**This is an unofficial translation of the Terms of Reference for this call. The prevailing text is issued in Spanish.**

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS IN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECTS**

**International Cooperation Programme, CONICYT**

**2015**

1. **OVERVIEW**
2. **Background Information**

The strategic objective of the National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research, CONICYT, through its International Cooperation Programme, is to promote international links, for the strengthening of Chilean Science and technology, through support in the participation of scientists of our country in research excellence carried out worldwide.

In view of the above, CONICYT, through its International Cooperation Programme, calls for proposals for projects supporting the development of international research projects between Chile and the United Kingdom.

1. **Call Objectives**

2.1 Strengthen scientific and technological cooperation in order to reach world-class scientific and technological results, through financing research projects between teams of researchers in Chile and partnering research teams in the United Kingdom, the United States or Germany.

2.2 Contribute to the development of human resources, with the aim of participating in cutting-edge research and in new innovative processes, in a way that will provide new knowledge in areas of interest for national development.

1. **Partners**

This Call includes financing for research projects between Chilean researchers and researchers from the United Kingdom, the United States or Germany.

In the case of applications with the United Kingdom, the UK partner in this Call is the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). When applying with the United Kingdom, the Chile-based Principal researcher or the Co- researcher must already be in receipt of a source of research funding that is external to this Call, such as an award from *FONDECYT*, *FONDEF*, *FONDAP*, *Centros Basales*, *Núcleos* or *Institutos Milenio* among others.

1. **Expected Results**

4.1 The scientific or technological projects financed within the framework of this Call must lead to the generation of new knowledge or expected applications through working hypotheses made explicit in the project.

4.2 The projects must also contribute to the strengthening of international cooperation in the scientific areas of the projects through joint publications and dissemination activities.

4.3 Development of quality human resources in the theme of the Project through stays abroad and the development of theses within the framework of the project, among other means.

1. **CONDITIONS OF THE CALL**
2. **Applicants**

Applicants to this Call can be researchers residing in Chile, with experience in the areas of the current Call, who are sponsored by one or more Chilean public or private non-profit institutions, dedicated to scientific research and the development of the areas of this Call with one of the partners mentioned in point 3.

Applicants can only apply as the Principal Researcher on one project; however they can participate as Associate Researchers (co-researchers) in other research projects groups.

1. **Definitions/glossary of terms**

**6.1 Research team:** The research team in Chile shall be formed by a researcher responsible for, at least one research associate and other researchers, namely, postdoctoral fellows, doctoral students, masters students and research assistants. Project support staff (technician/administrative) can also participate in the project. The members of the team in Chile will be Chilean workers or foreign workers resident in Chile.

**6.2 Principal Researcher:** For the purposes of this call, the principal Researcher must have a postdoctoral or doctoral degree. . This is the researcher who leads the project; assumes commitments and obligations that demand his/her execution and acts as technical counterpart to CONICYT. He/She is responsible for timely delivery of technical reports requested, as well as the corresponding account reports. He/she should work in the National Sponsoring Institution.

**6.3 Associate Researcher (co-researcher):** researcher or academic who have a permanent role in the project and work at a University, Centre or Research Institute. He/she should have a postdoctoral or doctoral degree.

**6.4 Alternate Researcher:** One of the Associate researchers who assumes the scientific and technical coordination of the project in the event of temporary absence or impediment of the principal researcher, and in addition will have the same powers as the principal researcher. He/She must also work at the same National Sponsoring Institution as the principal researcher of the project.

**6.5 Other Researchers**: researchers belonging to the Chilean team that hold a doctoral degree; or postgraduate students (masters and PhD) who are doing their thesis and research on issues related to the scope of the project. They can come from any of the sponsoring institutions. These researchers carry out specific tasks within the project, which can last all or part of the period of execution of the project.

**6.6 Research Assistants**: researchers that are not contracted by any of the participating institutions; undergraduate students; or people with a degree or professional degree that may participate during the entire implementation of the project carrying out duties strictly related to the achievement of these objectives.

**6.7 Technical/Administrative Personnel**: they correspond to professionals, technicians or specialists participating in activities or the General tasks of project management support to the work of their researchers.

**6.8 Foreign Reseacher**: Researcher or faculty that works at a university, research center or institution in the foreign counterpart country.

**National Sponsoring Institution:** They are institutions, non-profit public or private, dedicated to scientific research, legal entities, that sponsors the project and the members of the research team. They may be universities, institutes and academic centres of scientific or technological research, centres of independent research, foundations and/or corporations without profits, and public institutes which comply with the requirements already mentioned.

National Sponsoring Institutions may be one of two types:

Main Sponsor: Institution which receives the funds approved by CONICYT to fund the project and also where at least the Principal researcher and the alternate co-researcher of the project are based. At the main sponsor institution other members of the research team may also be based.

Associate Sponsor: Institutions where other members of the research team and people participating in the project are based.

1. **Thematic Areas / Lines of Research**

The Thematic Areas of this Call are as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| PARTNER (COUNTRY) | THEMES |
| Germany-based research groups | All thematic areas. |
| US-based research groups | All thematic areas. |
| UK-based research groups | Impacts of environmental change on terrestrial and marine ecosystems from southern Chile to the Antarctic Peninsula. |

For the projects submitted with UK researchers, a detailed description of the scientific areas of this call can be found in the “UK Annex” published at [www.conicyt.cl/pci](http://www.conicyt.cl/pci) and NERC website.

In addition, the projects submitted with UK researchers should provide significant scientific progress beyond state-of-the-art in the specific science scope of this call, detailed in the UK Annex.

1. **Project Duration (Project execution period)**

Each Project will have a maximum duration of 34 months. The first year of execution will have duration of 10 months. The second and third years will each have duration of 12 months.

1. **Benefits**

The maximum amount of funding that can be requested by the Chilean team for each Project is $35.000.000 (thirty five million Chilean pesos) per year of project execution. This amount includes resources in order to finance the activities included in point 10.

In the case of applications with the United Kingdom, CONICYT will finance the activities and the costs of the Chile-based researchers, and NERC will finance the activities and costs of the UK-based researchers. The UK team of researchers must request their financial resources from NERC in accordance with this institution’s current guidelines and attach this information in the budgetary annex of the project.

Funding for UK applicants will be up to £600k (100%FEC) according to the financial rules of NERC. See the UK Annex for further information.

1. **Funding**

Here below are details on the items, costs that CONICYT is able to finance in each collaboration type and their respective restrictions.

Description of eligible items and funding costs:

**Incentives/Contributions:** expenditure for postdoctoral fellows, undergraduate and graduate students, research assistants and technical staff who work specifically on the project. Incentives/fees must be proportionate to the time spent on the project. It will not finance staff beyond the term of the project.

**Flights:** expenses for national and international tickets in economy class.

**Subsistence Costs:** visit expenses.

**Consultancy and Advice:** Expenses for subcontracting consultants

**Seminars and Diffusion:** expenditure related to the dissemination of results at conferences, courses and others, aimed at non-academic audiences, publication of articles and news on web pages, posters, diaries and journals that will ensure a larger projection media and more relevant considering the nature of the project. It also includes the realization of seminars, conferences, lectures, workshops, workshops on the theme of the project. Expenses arising from the publication of the results of the projects in mainstream magazines, books or chapters of books and their presentation in congresses (at home and abroad) and any other form suitable to this purpose.

**Equipment:** expenditure on equipment (domestic or imported) and accessories, strictly necessary for the execution of the project. It will finance: transfers, transportation, customs clearance and VAT of equipment insurance. Adequacy of infrastructure and/or enabling space for equipment, installation and commissioning of equipment, maintenance, guarantees and insurance of equipment, training, operation of equipment, cost of operation and management of equipment, equipment rentals (including rental vehicles and computer supplies). The adequacy of infrastructure considered making space for existing physical spaces, facilities, offices, laboratories and connections to networks. The goods may include services related to transport, insurance, installation, commissioning, training and initial maintenance, and studies of pre investment in cases showing special need.

**Operational Costs:** includes general costs, expenses in proof of purchase, as well as those specific and timely services (computing, accounting and analysis laboratory, etc.). It also includes the acquisition of software, minor instrumentation and consumables of laboratories, bibliographic material, surveys, meeting costs, check out terrain, transport and consumables etc. It also includes the costs of insurance and medical examinations carried out specifically for field activities financed by the project with resources delivered by CONICYT. You can finance safe travel in those cases where trips are made by participants of the project authorized for this and in strict requirement of the objectives of the project.

**Restrictions:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Item of Expenditure** | **Description / conditions** |
| **Incentives for personnel of the Project in Chile** | Incentives | The payment of salaries and/or fees is excluded for: Principal Researcher, Alternate Researchers, and Associate Researchers. |
| **Internships Abroad** | Flights | Principle Investigator is excluded. |
| Subsistence costs | Stays should have maximum duration of 6 months. The maximum subsistence costs that can be requested is $1.600.000 (one million and six hundred thousand Chilean pesos) per person per month. |
| **Short Stays in Chile** | Flights | For researchers from the research team from Germany or the US.  UK-based researchers must request their funding of this item from NERC. |
| Subsistence costs | For researchers from Germany or the US with short stays for a maximum of 1 month in Chile. The maximum subsistence costs must not exceed $75.000 (seventy five thousand Chilean pesos) per person per day.  UK-based researchers must request funding for this item through NERC. |
| **Short Stays Abroad** | Flights | For Researchers from the Chilean team |
| Subsistence costs | For Researchers from the Chilean team for short stays for a maximum of one month. The maximum subsistence costs must not exceed $75.000 (seventy five thousand Chilean pesos) per person per day. |
| **Other activities inherent to the research project** | Equipment | Not exceeding 20% of the total project costs.  UK-based researchers must request funding for this item through NERC. |
| Operational costs-Flight Expenditure | * National and international flights for the Principal researcher, Associate researcher, and research assistants. * National flights for undergrad students that require travel for conferences or other Events * National flights for support staff if the project needs it. |
| Allowance | The maximum subsistence costs must not exceed $75.000 (seventy five thousand Chilean pesos) per person per day. |

All items and sub items listed above must be purchased according to the procedures laid down in the instructions of accountability accounts for these projects delivered prior to the transfer of funds.

1. **APPLICATION PROCESS**
2. **Application Requirements**

All projects presented must have as a counterpart a research team from one of the countries included in this call and framed in one of the areas expressly referred to in paragraph 7. All applications must include all the documents requested by the CONICYT application system.

The principal researcher must work at the main sponsoring institution that presents the project and reside permanently in Chile during the execution of the project.

The principal researcher must have the support of the national lead sponsor institution to which it belongs. In addition, the proposal may have the support of one or more national associated sponsor institutions.

For applications in partnership with the United Kingdom, the application requirements of the UK-based researchers will be made available through NERC in the “UK Annex”.

**Documents to submit**

The applications received by CONICYT for the evaluation stage, should include the following documents:

Application form completed in English.

Budget form completed in English.

Commitment/Support letter of participation to the project from the overseas counterpart’s Principal researcher.

In the case of applications with researchers from the United States or Germany, the foreign researcher must also commit financial contributions in the commitment letter. The contributions must be described accurately and valued in the commitment letter.

Commitment letter from the main sponsor institution, duly signed by the legal representative or delegate, that certifies that the principal researcher and the alternate researcher work at the same institution. The main sponsor institution may commit funding to the project.

1. Curriculum vitae of Principal researcher in Chile.
2. Curriculum vitae of the Associate Researchers in Chile
3. Curriculum vitae of the foreign Principal Researcher.

In the case of projects with the United Kingdom as the counterpart, in addition to the curriculum vitae of the principal Researcher you must also attach the curriculum vitae of the Associate Researchers in United Kingdom

**Additional documents to be presented**

Projects that consider studies in the Antarctic territory or which have interest in logistical support of the Chilean Antarctic Institute (INACH) for the development of its activities in that area, must submit, if approved, the "enforcement regulations environmental certificate" and "Logistics certification letter" issued by this Institute.

To do this, it will be necessary to send to INACH, by 20th July 2015, proyectos@inach.cl, the official version of the proposal submitted to CONICYT, along with the form 9 on ground support (available on the website www.conicyt.cl/PCI). In qualified situations, INACH may grant an additional period.

Once PCI publishes the results of the call, the applicants of the awarded projects should send to PCI the letter of feasibility, indicating the logistical support of INACH to the project.

INACH is committed to delivering logistical support that will result in the financing of the transfer point to point Punta Arenas – Antarctic Territory - Punta Arenas; displacement within Antarctica, Chilean bases and stay in camps, management enabling to stay in national and foreign bases and camps while within the Antarctic continent.

, Antarctic logistic support will be provided by BAS for UK researchers. For applications in partnership with the United Kingdom, the following documents should be presented on the 28th of July 2015 at the latest:

1. Preliminary Request for Antarctic Logistic Support form (as required)
2. NERC Facilities form/s (as required)

Please see the UK Annex (published at [www.conicyt.cl/pci](http://www.conicyt.cl/pci) and NERC website) for further details on how to apply. The documents should be sent to:

Matthew Dobson, Natural Environment Research Council, Science Programme Officer

Teléfono: 01793 442584  
Mail: [matdob@nerc.ac.uk](mailto:matdob@nerc.ac.uk)

1. **ELIGIBILITY, EVALUATION AND AWARD**
2. **Eligibility**

Incomplete proposals or those not complying with these rules will be declared non-eligible and will not pursue with the evaluation process. Notwithstanding, proposals may be declared non-eligible at any stage of the process prior to the award, notwithstanding the indications included in section 22 of the present terms of reference.

Applications sent after the deadline will not be accepted.

In the case of applications to collaborate with the United Kingdom, the UK counterpart will follow a process of admissibility regarding the UK applicants according to the terms of reference for NERC.

1. **Evaluation Process**

Especially appointed for this call, two Ad-Hoc Committees will participate in the evaluation process; composed by scientists of excellence, experience and expertise in the areas of the submitted projects.

The Committees will be in charge of the process of evaluation and pre-selection of projects. To do this, it will carry out the following activities:

* Review and analyze evaluations, comments and suggestions of external reviewers to the projects. Each proposal will be evaluated by at least two external experts. Where necessary the Committee will be able to evaluate the projects too.
* Carry out a joint assessment in those cases where there are discrepancies, inconsistencies, technical or theoretical weaknesses of external evaluations received.
* Propose to CONICYT a prioritized list of projects recommended to be awarded.

In the case of the projects presented with UK counterparts, experts in the scientific area of this call appointed by NERC and CONICYT will participate in the specific Chile-UK Joint Ad Hoc Committee. In addition to the above mentioned activities, the Chile-UK Joint Ad Hoc Committee will critically review the science scope of the submitted proposals and its accordance with the objectives of the call and the thematic areas mentioned in section 7. Where projects are judged not to fit the thematic area for UK based researchers they will be removed from the funding frame.

In the case of projects presented with counterparts from the United States or Germany, an Ad-Hoc Committee will be formed with experts nominated by CONICYT.

The criteria and their respective weights to be considered in the evaluation of the projects submitted to the call are indicated below.

| **Category** | **Evaluation Criteria** | **Weighting** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Quality of the proposal | Scientific quality of the proposal | 30% |
| Relevance, pertinence and originality | 15% |
| Scientific and management capacity | Capacity and suitability of the research team | 30% |
| Potential impact | Scientific and technological impact of the project | 25% |

1. **The scientific quality of the Project criteria considers the following aspects:**
   * + - Clarity in the research, training of young researchers, dissemination and knowledge transfer objectives.
       - Scientific rigor in the formulation of the project (state of the art, hypotheses, methodology-experiments, controls, analysis, projection of results).
       - Clarity, rigor and pertinence of the methodology to be used in planned activities.
       - Coherence between project objectives, results, activities and resources required and the timeframes proposed (work plan and organisation).
2. **Relevance, pertinence and originality refers to**:
   * + - Pertinence of the project vis-á-vis the call objectives.
       - Relevance of the topic of the project.
       - Consideration of multi-disciplinary factors leading to attainment of the objectives set forth.
3. **Capacity and suitability of the research team** refers to the scientific productivity of the group of researchers composing the research team and the real or potential capability of the participants to fulfil project objectives.
4. **Scientific and technological impact of the project,** meaning the contributions expected from the project in its field. These may include:
   * + - Generation of new knowledge in the project field
       - Development and consolidation of top-tier lines of investigation
       - Training of quality human resources in the project field

Each assessment criterion will be assigned a score of 0 to 5. Half scores are possible (but not other fractions). In general, the passing score will be deemed as three points. The threshold for individual criteria will be 3.

Scoring guidelines:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Does not qualify | The proposal does not meet/address the criterion under examination or can not be evaluated due to lack of records or incomplete information. |
| 1. Deficient | The proposal does not comply/ address adequately aspects of the criterion or contains serious inherent weaknesses. |
| 1. Regular | The proposal complies/addresses overall aspects of the criterion, but there are significant gaps. |
| 1. Good | The proposal meets/addresses properly aspects of criteria, but requires some improvements. |
| 1. Very Good | The proposal meets/addresses properly aspects of criteria in a competent fashion, although some improvements are possible. |
| 1. Excellent | The proposal complies/addresses in outstanding fashion with all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any weakness is minor. |

1. **Selection, award and presentation of results**

Given equal circumstances and in case of a tie, the Ad Hoc Committees will prefer those proposals that indicate availability of additional resources from their foreign counterparts to implement the project, notwithstanding other criteria may be used to break a tie.

CONICYT shall approve the decision and award the projects through the corresponding administrative act.

Subsequently, the results of this call shall be communicated by certified letter to all of the lead researchers of applicants from Chile.

Applicants may file a corresponding appeal to the Head of Service within 5 working days of the notification. In addition, this information shall be published on the CONICYT website.

In the case of the projects presented with UK counterparts, CONICYT and NERC will jointly decide on the basis of the exchange of the results, of the negotiations between the parties and the budgetary availability of CONICYT and the counterpart agency, which projects are to be granted, through an exchange of notes or joint meetings between the two institutions.

The call may consider waiting list, in case CONICYT deems its pertinence. The waiting list will be materialized through the corresponding administrative act and will operate in the following cases: resignation of any of the beneficiaries, or in the case that some of them are prevented from executing the project; if the beneficiary does not sign the grant contract in due time according to the terms of reference; or if additional budgetary means are available in the funding period.

1. **PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP**
2. **Signing of agreement**

Following the award, CONICYT will inform the lead researcher in Chile the timeframe for the signing of the financing agreement. This document shall expressly set forth the rights and obligations of each of the parties, the duration of the project and all such clauses regarding the compliance with the objectives of the call and the use of the resources transferred by CONICYT for the stated purposes of the project.

For all legal purposes and the signing of the corresponding agreement, the counterpart to CONICYT shall be the Primary Sponsoring Institution participating in the project and at which the lead researcher serves.

Institutions awarded projects under this call shall present an annex to the signed agreement containing a Certificate of Registration in the Registry of Collaborators of the State and Municipalities, a pre-requisite for CONICYT to be able to transfer resources, in accordance with Law 19862 of 08/02/2003.

At the moment of signing, the Primary Sponsoring Institution, as the case may be, shall take out in the name of CONICYT a guarantee of faithful compliance with the commitments made. This will consist of a performance bond payable on sight or an immediately enforceable insurance policy in the amount of the total resources for the first year of the project or for the total amount of the full project. As the case may be, this document shall remain valid up to 90 days following conclusion of the first year of the project or following the total term of the same. Should the performance bond include solely the resources for the first year of implementation of the project, it shall be renewed upon completion of that period. The transfer of resources for the second and third years shall be carried out following receipt of the technical progress report and corresponding rendering of accounts for the total amount of funds provided during the previous period, according to the budgetary availability of CONICYT.

Should the project term be extended, the bond shall be renewed as well to ensure its validity through 90 days following the end of the extension granted.

According to the Act 15.978/10 of the Court of Audit of Chile, national institutions belonging to the administration of the State “shall not be obligated to guarantee or ensure compliance with the commitments made to other administrative entities of the State.” As such, CONICYT should not require the presentation of guarantees from State institutions for the resources to be transferred in the frame of agreements signed between the parties.

Nonetheless, CONICYT has the powers necessary to apply its procedures on guarantees in the fashion necessary to ensure the technical and financial fulfilment of its projects.

In the case of projects in collaboration with the United Kingdom, the UK counterpart shall sign a funding agreement with NERC.

1. **Duration of the project, period of implementation and transfer of resources**

. The entry into force of the grant contract shall be calculated as of the date of completion of the administrative procedures by CONICYT that approve the financing agreement.

The resources granted by CONICYT shall be transferred to the Primary Sponsoring Institution in Chile.

The funds transferred to awardees shall be subject, where applicable, to the provisions of Resolution 759/2003 of the Court of Audit of Chile.

1. **Follow-up and supervision of the project: delivery of technical and financial reports**

The lead researcher shall be responsible for complying strictly and in a timely fashion with the dates and format for the presentation of academic and financial reports, as follows:

Technical Reports:

• The lead researcher in Chile shall send to CONICYT a scientific progress report during months 10 and 22 of the implementation of the project.

• In addition, he/she shall send a final scientific report within 30 days following the termination of the project.

Financial Reports:

• The lead researcher shall provide to the financial control unit a rendering of the full amount of resources transferred during the period, in accordance with the financial reporting directives to be provided by CONICYT when the resources for that period are transferred.

• Financial reports shall be presented during months 10 and 22 of project implementation.

• In addition, he/she shall send a final financial report within 30 days following the termination of the project

CONICYT is responsible for the Control and Supervision of the funds transferred. The financial control unit of the Department of Administration and Finance of CONICYT, will be the body responsible for validating (approve or reject) the expenses submitted by the main sponsoring institution of the project.

For purposes of accountability, only expenses on behalf of the Principal Sponsoring Institution will be accepted.

The original accountability documentation should be sent to CONICYT for review and approval, as a condition for proceeding with the transfer of new resources. The accountability report will be returned to the investigator of the project as soon as revised.

In projects whose budget exceeds the amount of $ 50 million, it will be mandatory to have a bank account exclusively for managing the resources given by CONICYT to the project. These projects must attach the respective monthly statements and bank reports to give account for the financial movements, considering such binding documents as part of the financial report. Only in cases where the National Main Sponsoring Institution is unable to comply with the above legal provisions, it is compulsory to have separate accounts or an exclusive cost-center.

The statement of expenditure of public institutions must be submitted monthly, with declaration of expenditure to the respective program for validating the relevance of expenses.

The financial report of private institutions must be submitted to the financial control unit, with the original documentation supporting the expenses incurred.

The documents subject to spending reporting must be issued to the main sponsoring institution, and in no case on behalf of CONICYT.

Sending duplicate expenses is sufficient cause for unilateral and anticipated termination of the project, and CONICYT can demand full or partial repayment of the funds transferred. Duplicated expensed is any document which is presented more than once in the same project or in different projects financed by CONICYT or other public institution, or any other fund out of the public administration bodies.

The approval of the technical progress reports and presentation of financial reports will be necessary to make further transfers where appropriate.

The transfer of resources for the second and third years of the project will be made once the technical progress report and the respective accountability of funds given in the previous period is approved.

If the resources transferred are used for purposes other than those specified in the project, these must be returned to CONICYT.

Should the lead researcher fail to comply with any of the obligations stemming from these rules or the specific agreement signed, CONICYT may terminate the project forthwith and may further request the partial or complete return of resources transferred or collect on the performance bond presented, notwithstanding and reserving all rights to any legal action that may be applicable.

CONICYT may perform supervision of the objectives and milestones set forth in the project and in the corresponding agreement, and shall be empowered to request information at any point in the project. As a result, CONICYT may conduct on-site visits to participating institutions and/or request presentations by the project’s Lead Researcher. Awardees shall facilitate such supervision activities.

1. **Mentioning the support of CONICYT**

All scientific production associated with the project financed under this program, such as publications, articles, books, patents, presentations, etc. shall contain due recognition of CONICYT funding thereof in the following format: “CONICYT + Program/Instrument + Page (Project Code)”.

In the case of projects in collaboration with the United Kingdom, the format will be: “CONICYT + NERC+ Program/Instrument + Page (Project Code)”.

1. **Modification of the project**

During the project, the Chilean Lead Researcher may request modifications to the project. Such requests shall be made in writing, in a timely fashion and shall include an explanation of the grounds for the request. Petitions shall be addressed to CONICYT’s International Cooperation Program. Modifications may include: changes in activities and/or team members, redistribution of benefits received, timeframes for project implementation, financial reports, etc. Such modifications shall not be implemented without the authorisation of CONICYT, upon written approval Issued by the Programme of International Cooperation.

1. **End of the project (normal and early)**

Once the term for the project has run its course, the project shall conclude when the objectives and results have been met to CONICYT’s satisfaction and the technical and financial reports have been approved. At that point, a project termination document shall be signed, which shall be approved by means of the corresponding administrative act.

CONICYT will put anticipated term to the agreement signed, if follow-up activities, review of technical progress reports or financial reports, consider that the objectives of the call have not been fulfilled after requesting the report to the researcher/project manager.

1. **OBLIGATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS**
2. **Compliance and interpretation of the Terms of reference**

CONICYT reserves the right to interpret the meaning and scope of these rules in case of questions and/or discrepancies that may arise with regard to their application.

CONICYT may, at any time, prior to the signing of the agreement and during the implementation of such, verify full and complete compliance with these rules and, specifically, the accuracy and complete nature of the information presented in the corresponding applications under this call as well as that of any supporting documentation. Should inconsistencies, omissions and/or incompatibilities be identified, CONICYT shall declare the award(s) involved inadmissible.

1. **Restrictions**

* Any official or civil servant officiating in any phase of this call is excluded from participating in any phase of the call.
* Funds transferred by CONICYT may not be used in any financial instruments, whether fixed or variable income, short or long term (mutual funds, shares, certificates of deposit, bonds, etc.). The use of CONICYT funds in such fashion is sufficient cause for the unilateral early termination of the project.
* Payments for such purposes as compensations (for example: in lieu of months’ notice, annual leave or years of service, and other kinds of compensation, etc.) shall be deemed ineligible as they do not respond to the objectives of the projects funded by CONICYT.

1. **CONSULTATIONS AND THE CALL CALENDAR**
2. **Questions**

May be posed via the CONICYT website up to 5 days prior to the close of the application period: <http://www.conicyt.cl/oirs>

For queries regarding proposals with the UK, please contact

Matthew Dobson, Natural Environment Research Council, Science Programme Officer

Phone: 01793 442584

Mail: [matdob@nerc.ac.uk](mailto:matdob@nerc.ac.uk)

1. **Publication and call calendar**

Publication of the call

CONICYT shall issue a call for the present process through the publication in a domestic newspaper with nationwide circulation and on its website, indicating the dates the process opens and concludes.

The terms of reference will be available at <http://www.conicyt.cl>

Reception of Applications

Applications will be received exclusively online at <http://www.conicyt.cl>. Applications may be submitted until 16.00 hours Chilean continental time on July 27th, 2015.