidelines. All less than 6 months leaves of absence shall be authorized by the Sponsoring Researcher. **However, Principal Researchers must comply with the deadlines established for submission of technical reports and statements of expenses on the dates established in the annexes of the funding agreement.** If a Principal Investigator fails to comply, the Councils are entitled to declare early termination of the project and request total or partial reimbursement of the allocated resources.

VIII. OBLIGATIONS

PRESENTATION OF TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

- 8.1. The Principal Investigator shall strictly and timely comply with the dates and presentation instructions for the submission of technical and financial reports as established in the Annexes, which are part of the funding agreements.

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 technical reports will be accepted.**

Female Principal Investigators who make use of pre-maternity leave, post-maternity leave, post-natal parental leave or medical leave due to illness of a less than 1 year old child, may request to extend the project's ending date maintaining the same amount of monthly subsidy established during the validity of the project.

The same benefit will be granted to fathers who take a medical leave due to illness of a less than 1 year old child. In such cases, the duration of the project will be extended for the period authorized by the Councils.

To access these benefits, the Principal Investigator must submit a request along with a medical certificate issued by a competent professional or copy of the notification to the Sponsoring Researcher of this benefit, in the case of post-natal maternity leave for female researchers.

- 8.2. All funds allocated to the project are governed, in regards to their statements of expenses, by Resolution N° 759/2003 of the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic and must be declared through FONDECYT's online Statements of Expenses ("Sistema de Declaración de Gastos en Línea"), by the dates specified in the funding agreement. However, the Principal Investigator must maintain under his/her custody all original documents that justify the expenses declared and facilitate CONICYT or the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic access to the revision of these documents at any stage of the project and for a period of 5 years from the date the Councils declare the project's completion.

If selected for an audit sample, the original documents supporting the statement of expenses shall be sent to CONICYT for their revision and approval. The documents will be returned to the beneficiary upon conclusion of the review. CONICYT is entitled to suspend new fund transfers if the statement of expenses is inadequate to justify the funds transferred.

- 8.3. As for the financial report of the project, in the event that a document is used to support an expense in more than one project, the projects involved shall be immediately terminated and pertinent actions will be pursued to obtain full reimbursement of the allocated resources. If the resources transferred are used for purposes other than those specified in the project, or are not used to implement modifications approved by the Councils during the course of the research, they must be reimbursed to CONICYT.
- 8.4. It is strictly forbidden to invest the funds transferred for the execution of the project in financial instruments, be they of fixed or variable return, of short or long term such as: mutual funds, stocks, long-term deposits, bonds, etc. It is also forbidden to pay indemnities (for lack of severance prior notice, annual holiday or vacations and for years of service, etc.) with project funds.

IX. PROJECT COMPLETION

- 9.1. A project is considered to be completed when the final academic report has been approved to the satisfaction of the Councils and the statements of expenses have been accepted or approved.
- 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 those under editorial committees review. Approval of the final report is subject to:
 - 9.2.1. Achievement of the proposed research goals or modifications known and approved by the Councils during its execution.
 - 9.2.2. If applicable, presentation of at least one audit report prepared by the Institutional Ethics and/or Bioethics Committee during the execution of the project, and according to the conditions established in section 2.3.3.; and
 - 9.2.3. The existence, at the end of the project, of a **manuscript accepted** in journals included in the ISI database or in equivalent databases according to the nature of the discipline. An article in a journal published by the Sponsoring Institution shall not be accepted as the sole product of the project.

All products associated with the project, such as articles, books, book chapters, licenses, or scientific meetings presentations, among others, must acknowledge CONICYT/FONDECYT and INACH –the latter only if applicable– for the funds received.

If the Councils consider that the information provided in the final report is not sufficient for the approval of the project researchers will have until January 15, 2015 or 2016, whichever applies, to respond to the objections. If there is no response within that period, the project will be declared as non-compliant with the responsibilities established in these guidelines.

In situations that are exceptional or beyond the researcher's responsibility, the Councils may provide additional time to respond to objections.

Only once the final technical report has been approved by the Councils, its results will be made available in the format and modality that CONICYT decides for this purpose. However, FONDECYT may delay this dissemination, for a period to be defined by the Councils, under the express request of the Principal Investigator when he/she shows that there are aspects that require protection. In regards to the registry of the projects' productivity, FONDECYT may keep this information updated for articles published in scientific journals or other dissemination media, during any year of execution of the project.

- 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 on the grounds that the resources allocated to the Principal Investigator are not used for the purposes that they were requested for or the researcher did not faithfully, timely and fully comply with the obligations acquired under the funding agreement.

In both cases, the Councils will determine the necessary requirements to consider the project complete and may request from the Principal Investigator and/or the Sponsoring Institution full or partial reimbursement of the funds allocated per the funding agreement.

X. SUBMISSION OF THE PROJECTS

10.1. The call for proposals will open on **April 10, 2012** and **will** be published in a national circulation newspaper.

10.2. The guidelines and instructions will be available from the opening date of the call on the following websites www.fondecyt.cl, www.conicyt.cl or at the office of the Director of the FONDECYT Program: Bernarda Morín N° 551, Providencia, Santiago.

10.3. The application shall be completed through the **online platform** on the FONDECYT website (www.fondecyt.cl) or the CONICYT website (www.conicyt.cl). In order to apply, the researcher must enter the information on the online system and attach all required documents in unprotected PDF format.

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 (it includes the reception of recommendation letters): **until Tuesday, May 15, 2012, 4:00 p.m.**, Chilean Continental Time.

b) Sponsoring Institutions: **until Wednesday, May 23, 2012, 4:00 p.m.**, Chilean Continental Time.

c) **In this call, applicants do not need to send the official printed version of the proposal to FONDECYT.**

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

This excludes certificates and/or authorizations expressly specified in these guidelines, which will have until the date and time established.

10.7. Place of submission:

i. Online applications: through the FONDECYT website www.fondecyt.cl, until the date and time established in these guidelines.

10.8. To make inquiries, please visit: www.conicyt.cl/oirs. Questions received through this website will only be accepted until Friday, May 11, 2012 or through the telephone **help desk** at (56-2) 365 44 45, 365 44 47, 365 46 65, on working days, Monday through Thursday from 09:00 AM till 06:00 PM and Friday from 09:00 AM till 05:00 PM, Chilean Continental Time.

THE ANNEXED INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLY ARE PART OF THESE GUIDELINES.