



Comisión Nacional de Investigación
Científica y Tecnológica – CONICYT

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR SUPPORT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH PROJECTS BETWEEN CHILE AND THE UNITED STATES

SUMMARY EXTRACT OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS, 2012 CALL

The Department of International Relations of CONICYT, in view of the "*Basic Agreement in Scientific and Technological Cooperation with the Government of the United States of America*" signed on the 14th of May, 1992 (enacted under Decree N° 111/1994 of the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs), the term of which was extended via the "Agreement with the United States of America renewing the Basic Agreement in Scientific and Technological Cooperation of 1992" (enacted under Decree N° 460/2001 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), invites researchers residing in Chile to submit research projects of 34 months in duration, to be implemented with the participation of researchers of the United States holding projects funded by the National Science Foundation.

I. CALL FOR PROPOSALS, DESCRIPTION

1.1 Overall objective

Strengthen scientific and technological cooperation between Chile and the United States through the financing of research projects between teams of researchers from both countries, in one of the following areas:

- **Seismology/antiseismic engineering;**
- **Oceanography;**
- **Big data;**
- **Ecology/Biodiversity;**
- **Glaciology**

1.2 Specific Objectives

- Strengthen collaboration between teams of researchers in Chile and researchers in the United States with the aim of achieving global-standard scientific and technical results worldwide.
- Contribute to the development of human resources to be able to participate in cutting-edge research and new innovation processes, thereby developing expertise in areas relevant to national development.

1.3 Applicants

Experienced teams of researchers resided in Chile dedicated to scientific research and development in the areas specified in this call for proposals and that are also sponsored by one or more Chilean institutions, public or private, may apply.

Additionally, the team of researchers in Chile must be associated with researchers in the United States, the latter, in turn, must hold projects financed by the National Science Foundation (NSF), which must be accredited upon applying to this call for proposals.

1.4 Project Duration

Each project will have a maximum duration of **34 months**, starting from the date of the completion of the administrative act approving the respective agreements.

In cases that are duly justified and certified by the Lead Coordinator, via formal request, CONICYT, after evaluation of this, may authorize the extension of the project.

The first year of project implementation will have duration of 10 months. The second and third years will run for the duration of 12 months each.

1.5 Finance

The maximum amount of funding from CONICYT awarded to each project will be **\$50.000.000 (fifty million Chilean pesos)** per year, non-adjustable, the sum of which shall be transferred to the Lead Coordinator in compliance with the requirements specified in these application terms and conditions, in the signed agreement and subject to CONICYT budget availability.

The expenses incurred during the implementation of the project must adhere to the requirements and procedures specified in the aforementioned documents.

II. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND ADMISIBILITY

2.1 Coordination of the Research Project

The team in Chile must assign a Lead Coordinator to direct research and designate the researcher in the United States who will coordinate project activities in the United States. The Lead Coordinator will be responsible for the scientific and technical coordination of the project and the establishment and structuring of the collaboration between project participants. Likewise, the Lead Coordinator will also be in charge of all scientific production within the framework of the project, progress meetings and the communication of results.

In the absence of the Lead Coordinator, an Alternate Coordinator shall stand in their place.

III. FUNDING STRUCTURE

3.1 Incentives

Incentives for the various categories of personnel participating in the project in Chile. These incentives must be proportional to the time commitment and responsibilities undertaken by each individual within the project. They must not exceed 30% of the total annual budget of the project. The total amount of incentives available for Senior Researchers must not exceed the sum of 8 million Chilean pesos per year. The individual incentive of a Senior Researcher must not exceed the sum of 5 million Chilean pesos a year.

3.2 Internships

- 3.2.1 The projects submitted to this call for proposals should complement and benefit to the highest level possible, in terms of experience and capability, from the projects implemented by the researchers in the United States.
- 3.2.2 Incentives for internships lasting a maximum of 3 months for researchers from the United States for activities in Chile may be included within project costs. The maximum amount of incentive that may be paid monthly towards this shall be \$1.200.000 (one million two hundred thousand Chilean pesos).
- 3.2.3 Internships in the United States for Associate Researchers (Chilean or foreigners permanently resided in Chile), for stays between 3 and 6 months in duration. The maximum monthly living allowance that may be paid shall be \$1.600.000 (one million six hundred thousand Chilean pesos).

3.3 Capital goods/equipment

Only equipment and accessories strictly necessary for the implementation of the project will be financed. These expenses include importation duties, internment, storage, freight and installation costs.

The sum of the amounts assigned for this item and adjustment to infrastructure must not exceed 20% of the total amount allocated to each project of this call for proposals.

3.4 Adjustment to Infrastructure

This item includes the "fitting-out" of any existing physical spaces and facilities for the installation of new equipment, offices, laboratories and network connections.

The sum of the amounts assigned to this item and to Capital goods/equipment must not exceed 20% of the total amount allocated to each Project of this call for proposals.

3.5 Operating expenses

These consist of all expenses that may be incurred throughout the development of the project. This includes, among others, the material or supplies required for the project's implementation, as well as specific services such as computing, accounting and laboratory analysis etc. This item also includes the acquisition of minor instruments, software and minor laboratory implements, reagents, fungible materials, computer supplies, bibliographic materials, stationery, surveys, any costs incurred for meetings, field trips, car rental, transportation and packages etc.

3.6 Seminars and diffusion

- 3.6.1 **Expenditure related to the dissemination of results:** in the form of conferences, courses or other, aimed at non-academic audiences or at least those not belonging to the same discipline(s) as that of the Project, publication of articles and news clips on websites, in newspapers and/or magazines. These costs may be financed by a maximum of 5% of the budget requested from CONICYT for the implementation of the project.
- 3.6.2 **Expenditure related to the general dissemination of results:** via the means of website design, posters for seminars, wider circulation publications.
- 3.6.3 **Organization of seminars, conferences, lectures, workshops and work groups:** all based on the project area and held in either Chile or the United States. The resources allocated for these purposes must not exceed 5% of the budget requested from CONICYT for the implementation of the project.

Seminars, conferences, lectures, workshops, working groups related to the project area carried out either in Chile or the United States. The resources allocated for these purposes shall not exceed 5% of the budget requested to CONICYT for project implementation.

3.7 Purchase of insurance and medical examinations

Expenses incurred for the insuring of equipment as well as medical insurance and examinations taken out for specific field activities will be financed by the funds provided.

3.8 International and domestic travel

Includes travel and living expenses and national/international transfers for Senior Researchers, Associate Researchers and Research Assistants provided they be directly related to the implementation of the project and the presentation of its results. Only **domestic travel** will be financed in the case of undergraduate students requiring to travel to conferences or other events similar to the presentation of thesis results or seminars.

3.9 Administrative costs

Corresponding to the overhead incurred by the project's sponsor institution(s), the sum of which must not exceed 5% of the total amount of funding allocated to each project of this call for proposals.

IV. PROJECT PROPOSAL EVALUATION AND ADJUDICATION

4.1 Eligibility

The applications that do not comply with the terms and conditions and requirements of this call for proposals, including the provision of all the documents that must be attached, will be immediately declared disqualified and will not be admitted into the evaluation process.

4.2 Evaluation and selection

The Advisory Board of the Department of International Relations (DRI) of CONICYT, established by Exempt Resolution N° 2624 on the 26th of June 2012, will oversee the evaluation process and the prioritization of projects. In this, the following procedures must be complied with:

- 4.2.1 Review the projects submitted for the purpose of recommending evaluators that will in turn review the projects according to the criteria established in these terms and conditions.
- 4.2.2 Review and analyse the assessments, comments and suggestions given by the project evaluators.
- 4.2.3 Propose CONICYT a priority list of projects likely to be selected.

The assessment of each proposal will be carried out by at least two national or international experts. The assessments will be reviewed and analysed by the Advisory Board who will propose CONICYT a list of priority projects likely to be selected.

4.3 Assessment Criteria and Weighting:

The criteria and their respective weightings to be considered in the assessment of the projects submitted to this call for proposals are indicated as follows:

Criteria	Weighting
1) Scientific and Technological impact of the project	30%
2) Scientific quality of the project	30%
3) Significance, relevance and originality	15%
4) Capability and suitability of the research team	25%

4.3.1 **Scientific and technological impact of the project** refers to the project's expected contribution to its topic area.

- Generating new expertise
- Development and strengthening of lines of research excellence
- Training of quality human resources

4.3.2 **Scientific quality of the project** includes the following aspects:

- Clarity of research objectives, training of Young researchers, dissemination and knowledge transfer to be developed.
- Scientific stringency of the project design
- Clarity, stringency and relevance of the methodology used in the planned activities
- Coherence between project objectives, results activities and resources allocated

Definition of scores

Each assessment criterion is assigned a score from 0 to 5. The definition of each score is as follows:

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 meets/addresses the criterion aspects, but there are important deficiencies.
3	Good	The proposal meets/addresses the criterion aspects in a good manner, although some improvements are required.
4	Very good	The proposal meets/addresses the criterion aspects in a very good manner, although some improvements are still possible.
5	Outstanding	The proposal successfully meets/addresses all criterion aspects. Any weaknesses are minor.

V. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE PROJECTS

- 5.1 Following project adjudication, CONICYT will inform those who have been selected as to the date by which they should sign their agreement with CONICYT.
- 5.2 The official start date of the project is understood to be the date upon which the total processing of the administrative act comes to a close through which the respective agreement is also approved.
- 5.3 CONICYT is responsible for the monitoring and supervising of the funds transferred.
- 5.4 CONICYT, with the support of the Advisory Board of the Department of International Relations along with that of other experts, both national and international, will supervise all aspects of project implementation.

VI. Submission of reports:

- 6.1 At **10 and 20 months** into the implementation of the project, the Lead Coordinator **must submit a technical progress report and an accountability report of the resources allocated** for the period of implementation in question (in accordance with the instructions attached to the finance agreement) to the Department of International Relations of CONICYT.
- 6.2 The continuation of the Project and therefore the allocation of funding for the stages that follow will depend on the approval of the technical progress reports, the financial accountability reports and the budgetary availability of CONICYT.
- 6.3 For further transfers to be made, all the previous funds must be accounted for and reimbursed if necessary, that is to say, 100% of the resources allocated.
- 6.4 **Upon completing the project**, the Lead Coordinator must submit a **final technical report** on the results obtained to the Department of International Relations. Likewise, the **final accountability report** on the total amount of resources allocated must be submitted to the resources allocated must be submitted report to the CONICYT Accountability Unit.

VII. If the resources allocated have been used for purposes other than those stated in the project, they must be repaid to CONICYT.

VIII. All scientific productivity associated with projects funded by CONICYT, such as publications, articles, books, patents, or other papers shall contain the acknowledgments to this institution for the funding provided, using the following format: "CONICYT + Programme/Instrument + Folio (Project Code)".

IX. RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES AND CALENDAR

9.1 Receipt of applications:

- All applications must be **completed online and in English** using the formats provided on the CONICYT web page.
- Applications will only be received in CONICYT via the online system **until the 31st of August, 2012, at 16:00pm (Chilean continental time)**.

9.2 Inquiries:

Inquiries may be made via the CONICYT website **until 05 days before the deadline** for receiving applications at, <http://www.conicyt.cl/oirs>