

CALL FOR PROPOSALS of Independent ANII - MPG Research Groups

(en español: Grupos Independientes Asociados — GIA)

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A) General Guidelines

The Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación (ANII) announces this International Call for Proposals to strengthen the collaboration between universities and research institutions in Uruguay and Max Planck Institutes (MPI) worldwide.

Highly qualified investigators with several years of very successful postdoctoral experience are invited to submit research proposals to establish an **Independent Research Group (IRG)** at universities or research Institutes in Uruguay, in strong collaboration with researchers in one of the current 186 Max Planck Institutes.

The International Research Groups should strengthen the personal collaborative ties between the Head of the Research Group and the MPI, a research stay at a Max Planck Institute, safeguarding the continuity of scientific collaboration and research activities to the mutual benefit. They are intended to foster interest-led research collaborations of the Max Planck Institutes at the highest quality standards - as confirmed by external evaluations - and significantly contribute to increasing the international circulation of the best minds.

The terms and conditions of the Call for Proposals are described below.

1. Objectives of the Call

- 1.1 This call aims to select highly qualified scientists with several years of outstanding postdoctoral experience who are willing and highly motivated to lead an Independent Research Group (IRG), which will be funded under the ANII International Research Group Program for 5 years.
- 1.2 This call should help to establish new independent research groups in universities and research institutions in Uruguay which are led by outstanding postdoctoral investigators in strong cooperation with outstanding principal investigators at Max Planck Institutes.

2. Duration of Independent Research Groups

- 2.1 The Independent Research Group shall be set up for five years with the possibility of a two-year extension after successful evaluation.
- 2.2 After five years, and under the condition that the Group Leader obtained a permanent position in a university or research institution in Uruguay, he/she can continue his/her research activities by applying for funding in ANII regular lines.

3. Application requirement

Applications should be submitted to the Max Planck Liaison Office for Latin America (latam@gv.mpg.de) under ANIIs conditions and restrictions unless explicitly defined otherwise in this Call for Proposals (See “TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR URUGUAY” at the end of this document, page 6)

4. Eligibility

4.1 Eligible candidates must:

- a) Comply with the eligibility requirements of ANII specified at “TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR URUGUAY” at the end of this document, page 6.
- b) Be successful in its scientific career with several years of postdoctoral experience in internationally competitive research groups and highly motivated to develop and carry out an internationally competitive research program.

4.2 This program is particularly suitable for excellent applicants who have already held one or two post-doc positions and who would now like to — and deem themselves apt to — head a research group and to elaborate together on own research ideas independently. Please note that the positions for an independent research group are only open to applicants who hold a doctorate.

5. Fields of research

This Call for Proposals invites research proposals in the following themes:

- Covid -19: recovery and new normality
- Computational Sciences and Informatics
- Molecular Biology, Biomedicine and Health
- Environmental Sciences and Monitoring
- Energy Research
- Research on Education and Social and Legal Development
- Plant Sciences and Biotechnology
- Material Sciences and Nanotechnology

6. Timeline

Call announced by ANII	10th August 2021
Closing date for the submission of proposals including a letter of support from an interested institution in Uruguay and from a Max Planck Institute	11th October 2021
External evaluation coordinated by the Max Planck Liaison Office for Latinamerica	15th November 2021
Final approved proposals notified	30th November 2021

7. Project Proposal characteristics

The project proposal has to be **submitted in English and** must contain:

7.1 The following documents are required for the application:

- a) Cover Page
- b) Curriculum vitae including a list of scientific publications and a description of scientific achievements (max. 3 pages) **(CV in English)**
- c) Copies of three selected publications (full text copies)
- d) Research plan for the group (max. 2 pages) (please consider the item 12.2 to organize available resources during the five years)
- e) Draft budget for the first five years (please specify how you plan to distribute the human resources available in item 12.2)
- f) Names and contact details of six potential international reviewers, a maximum of two may be from Germany. It is the applicant's responsibility to inform the referees in advance that the Liaison Office might communicate with them requesting an evaluation of their project. In case none of the referees answer in due time consideration of the application cannot be ensured.

7.2 Candidates must include a **cooperative letter** in MPI letterhead and signed by a principal investigator at a Max Planck Institute, stating past, present and future collaborative activities and financial commitment.

7.3 Candidates must include a **support letter** by the university or research institution in Uruguay which will host the research group. The support letter should be signed by the rector of the hosting university or the director of the hosting research institution, stating past, present and future collaborative activities and financial commitment.

8. Submission of proposals

8.1 The **proposal** as specified in the previous section must be submitted by the deadline stated in section six above.

8.2 No proposal will be accepted after the closing date for submission, nor will any addendum or explanation be accepted, unless those explicitly and formally requested by ANII or Max Planck

8.3 Submissions will only be accepted in form of a single PDF file containing all the items in the order stated in 7, to the following email address: latam@gv.mpg.de, with the denomination "CALL ANII/MaxPlanck 2021". Only proposals which have been received within the deadline of this Call will be processed.

9. Analysis and selection procedure

9.1 All proposals will be screened considering the eligibility aspects described in item four above. Proposals that do not comply with the terms of this Call will not qualify for analysis.

9.2 The proposals accepted for review will be analyzed by MPG. The merit review process will evaluate primarily the Principal Investigator. Criteria are:

- a) The applicants must be a researcher that has already a remarkable scientific output for their career level, evaluated by the summary of their Curriculum Vitae.

b) The applicant must be qualified to independently coordinate a research project in order to set up and run a research group.

9.3 The criteria for the grant proposal are:

- a) Definition of objectives.
- b) Originality and importance of the intended contributions for the respective research field.
- c) Innovative scientific rationale and Chosen methods.
- d) Adequacy of the requested resources to the desired scientific or technological contribution.

9.4 Once the evaluation process is ended, the Max Planck Liaison Office for Latinamerica will submit a list of the proposed candidates to the board of Directors of ANII who will select the final candidates according to budget availability.

10. Results of the Call

Final results of the Call will be announced on ANII website <http://www.anii.org.uy/> and the web page of the collaborating Max Planck Institutes and by means of a communication to the candidates.

11. The Grant Contract

11.1 Selected proposals will be the object of a grant contract (ANII) to be signed by the Group Leader and a representative of the Higher Education and Research Institution to which he/she will be affiliated.

12. Funding

12.1 The Independent Research Groups are jointly funded and supported by ANII, the collaborating Max Planck Institute and the hosting university or research institution in Uruguay.

12.2 ANII will provide funding for:

- a) running **research costs** allowed by ANII for International Partner Groups or for technical staff (2 years);
- b) one **PhD Fellowship in Uruguay** (3 years). The monthly value of the scholarship is announced at "TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR URUGUAY" at the end of this document, page 6,
- c) one **Post-Doctoral fellowship in Uruguay** for a post-doc to be selected by the Group Leader (2 years);

12.3. The cooperating Max Planck Institute will provide up to € 30.000 per year for the research work of the International Partner Group . The funding of the MPI is to be used by the Head of Independent Research Group to cover personnel and travel costs, material costs and running lab costs, access to facilities and infrastructure and the purchase of minor scientific equipment for the Research Group's work. The budget of the Research Group may not be used towards salary increments or salaries of permanent staff.

12.4 The hosting university or research Institution will guarantee the salary of the Independent Research Group leader and of the academic and non-academic staff. The hosting Institution is responsible for the social insurance for the Independent Research Group leader and other staff and for providing further assistance.

13. Accommodation and Infrastructure

As a model text for the support letter: "The hosting Institution in Uruguay, agrees to provide the laboratory and office rooms and the infrastructure for the International Partner Group as well as administrative services. Within the scope of this

cooperation agreement, the hosting institution of ... agrees to grant the investigators in the Independent Research Group cost-free use of the scientific and technical facilities and infrastructure at the hosting institution of ..., Uruguay".

14. Confidentiality, Publications, Intellectual Property

Before any funding by ANII is delivered to the finally selected research proposals, the Hosting Higher Education and Research Institution in Uruguay and the associated Max Planck Institute must formally agree in a Cooperation Agreement for the Independent Research Group an aspects of funding, confidentiality, publication and intellectual property rights, among others, in observance of the policies of each funding Party.

15. Coordination of the Call for Proposals

All questions related to this Call for Research Proposals should be directed to:

15.1 ANII becas@anii.org.uy

15.2 Max-Planck-Gesellschaft: Dr. Andreas Trepte — latam@gv.mpg.de

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR URUGUAY

B) Complementary guidelines for Uruguayan applicants

This document defines the terms and conditions for the funding awarded by ANII within the scope of the **CALL FOR PROPOSALS of Independent ANII - MPG Research Groups 2021** for Uruguayan candidates.

This call for proposals shall be governed, in all matters applicable, by the current General Regulations of the National Fellowship Program, and by the cooperation agreement between ANII and the Max Planck Institute. These documents are available at <www.anii.org.uy>.

The applications must be related to the following areas:

- Covid-19: recovery and new normality
- Computational Sciences and Informatics
- Molecular Biology, Biomedicine and Health
- Environmental Sciences and Monitoring
- Energy Research
- Research on Education and Social and Legal Development
- Plant Sciences and Biotechnology
- Material Sciences and Nanotechnology

GENERAL ASPECTS

The aim of the call is to strengthen the collaboration between Uruguayan universities and research institutions and the Max Planck institutes. This shall be done through the establishment of an Independent Research Group

(IRG) within a Uruguayan university or research institution in close collaboration with researchers from one of the 84 Max Planck institutes.

ANII'S CONTRIBUTION

For the operation of the Independent Research Group, ANII shall award financial support for:

- **Doctoral fellowships in Uruguay (3 years):** A national doctoral fellowship shall be awarded for a maximum term of 36 months (not renewable). During the term of this fellowship, the grant holder shall receive the current sum awarded for ANII's national doctoral fellowships with a weekly commitment of 30 hours.
- **Postdoctoral fellowships in Uruguay (2 years):** A national doctoral fellowship shall be awarded for a maximum term of 24 months (not renewable). ANII may fund up to 80% of the total sum awarded, with a maximum monthly stipend of fifty-three thousand Uruguayan pesos (UYU 53,000), while the applying institution must cover the remainder of the grant. This fellowship requires a weekly commitment of at least 40 hours. The cost of a one round-trip airline ticket to or from Uruguay shall also be reimbursed for up to four thousand United States dollars (USD 4,000).
- **Research expenses (2 years):** A sum of up to twelve thousand United States dollars (USD 12,000) shall be awarded as funding for supplies and/or the hiring of technical staff.

ELIGIBILITY

CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR HEAD OF A PARTNER GROUP IN URUGUAY

- Uruguayan or foreign researchers who have resided in Uruguay for no less than two years at the closing date of the call, and who have the endorsement of a national public or private nonprofit institution whose activities include research, may apply for a grant. (See specific attachment regarding the ANII - Max Planck call)
- Applications will not be accepted if the Head of a Partner Group in Uruguay is, at the closing date of the call, non-compliant with ANII in any of its programs (e.g., pending technical progress reports, final disclosure, end-of-term reports, surveys).
- National researchers, including fellowship candidates, must submit their curriculum vitae (CV) in the CVuy format, duly updated at the time of the closing date of the call.
- No national member of the research team can accumulate more than 60 hours per week in work-related activities (including teaching hours and time engaged in other public or private jobs).
- The same individual can be the scientific coordinator and co-coordinator of no more than two research projects with national funding running simultaneously (ANII, INIA-FPTA, CSIC).

CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS IN URUGUAY

Candidates for a national doctoral fellowship must meet the following criteria:

- a. Be Uruguayan or of foreign nationality, preferably residing in the country for at least two years.
- b. At the time of signing the contract, the beneficiary must provide ANII with proof of being part of the doctoral program.
- c. Both the advisor and the national co-advisor must have entered their respective CVs in the CVuy System. The advisor must be a member of the proposing team. The quotas and requirements for advisors defined in the General Regulations of the National Fellowship Program shall apply.



- d. The candidate must have also entered his or her CV in the CVuy System before submitting the application.
- e. Candidates who have been non-compliant with a previous fellowship or who are disqualified by a Board Resolution for non-compliance with any other ANII program shall not be eligible.

CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS IN URUGUAY

Candidates for a national postdoctoral fellowship must meet the following criteria:

- a. Be a Uruguayan or foreign scientist seeking to carry out postdoctoral studies at a national institution undertaking research activities within the country.
- b. Submit a CV preferably in the CVuy format.
- c. Submit an endorsement letter by the national institution in which the candidate plans to carry out the fellowship (signed by the highest institutional authority).
- d. Candidates who are disqualified by a Board Resolution for non-compliance with any ANII program shall not be eligible.
- e. The beneficiary must have a Research Group Supervisor, who must be a member of the proposing team.
- f. Present a support letter from the Max Planck Institute involved in the project

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Applications will only be accepted as a single PDF file (in English) including all the items presented in the Terms and Conditions of the call.

Applications must be sent to the following e-mail address: latam@gv.mpg.de.

Additionally, the endorsement letter by the proposing institution addressed to ANII must be sent to becas@anii.org.uy before the closing day of the call: **11th October 2021**

For inquiries, please contact becas@anii.org.uy (ANII) or latam@gv.mpg.de (Max-Planck-Gesellschaft: Dr. Andreas Trepte).

EXECUTION AND FOLLOW-UP

The aforementioned financial support shall be executed by means of a contract signed between the beneficiary and ANII. For the national doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships, each grant holder must sign a contract with ANII including the work plan to be carried out within the funded project.

Any publication resulting from or related to the selected proposals must be made available on the open access digital repository of the Uruguayan institution to which the proposing party is affiliated or otherwise on the institutional repository of ANII.

The research results will be compiled into a final technical report to be presented to ANII, which will be published in the Agency's repository.