

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

of Independent ANII - MPG Research Groups

(en español: Grupos Independientes Asociados – GIA)

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 Groups (IRG)** at universities or research institutes in Uruguay, in strong collaboration with researchers in one of the actual 83 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 residency at a Max Planck Institute, safeguarding the continuity of scientific collaboration and research activities to the mutual benefit of both. 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 an 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 under ANII's conditions and restrictions unless explicitly defined otherwise in this Call for Proposals.

4. Eligibility

4.1 Eligible candidates must:

- a) Comply with the eligibility requirements of ANII specified at (<http://www.anii.org.uy/apoyos/investigacion/>).
- 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 jobs 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:

- 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	02 May 2017
Closing date for the submission of proposals including a letter of support from an interested institution in Uruguay and from a Max Planck Institute	15 June 2017
External evaluation coordinated by the Max Planck Liaison Office for Latinamerica	15 June - 31 July 2017
Final approved proposals notified	17 August 2017

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 list of scientific publications and description of scientific achievements (max. 3 pages) **(CV in english)**
- c) Copies of three selected publications
- 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 do you plan to distribute the human resources available in item 12.2)
- f) Names and contact details of six potential reviewers, only two from Germany

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 presented in the proposal, to the following email address: latam@gv.mpg.de, with the denomination "**CALL ANII/MaxPlanck 2017**". Only proposals which are arriving 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 start the formation of a research group.

9.3 The criteria for the grant proposal are:

a) Definition of the 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**. The monthly value of the scholarship is announced at <http://www.anii.org.uy/apoyos/formacion/> (3 years);

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".

15. 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 on aspects of funding, confidentiality, publication and intellectual property rights, among others, in observance of the policies of each funding Party.

16. Coordination of the Call for Proposals

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

16.1 ANII becas@anii.org.uy

16.2 Max-Planck-Gesellschaft: Dr. Andreas Trepte – latam@gv.mpg.de