



**UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE**

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
AND PARTNERSHIPS OFFICE

## University of Geneva

### Swiss Leading House for Science & Technology Cooperation

#### Call for Projects - Seed Funding Grants

**Cooperation with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia,  
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Tajikistan,  
Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan**

***DEADLINE: 14 SEPTEMBER 2020***



#### **Introduction**

The University of Geneva (UNIGE) has been mandated by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) as Leading House (LH) for cooperation in Science and Technology between Switzerland and the abovementioned countries for 2017-2020.

#### **Purpose of the Grants**

This call is designed to provide seed funding for projects between academic actors in Switzerland and the following countries: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Projects may be submitted in any scientific discipline; detailed information is provided below.

#### **Application Process**

All scientists from Swiss federal and cantonal universities, universities of applied sciences and universities of teachers' education, as well as public research institutions, are eligible to apply. Collaborating partners as co-applicants must be affiliated with a university or a public research institute in the partner country.

Each project must be held by two Principal Applicants, one from each partner institution.

Proposals for collaborative projects must be submitted jointly, using the common application form at <http://sfq.unige-leadinghouse.ch/>

Proposals may come from individual faculty members or a group of faculty but should have Principal Applicants (PA) from Switzerland in all cases; the co-PA shall be from an institution in the partner country.

Please note that this Call is disseminated mainly to academic contacts in Switzerland. Therefore, Swiss stakeholders are strongly encouraged to spread it to their contacts in the partner region.

### **Aims and conditions**

Applications are welcome for **Seed Funding Grants (SFG)**. The funding is aimed at research groups on both sides. Maximum funding from the Leading House will be **CHF 10'000** over two years, allowing the funding of around 10 projects.

The grant may be used by group members to cover expenses such as traveling, accommodation or workshop logistics, and/or other expenses if duly justified. However, regular salary costs for project participants will not be considered.

Mobility can take place towards or from Switzerland. The duration of a project will depend on its nature and objectives, but must not be more than two years. The Principal Applicants must hold a PhD degree. Applications by PhD candidates must be endorsed and coordinated by higher-level applicants on both sides as Principal Applicants. Conversely, senior applicants are encouraged to involve junior researchers from both sides in their projects.

### **Matching funds**

Both the Swiss applicant and the foreign partner are required to make in-kind contributions (e.g. work hours, usage of office or laboratory equipment, field visits, etc.) to the proposed research project. It is recommended that the foreign partner make a financial contribution. This contribution can be funds from the affiliated institute and/or granted by a local funding bodies.

### **COVID-19**

Given the COVID-19 situation, maximum flexibility will be given in relation to the project's implementation. Beneficiaries are highly encouraged to shift their tasks whenever possible. For instance, tasks where physical presence is needed on the ground (e.g. experiments/lab work, workshops, conference, etc.) may be postponed after confinement measures are over and meanwhile remote work could be done instead (desk work, drafting documents, etc.).

### **Application documents**

The project submission consists of the following:

- Short project description (500 words maximum, may be published if project selected)
- Project timeline
- 4 questions based on the criteria in the section below (250 words max/question)
- Project budget (template provided on the web page)
- Short CVs of all participants (no list of publications) (to be uploaded in the "Supporting documentation" section of the application form)
- Other supporting documents are optional

### **Selection Process and Criteria**

In agreement with SERI, the Leading House will aim to fund projects that:

1. Build on mutual areas of excellence in both countries and in the institutions involved;
2. Establish a foundation for collaboration beyond the funded term, with potential to receive external support;

3. Emphasize mobility and contacts between young talents in Switzerland and the partner country and contribute to building and reinforcing networks in Science & Technology between Switzerland and the target region;
4. Benefit from joint funding from the participating institution or other sources in the partner country (may also be in-kind contributions).

The projects submitted will be evaluated on a competitive basis according to the criteria above.

### **Funding**

The LH will provide the agreed funding to the Swiss PA, to be spent over the course of the grant period covering the expenses as specified at the time of the proposal, for participants from Switzerland and/or from the partner country. For travel and housing costs, the funding guidelines used by the Swiss PA's institution can serve as a reference.

### **Disbursement of grants**

Grants will be disbursed in two instalments: 80% after signing the grant contract and 20% after approval of the final report and financial statement. Prior to the disbursement of grants, grant recipients will be required to sign a grant agreement provided to them by the Leading House Russia & CIS. Any grant money that was not spent by the grant recipient will have to be returned to the Leading House Russia & CIS.

### **Timeline**

Call launched:	July 24, 2020
Deadline for submission :	September 14, 2020
Evaluation and funding decision :	September – October, 2020
Notification :	October - November 2020
Contract :	October - November 2020
Project start:	November – December 2020
Project duration :	24 months maximum

### **Contact for further information**

University of Geneva  
International Relations and Partnerships Office

Nuné Nikoghosyan (Ms.)  
Partnerships Manager

[Nune.Nikoghosyan@unige.ch](mailto:Nune.Nikoghosyan@unige.ch)