GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS FOR SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE SÃO PAULO RESEARCH FOUNDATION AND THE RESEARCH FOUNDATION – FLANDERS

Call for scientific cooperation projects for the period 2020-2021

FAPESP and FWO, signed a Cooperation Agreement for Research on the 21st of March 2018, aiming to implement scientific cooperation between researchers from Flanders, Belgium, and from the State of São Paulo, Brazil, through the funding of joint research projects.

Under the referred Agreement, as a continuation of this fruitful collaboration to promote such collaboration, FAPESP and FWO make public this Call for Proposals for the exchange of faculty and postdoctoral researchers under the terms and conditions of the SPRINT 3rd Edition 2019 (www.fapesp.br/sprint/call32019) and hereinafter set forth.

I. Definition, aim of the collaboration

Joint scientific cooperation projects are performed with the participation of research teams of both the State of São Paulo, Brazil, and Flanders and have a duration of two years (24 months).

Proposals for joint scientific cooperation projects between researchers from Flanders and the State of São Paulo, Brazil, can be submitted for fundamental research in all scientific domains with the objective of increasing and developing cooperation between the scientific communities of the Parties, with special attention to the exchange of junior researchers within the framework of joint scientific cooperation projects.

Joint scientific cooperation projects should:

a) encourage bilateral fundamental research,

b) promote the exchange of knowledge, and

c) promote the implementation of joint research activities.

II. Guidelines for applicants

Application:

In order to be eligible, a proposal must meet the following criteria:

- Projects must be endorsed by Principal Investigators (PIs) (one Brazilian (State of São Paulo) and one Flemish) duly authorized to conduct research and providing the guarantees on the operational (financial) resources. Principal Investigators (Flemish as well as Brazilian) are required to have a PhD degree to submit a proposal.

- Proposals must be submitted simultaneously at FWO by the PI in Flanders and at FAPESP by the PI in the State of São Paulo, Brazil, respecting the submission deadline and by using the respective application forms of the Parties. In Flanders the proposal can only be submitted according to the
regulations of FWO. In the State of São Paulo, Brazil, the proposal can only be submitted according to the regulations of FAPESP.

- The proposal must be **written in English** jointly by the Principal Investigator in the State of São Paulo and the Principal Investigator in Flanders. The title, names of the Flemish and Brazilian PI's, project description, methodology, work packages, etc. in the research proposal submitted by the Flemish and Brazilian PI should be identical.

- Principal Investigators are responsible for the management of the funds provided by their respective organisations, and should mutually agree on the number of visiting days each year.

- In addition, **all members of the Brazilian and the Flemish teams** should have or create an account on the **FWO e-portal** and keep their publication list up to date.

**In Flanders:**

- The Flemish research group should submit the form ‘**Application for international cooperation programmes**’ (to be found on the FWO website) to **interprog@fwo.be**.

- PIs must hold, throughout the entire period of the project, an appointment of at least 50% at:
  
  - a university in the Flemish Community (including the academic programmes within the corresponding association), or to;
  - a federal or Flemish scientific institute as scientific staff of the Dutchspeaking community, or to;
  - a university hospital in the Flemish Community as scientific staff, or to;
  - a hospital with an academic character recognized as research center in the Flemish Community as scientific staff.

- Please note that at Flemish side, in each scientific cooperation project at least one junior researcher with no more than 6 years of postdoctoral experience should be engaged to perform an exchange.

**In Brazil (State of São Paulo)**

- The Brazilian research group should submit the application through the SAGe system according to item 8.3 at **www.fapesp.br/sprint/call32019**.

- Eligibility of research partners in the State of São Paulo should observe the items 3.1 and 4.2 of FAPESP call (**www.fapesp.br/sprint/call32019**).

- Considering the principle of reciprocity, FAPESP exceptionally may either support PhD students from São Paulo state to take part in the scientific missions. In this case, the PhD student(s) must have an ongoing FAPESP fellowship during the planned exchange mission to the partner institution.
FWO and FAPESP will check whether the proposals have been submitted both in Flanders and Brazil (State of São Paulo) and inform each other of the eligibility. Lack of submission of the application to one of the parties will cause the application to be considered ineligible.

**Funding principles:**

FAPESP offers researchers from Brazil (State of São Paulo) funding of €\textbf{10,000.00} (ten thousand euros) per proposal per year to cover travel expenses towards/from Flanders, accommodation and living expenses.

FWO offers researchers from Flanders a \textbf{daily living allowance of €66} (or max. €1,650 per month) \textbf{on top of the travel expenses} towards/from Brazil, to be booked through \textbf{a travel agency authorized by the FWO}.

During their travel and stay abroad, all researchers (from the Flemish as well as from the Brazilian research teams) involved in FAPESP-FWO projects and independent of nationality, can rely on a travel and assistance insurance (’reis- en bijstandsverzekering’) and repatriation covered by FWO. This insurance is not a health insurance. Regardless of the aforementioned insurance, all researchers should have a valid health insurance entitling the holder to free emergency medical treatment in the host country.

The responsibility for the provision of adequate insurance against accidents that may occur during the stay in the host country (’arbeidsongevallenverzekering’) rests with the research institution to which the researcher stays affiliated during the joint scientific cooperation project. The research institution to which the researcher is travelling, shall provide the visitor with all indispensable organisational assistance in situations requiring such steps.

**Evaluation:**

Eligible applications are evaluated separately by FWO and FAPESP according to their own evaluation mechanisms. More information on these procedures can be found on the respective websites of FAPESP and FWO during the application period.

Based on these separate evaluations, FAPESP and FWO jointly select the projects recommended for funding. Only projects evaluated positively by both Parties can be funded.

**III. Procedures for exchange visits in the frame of scientific cooperation projects**

1. Individual missions in the frame of two-year FAPESP-FWO projects need to obtain an approval from both Parties.
   In order to obtain such mission approval:
   - the involved Flemish researcher needs to apply at FWO with the ‘\textit{Notification for a stay abroad}’ form which can be downloaded at the FWO website;
   - the involved Brazilian researcher needs to clearly state the missions and its justifications in the research project.
2. Three months before the actual exchange, the sending Party should provide the host Party with all the details concerning the planned mission and the involved researcher(s), hereby requesting a final approval of the mission towards the host country.
   - Flemish researchers should detail in the ‘Notification for a stay abroad’ form the first name and surname of the researcher(s) involved, grades, actual work position, place of work, specialisation, languages skills, dates of the stay abroad, travel means, address of stay abroad, and a detailed scientific programme of their stay abroad. The request should include an invitation letter of the host institution of the receiving country.
   - Brazilian researchers: as described at [www.fapesp.br/sprint/call32019](http://www.fapesp.br/sprint/call32019), the project proposal at Brazilian side must include the following items:
     a. A substantive description of the exchange activities, emphasizing their relevance. The proposal must state clearly how the exchange activities to be carried out by each team will contribute to the ongoing research project funded by FAPESP and to the research being carried by the partner researcher in Flanders;
     b. A description of each candidate’s contribution to the mission, explaining their expertise to carry out the foreseen activities;
     c. Potential foreseen actions that will add to the impact of the exchange for the Host Institution in Flanders and for the Host Institution in the State of São Paulo, e.g. by means of seminars, short courses etc;
     d. Description of how the Principal Investigators in São Paulo and in Flanders intend to prepare a joint research project, resulting from the exchange activities developed from the proposal submitted in this Call, to be submitted to research funding agencies accessible in their regions in order to create a medium-long-term collaboration (up to one page).
     e. Letter of Agreement of the Host Institution in the State of São Paulo to which the PI from São Paulo is affiliated. The same document is required by FAPESP in item 6.2.3 at [www.fapesp.br/sprint/call32019](http://www.fapesp.br/sprint/call32019). The Letter of Agreement may be delivered after the notification of results of this call for proposals and before the grant agreement signature. Please note that this Letter of Agreement only has to be submitted to FAPESP and not to FWO.

3. Two months before the actual exchange, the host Party should inform the sending party about the decision taken concerning the acceptance of the requested scientific mission.
4. Beneficiaries of this Agreement may not receive remuneration for their activities in the host country during their stay funded by the joint scientific cooperation projects.

IV. Time schedule

- Pre-announcement of the call at FWO: 24th of June 2019
- Launch of the new call for applications: 30th of July 2019
- Deadline for submission: 28th of October 2019
  - At FWO: 5 pm (Belgian time)
  - At FAPESP: up to midnight (Brazilian time)
- Evaluation period: October-December 2019
- Final selection and communication results: January 2020
- Start of projects: April 2020

V. Contact information

At FAPESP:

Scientific Directorate
Bruna Musa
Science Manager
bruna@fapesp.br

At FWO:

International Affairs
Tinne Jacobs
Advisor International Affairs
Tel: +32 2 550 15 44
Tinne.Jacobs@fwo.be

Account administrators international mobility
Tel: +32 (0)2 550 15 92
interprog@fwo.be