



Comisión Nacional de Investigación
Científica y Tecnológica - CONICYT



FONDECYT COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS FONDECYT-HELMHOLTZ 2012 TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Superior Councils of Science and Technological Development, hereinafter referred to as the "Councils", call for proposals for Collaborative Research Projects for Young Researchers Fondecyt-Helmholtz 2012 from the FONDECYT Programme in accordance with the provisions established in the 1981 Ministry of Education Law Decree No. 33 and the Regulations as stated in the 1982 Supreme Decree No. 834 of this same Ministry.

I. GENERAL OVERVIEW

- 1.1. The objective of this Call for Proposals is to support current existing FONDECYT Initiation into Research projects in the areas of Seismology, Megacities and Polar Research.
- 1.2. Participation in this Call for Proposals is open to Principal Investigators with ongoing Initiation into Research Projects during the 2011 period (October 2011 – October 2012) and their ending date extends beyond the 1st of October 2012.

II. SPECIFIC ASPECTS

- 2.1. CONICYT, through the Fondecyt Programme and the Helmholtz Association of Germany, an autonomous research funding organisation in Germany, pursuant to an International Cooperation Agreement signed in 1971 between the Government of Chile and the Government of Germany, have agreed to make one sole call for proposals for joint research projects in three basic research areas, with the aim of systematically promoting and strengthening scientific and technological cooperation between Chile and Germany.
- 2.2. In order to qualify for this Call for Proposals, the project objectives and complementary activities must be related to an Initiation into Research project in the areas of Seismology, Megacities or Polar Research.
- 2.3. The projects will last a total of three years, beginning on the 1st of December, 2012.

- 2.4. Those ineligible to take part in this application process:
- Principal Investigators of Initiation into Research projects whose academic or financial reports are pending of approval at the closing date for applications.
- 2.5. The maximum amount of funds that may be requested is twenty million pesos (\$20.000.000 CLP) per year.
- 2.6. The General Aspects of the 2012 Initiation into Research Call for Proposals, if applicable, apply to this Call.
- 2.7. Likewise, the Principal Investigator resident in Chile must declare the number of hours per week he/she will commit to the proposal in the Curricular Background section. If the proposal is funded, FONDECYT will verify, each execution year, that participation in all funded projects does not exceed 44 hours per week.

III. APPLICATION

- 3.1. The application shall be submitted through the **online platform** available on the website <http://concursos.conicyt.cl/fondecyt/> . The application should strictly adhere to the rules established in the present terms and conditions. For each of the sections considered mandatory, the submission of all information requested as well as the attachment of forms and documents in unprotected/ unencrypted Pdf format and the adjustment to the number of pages established in each section of the application is required.

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.

- 3.2 All proposals must be submitted in English.
- 3.3. All projects will begin on the 1st of December 2012. Thus, the first year – 2012 – will comprise the period from the 1st of December 2012 to the 30th of November 2013.
- 3.4. The joint project must include two Principal Investigators, one in Chile and one in Germany. They will be the main point of contact for the management of the project with regard to CONICYT and the Helmholtz Association respectively.
- 3.5. The same scientific proposal for the joint project must be submitted simultaneously to both the Helmholtz Association and CONICYT. German

applicants must submit their proposal to the Helmholtz Association, whilst the Applicants from Chile must submit it to CONICYT.

- 3.6. The joint project must contain a strong scientific foundation central to the research and must be supported by the documentation required by the Helmholtz Associations and CONICYT, as applicable.
- 3.7. Only one proposal per applicant shall be accepted in this Call for Proposals.
- 3.8. Institutional Sponsorship must be in place and in effect for the Initiation project at the date of proposal submission.
- 3.9. The proposal must include the following aspects:
 - Identification of the Principal Investigator of the Initiation into Research project.
 - Title and number of the FONDECYT Initiation into Research Project currently under execution;
 - Proposal abstract: Clearly indicate the main points to be addressed: objectives, methodology, expected results to be obtained and the importance of this cooperation in the research. (1 page maximum)
 - Proposal development: this section should contain the general presentation of the problem, specify the new aspects that are to be developed and that involve collaborative work with the counterpart researcher from the Helmholtz Association, indicating the questions and work hypotheses, objectives and associated methodologies, as well as the theoretical basis, bibliographic background, results obtained to date or others relevant to the proposal. (5 pages maximum)
 - Work plan: in relation to the objectives stated, specify the stages and activities for each year of implementation. (1 page maximum)
 - Work environment/scientific setting of the project: state the resources, whether they be instrumental, institutional or other, that shall contribute to the development of the proposal. (maximum length specified in the format)
 - Commitment letter from a Principal Investigator affiliated to a Helmholtz Association Research Center.
 - Curriculum Vitae (publications over the past 5 years) of the Principal Investigator of the Helmholtz Association collaborator and of the national researcher. Female Researchers who have given birth during the 2007 to 2012 period should report of their scientific

productivity starting from 2005. The Birth Certificate each child should be attached to the application form.

- Resources requested and their justification.
- Institutional Sponsorship signature in the Application Form.

The absence or omission of any of above aspects shall become immediate grounds for inadmissibility of the proposal in this Call for Proposals.

3.10. Certification – Authorisation

Researchers of FONDECYT projects must comply with the existing legislation and standards governing scientific activity in the project areas concerned.

Projects involving studies in/with:

- a) Human beings,
- b) Communities and indigenous peoples,
- c) Human biological material,
- d) Animals, samples of animal and/or biological material,
- e) Material representing a biosecurity risk,
- f) Archaeological sites,
- g) Protected species, protected wildlife areas, foreign species introduction,
- h) Archives and/or databases containing sensitive information.

In the cases mentioned above, certification and/or specific authorisation will be required.

It is the Principal Investigator's responsibility to attach in unprotected/unencrypted Pdf format the corresponding certifications and/or authorisations of approval to the online application during the established time-frame. However, those who do not have them available by the closing date of the Call for Proposals will have until the 11th of October, 2012, in order to send them to the Fondecyt Programme via the following email: postulación.fondecyt@conicyt.cl. The absence of these documents will result in the project's dismissal.

The institutional Ethics and Bioethics Committees, at least once during the implementation of the project, will be in charge of assessing the compliance with all the regulations and protocols defined and approved by the FONDECYT Bioethics Advisory Committee. This information shall be submitted in the project's progress or final report.

The Councils reserve the right to directly request an independent ethics/bioethics report and/or an independent report on biosecurity in cases where deemed necessary.

- 3.11. Chilean Antarctic Institute (INACH). Projects considering studies in the Antarctic territory and/or interested in having logistic support from the Chilean Antarctic Institute (INACH) to carry out activities in that territory, must attach a logistic feasibility letter issued by the Institute to the application. For this purpose, the following forms shall be sent to INACH before 27 April, 2011: Logistic-Operative and Environmental Requirements (available in the competition call for proposals: Terms & Conditions and Documents).

In this feasibility letter, INACH must state that if the project is approved by FONDECYT, it will count on logistic support from the institute.

INACH, pursuant to the Collaboration Agreement signed with CONICYT on 22 March, 2007, commits itself to provide logistic support, including transportation between Punta Arenas – Antarctic Territory – Punta Arenas; travels within the Antarctic Territory, stay 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.

- 3.12. The Councils shall ensure the confidentiality of the information contained in the proposal, not only during the application but also throughout its evaluation and implementation stages, the latter in the case funding is awarded.

IV. BENEFITS

- 4.1. Expenses financed by FONDECYT:

The maximum amount of funding that can be requested for a Project is **\$20.000.000 (twenty million pesos)** per year. Administration expenses are not taken into consideration.

This sum includes funding for the following items:

4.1.1. Personnel:

Scholarships for thesis candidates: the maintenance allowance for each thesis student (joint-degree also permitted) may not exceed **\$1.800.000** (one million eight hundred thousand pesos) per year of execution. Thesis students (undergraduate, bachelor's, Masters and Doctorate degrees) are those affiliated with a Programme associated to a national Higher Education Institution. **It is not possible to finance persons who are currently being funded by an ongoing Initiation into Research project.**

Technical and/or support Personnel: Honoraria for these personnel will only be granted once their participation has been clearly defined and justified in terms of the work plan and objectives.

4.1.2. **Travel:**

a) Project travel to the Institution in Germany: Includes travel costs and a living allowance for the project Principal Investigator's visit, for activities related with the project's implementation.

b) Project-related Travel: Includes living allowance and national and/or international transport for the Principal Investigator of the Project, for activities directly related with its implementation or the presentation of its results.

4.1.3. **Operational Expenses:** This item includes expenses such as: computer supplies, laboratory materials and supplies, books, journals and memberships and subscriptions to scientific societies, conference registration fees, purchase of services, hiring of casual staff, minor expenses amongst others. Funding may only be requested for scientific publications generated by the same project and in journals included in the ISI database or its equivalent depending on the nature of the discipline. In the case of books, only the preparation of the manuscript shall be financed, not its publication. Included in this item is the payment of mandatory health insurance for EU countries in the Schengen¹ Treaty.

4.1.4. **Equipment:** Only the purchase of equipment and accessories such as instruments directly required for the execution of this joint Project shall be financed. The requested amount should include transport costs, freight, insurance and import taxes. Upon the termination of the project, these items will become property of the Sponsoring Institution.

4.1.5. The Councils, pursuant to just cause, if so warranted, have the authority to suspend, modify or to rule the early termination of projects, thus ceasing the transfer of funds, as stipulated in the Funding Agreement. CONICYT is responsible for the Control and Auditing of the funds transferred.

¹ The countries included to date are: Germany, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Iceland, Luxemburg, Latvia, Lithuania, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Czech Republic, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland.

V. EVALUATION

- 5.1. Each proposal will be evaluated by the Study Group to which the ongoing Initiation into Research has been assigned. The process will consist of completing one common evaluation form, grading each factor using a scale including 5 categories each with a score of 0 to 5 (intermediate categories of half point increments are also permitted).

0	Ineligible	The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or is not eligible for evaluation due to missing or incomplete information.
1	Poor	The proposal inadequately addresses the criterion, or exhibits serious inherent weaknesses.
2	Fair	While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses.
3	Good	The proposal addresses the criterion well, although some improvements are necessary.
4	Very good	The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements could still be made.
5	Excellent	The proposal outstandingly addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are rather minor.

- 5.2. The factors considered in the evaluation of the projects submitted to this Call for Proposals are:

1. Quality of project/candidates' qualifications	25%
2. Work environment/Scientific setting of the project	25%
3. Objectives and work programme	25%
4. Expected value added from the Chilean-German collaboration in the project	25%

1. Quality of project/candidates' qualifications

This criterion will assess the strength of the preliminary work, the quality of the publications and proposals, the results obtained to date, as well as the originality, scientific importance and impact in a broader sense, in terms of scientific policy, social policy, economic or technical reasoning.

2. Work environment/Scientific setting of the project

Under this criterion, the instrumental requirements and resources, institutional and spatial nature necessary for project implementation will be reviewed.

3. Objectives and Work Programme

This criterion will assess the clarity of the work hypothesis, the appropriateness of the proposed methodology and the ability to implement the project within the expected deadlines or within the provision of a comprehensive time framework.

4. Expected value added from the Chilean-German collaboration in the project

This criterion will assess the description of the significance of the project and the importance of the Chilean-German cooperation in this research collaboration.

VI. CALL FOR PROPOSALS ADJUDICATION

6.1 The Superior Councils of Science and Technological Development of FONDECYT and the Helmholtz Association will decide the results of this Call for Proposals. Such adjudication shall be formalized by way of Order of CONICYT. The result shall be published via the webpages of CONICYT and FONDECYT.

The Principal Investigator will be notified of the results both by registered post and email to the postal and email addresses entered on their application. Said notification shall inform of: the position of the project in the Call for Proposals, the grades assigned, comments on the evaluation, the budget assigned and the report elaborated by the FONDECYT Advisory Bioethics Committee, if applicable.

VII SIGNING OF AGREEMENT

All agreements will be signed between CONICYT, the Principal Investigator and the Sponsoring Institution. Signing by proxy or mandate is not permitted.

Funding Agreements will be valid from the 1st of December 2012. These agreements will expressly establish the rights and obligations of each of the parties, the Councils' powers and all clauses that best safeguard the fulfillment of FONDECYT's objectives. Upon signing this agreement, the Sponsoring Institution commits itself to ensure the appropriate implementation of the project, and secure, install and maintain the equipment acquired for this project throughout its execution period and until the approval of the final report.

A project may be terminated prematurely, under exceptional circumstances, due to the following reasons:

- At the request of the Principal Investigator(s), institutional authorities or other projects participants.
- By the authority of the Councils if it is established that the resources allocated to the Principal Investigator(s) are not being used for the

purposes that were requested or the contractual obligations established under the respective funding agreements were not fulfilled in a faithful, timely and thorough manner.

In both cases, the Councils will define the conditions to be met in order for the project to be finalized and may demand of the Principal Investigator the full or partial repayment of the funds transferred in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the CONICYT Special Mandate.

VIII RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

8.1. The allocation of resources, contracts, transfer of resources, submission of academic and financial reports, requirements for the approval of progress and final reports and its evaluation, among others, will be carried out in strict accordance with the regulations pertaining to the Call for Proposals for Initiation into Research projects. The general application rules, clauses 1.11 and 1.12 in particular, regarding time dedication will also apply.

8.2. The resources allocated to the project, shall be governed, as appropriate, by Resolution No. 759/2003 of the National Audit Office and shall be declared via the FONDECYT online Declaration of Expenses System, within the dates established in the funding agreement. The Principal Investigator(s) is obliged to maintain in their custody all original support documents justifying any expenses declared and provide the necessary facilities so that CONICYT or the National Audit Office may proceed with the review of said documents, at any stage of the project development and up until a period of 5 years from the date that the Councils declare it as finalized.

If selected in an audit sample, all original documentation supporting the expenses report must be sent to CONICYT for its review and approval. Once reviewed, the audit report will be returned to the beneficiary. CONICYT is authorized to suspend further transfer of funds if the expenses report or if the financial resources are not accurately accounted for.

8.3. With regard to the project's financial report, in the event that a document is entirely rendered and/or declared in more than one project, the projects involved will be brought to an immediate termination and appropriate action will be taken to ensure full refund of the resources provided. If the funds transferred are used for purposes other than those indicated in the project or, they are not used according to the amendments that have arisen in the course of the research and approved by the Councils, they shall be returned to CONICYT.

8.4. It is strictly prohibited to invest funds designated for the implementation of the project in any type of financial instrument, fixed or variable interest, long- or short-term in length, such as: mutual funds, stock shares, fixed-term deposits, bonds, etc. Likewise, it is not permitted to pay indemnity

(substitutive for prior notification, annual holiday or vacations and for years of service) with project funds.

The Councils have the authority to request partial or full reimbursement of funds transferred to the Principal Investigator or the Sponsoring Institution, such decision will be supported by a CONICYT administrative act.

IX PROJECT SUBMISSION

- 9.1. The Call for Proposals will be published in a national newspaper with the opening date: 5th of June 2012.

The terms and conditions of the Call for Proposals will be available from the opening date, on the websites www.fondecyt.cl, www.conicyt.cl or at the address of the FONDECYT Programme, Bernarda Morín 551, Providencia, Santiago.

- 9.2. The application must be completed via the FONDECYT www.fondecyt.cl or CONICYT www.conicyt.cl **online platforms**. The researcher must enter all the information required for their application online adding documents in unprotected/unencrypted Pdf format.

- 9.3. Deadlines for applications via the online system:

Until 16:00hrs, 2nd of October 2012 (Chilean continental time).

- 9.4. Once the Call for Proposals has been closed and the proposal has been received by CONICYT electronically, it will no longer be possible to modify, add, delete, or receive additional documents to be attached to it. Consequently, the projects will be evaluated with the information submitted on the Call for Proposals closing date.

Excluded from this point, until the time and date indicated, are certifications and/or authorizations expressly specified in the terms and conditions.

For this Call for Proposals, the applicant must not send a paper copy of the project to FONDECYT.

- 9.5. Submission Location:

Online application: FONDECYT web site www.fondecyt.cl until the time and date specified in the terms and conditions.

- 9.6. For all inquiries, please contact: www.conicyt.cl/oirs or the Help Desk (56-2) 365 44 45, 365 44 47, 365 44 65, Monday thru Thursday from 9:00 AM to 18:00 PM and Fridays from 9:00 AM to 17:00 PM, Chilean continental time.

X. INTERPRETATION OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

CONICYT/FONDECYT reserve the right to interpret the meaning and scope of these terms and conditions in case of any doubt or conflict that may arise regarding the application. Likewise, it reserves the right to reduce the requested budgetary allocations in relation to the objectives, proposed activities and/or available funding from CONICYT/FONDECYT. Furthermore, in the case of any breach of the obligations required by CONICYT/FONDECYT, both are authorized to nullify the adjudication of a project as well as terminate it prematurely.

PROJECTS THAT DO NOT FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED IN THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS SHALL BE DECLARED DISQUALIFIED.