# The First Argentine-Israel Scientific Research Program

# JOINT CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

# For the Years 2022-2023

Within the framework of the Argentine-Israel scientific cooperation, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of the Argentine Republic (MINCyT) and the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology of the State of Israel (MOST) are glad to invite researchers and scientists to submit joint proposals for research projects carried out by scientists from both countries.

The aim of this program is to support the development of scientific and technological cooperation between Argentinean and Israeli researchers and to strengthen the scientific partnership between research groups from both countries by establishing bilateral research networks, enhancing research cooperation and promoting the exchange of knowledge between Argentinean and Israeli scientists.

The research shall focus on two main areas and its subtopics as detailed in Section A.

Qualifying scientific applicants in this framework may receive research grants, respectively, from MINCyT and MOST according to the applicable national funding procedures and regulations.

## AREAS OF COOPERATION

MINCyT and MOST are providing financial support for joint research activities carried out by scientists from both countries. Argentinean-Israeli research teams are hereby invited to submit joint proposals for research projects in the fields of:

1. **Health and Medical Research –** subtopics: Wellbeing, drug design and development, medical technology, healthy aging, alternative proteins;
2. **Renewable Energies Transition –** subtopics: Climate change, clean energy, desertification research, water, green hydrogen.

## MODE OF COOPERATION

Cooperation will take the form of planning and conducting joint research as well as conducting mutual visits between laboratories for the purpose of facilitating the research.

Cooperation may also take the form of:

1. Joint research activities in which interdependent subprojects of a single project are conducted in Argentinean and Israeli laboratories;
2. Complementary methodological approaches to a common problem;
3. Joint use of research facilities, materials, equipment and/or services by cooperating scientists;
4. Young researchers' (PhD students and/or Post-doctorates) visits.

## LEVEL OF FUNDING AND DURATION OF PROJECTS

It is the intention of the Parties to fund research proposals selected hereunder for a term of **two years**. However, funding shall be approved on an annual basis, with the funding for the second year to be approved in accordance with the provisions of the research contracts.

It is the intention of the Parties to support **up to 5 (five) joint projects**. The final number of projects to be funded will be determined based on such factors as merits of the proposals upon scientific evaluation and budgetary considerations.

The total maximum project funding for all research projects approved under this Call is 100,000 US Dollars (in Israel, 340,000 NIS) for each Side. The total maximum funding for an individual project will be up to **20,000 US Dollars** (in Israel, 68,000 NIS)for a two-year period. **In Argentina, it is the equivalent in PESOS of the aforementioned 20,000 US Dollars per project at the time of signing the project selection act.**

In accordance, research projects should be planned on a two-year basis beginning approximately at the 3rd trimester of 2022; contracts will be signed accordingly.

**Funding for the approved projects depends on the availability of funds and the approval of the State Budget in each country.**

## ELIGIBILITY

1. Projects must be conducted by collaborating Israeli and Argentinean scientific research teams.

2. Each research team must be led by a Principal Investigator (PI) from each country. The PI must be member of an academic or research institution or a professor emeritus who continues working on research in academic or research institution (hereinafter called the “Affiliated Institution”);

**In Israel**, the "Affiliated Institution" must be one of the following:

* + - 1. An accredited Institution of Higher Education in Israel, according to the Council for Higher Education Law, 1958;
      2. A Research Institute which is a nonprofit organization, a government company or a governmental unit.

For the purpose of this Call, a "Research Institute" is a research institute whose significant portion of activity is the advancement of cutting-edge scientific knowledge, possessing appropriate infrastructure and equipment, and employing researchers who, inter alia, publish articles related to their research in leading scientific journals in the world, and who present their research at international symposia.

3. The project may include the use of sub-contractors from the private sector, if necessary.

4. Each researcher can submit only once as "Principal Investigator", but can be a partner in several projects.

**In Argentina:**

5. The Principal Investigator must be capable to lead the research and act as the person in charge of the project.

6. Each research team must have a minimum of two permanent researchers. Likewise, it is a condition of approval that the teams have graduate and/or post-doctorate students among their members.

7. Public and private universities, research centers and laboratories may submit applications.

**In both countries:**

8. Each PI and each Affiliated Institution is accountable to MINCyT or MOST, respectively, for the execution of the project.

9. Experiments Committee Approval in Israel or Ethics Committee in Argentina:

* Proposals for which funding is approved, which include experiments with animals, must submit the approval of the relevant Committee for Experimentations on Animalsbefore the project can commence.
* Proposals for which funding is approved, which involve human beings, must submit the approval of the relevant IRB/Helsinki Committee before the project can commence.
* For research proposals involving experiments with engineered plants and related microorganisms - approval by the Commission for engineered plants.
* On the Israeli side, the approvals should be submitted as part of the application for funding.

## SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The proposal must be prepared and carried out jointly by the Israeli and the Argentinean project partners and should be submitted simultaneously by both the Argentinean and Israeli principal investigators, to MINCyT and MOST.

**Joint deadline for applications: Thursday March 31st, 2022, by 15:00 hr. (local time in each country). Proposals will not be accepted under any circumstances after the specified date and hour**.

Instructions for the Israeli side: the application should be submitted through the Science Forefront site, at <https://kf.most.gov.il.>

In order to apply, the applicant needs to fill an "Account Request" on the Science Forefront site. The request should be approved by the research authority of the Institution. Once approved, the applicant will be notified by email that the account has been approved.

Please be advised: as technical problems are common, **it is strongly recommended to submit the application well in advance of the application deadline**.

i. The Principal Investigator must submit the proposal in English via the Science Forefront site **one week before the final Joint Deadline, namely not later than Thursday March 24th, 2022 at 15:00 hr.**

ii. A proposal thus submitted can be edited by the researcher, in coordination with the Institution, until the final submission date.

iii. The Institution must submit the final proposal on Thursday, March 31st 2022 at 15:00 hr. (Israel time). **This is the final formal submission date; proposals not submitted by the Institution by this time, will be disqualified**.

Instructions for Argentinean research teams: proposals must be submitted to the following e-mail address: [convocatoriasinternacionales@mincyt.gob.ar](mailto:convocatoriasinternacionales@mincyt.gob.ar).

Instructions for both countries: A valid project application consists of the application form **duly filled in and signed**, together with all the necessary application documents required from each side of a joint research team, submitted respectively to MINCyT in Argentina and to MOST in Israel. **If the applications are not duly received both in Argentina and in Israel by the date and hour indicated above, the project will not be accepted**.

## FUNDED EXPENSES

Funding provided by this Call is intended to enhance joint collaboration between Argentinean and Israeli scientists. Funding will therefore be provided mainly in support of the collaboration vectors and of the local research that is necessary for the collaboration. In any case, each budget item or expenditure for which reimbursement is requested must conform to the respective national rules of each applicant.

**For Israeli researchers**:

Funding can be provided by MOST for:

(1) Stipend or salary for graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, technicians and/or laboratory workers retained specifically for the purpose of the project for a temporary period of up to 2 years, not including salaries for permanent staff and PI's;

(2) Consumables. In case they exceed 3,000 NIS, a detailed explanation regarding their necessity and quantities is required;

(3) Small scale equipment needed only for the specific research project. MOST will enable purchase of computers or laptops only in special cases in which they are part of the research project or are of unique capacities needed for the specific research;

(4) Travel and visiting costs;

(5) Joint seminars, workshops, and outreach activities;

(6) Overhead expenses up to 15% of the total amount of the research project inclusive of the funds provided on the basis of this Call.

**For Argentinean researchers**:

It will be funded up to a maximum of PESOS equivalent to 10,000 US DOLLARS per project per year, to be implemented in 2022 and 2023, provided the fulfillment of the internal provisions for the granting of funds and their subsequent accounting reporting.

The amount to be funded will be delivered for its administration to the Technological Linkage Unit (UVT) nominated by the Argentine institution to which the Director of the project in Argentina belongs, which must be registered as such with the National Agency for the Promotion of Research, Technological Development and Innovation. The MINCyT will sign an agreement with the aforementioned UVT in which the conditions and internal provisions for the granting of the funds and their subsequent accounting reporting will be established.

Allowed expenses headings:

• Consumables: spare parts, supplies, teaching materials, bibliography.

• Mobility: mobility of researchers from the Argentine Institution for research missions or training of human resources in the partner Institution in Israel; mobility of students and doctoral students from the Argentine Institution to the partner Institution in Israel, duly justified in relation to the selected project. Accommodation costs in Israel for the members of the project. As a general rule, missions can last up to 30 days.

• Publications.

• Minor equipment.

• Organization of seminars, workshops, and joint outreach activities.

## ESTIMATED TIMETABLE

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| --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Date** |
| Deadline for joint submission of proposals | Thursday, March 31st, 2022 |
| Evaluation and selection | April-June 2022 |
| Beginning of activities and payments to projects | 3rd trimester 2022 |

## MUTUAL VISITS

Participating researchers should spend an extended period of time visiting their counterparts’ institutions, given that such visits are an integral part of the research collaboration. All costs for travel, accommodation, per diem and any other visiting expenses for each visiting scientist will be included in the budget of that scientist's research team. Funding provided under this Call may only be used for visits that take place in Argentina or Israel; visits to third countries may not be financed by project funds.

## EVALUATION AND SELECTION

After the proposals are pre-evaluated and rated by peer external reviewers, they will be jointly evaluated for final ranking by a Joint Argentinean-Israeli Committee. MINCyT and MOST will decide which and how many projects will be funded and in what amounts, based on the results of the evaluation process and ranking and in view of budget requirements and other constraints.

The evaluation process will be conducted on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Conformity with the program research topics defined above;
2. Significance (quantitative whenever relevant) of the problem being addressed, and the potential impact of the proposed approach on solving it. Proposals should address these issues explicitly and provide as much evidence as possible;
3. Scientific merit, with emphasis upon the originality and novelty of the proposed research;
4. Clarity and quality of the research proposal itself – presentation of the topic, definition of research objectives, presentation of research methodology and detailed program of work;
5. Feasibility of the research program;
6. Practical applicability of expected research results;
7. Extent of genuine collaboration between the Argentinean and Israeli research teams;
8. Level of involvement of young researchers (PhD students and/or post-doctorates).

## CONTRACTS, PAYMENTS AND REPORTS

1. The expected starting date for approved projects is the 3rd trimester of 2022. The expected completion date is two years after the starting date of the approved projects.

2. **Contracts**:

Upon approval of a particular project, separate contracts will be signed in Argentina and Israel respectively, between MINCyT and the institution of the Argentinean PI, and between MINCyT and the Technological Linkage Unit (UVT) designated by the Argentinean project PI; and between MOST and the institution of the Israeli PI.

3. **In both countries**, in principle, the project's period is two years. However, funding must be approved on an annual basis, with the funding for the second year to be approved in accordance with the provisions of the research contract. The parties to this Call reserve the right not to fund a second year of work for scientific-professional, administrative, budgetary or policy reasons.

An application for the continuation of research funding for the second year must be submitted by the institution of the PI to MOST or to MINCyT as appropriate, using the relevant forms at least two months prior to the end of the first year of the project together with the annual scientific report.

4. **Payments**:

Payments will be made by MINCyT and MOST to the institution of each Principal Investigator, respectively, following the provisions of the contracts abovementioned, according to the regulations and practices in force in each country.

5. **Reports**:

a) Financial Reports

Financial reports will be submitted to MINCyT or MOST, respectively, by the institutions of each PI as specified in the research contracts.

On the Argentine side, the corresponding financial reports must be submitted in accordance with the requirements of MINCYT administrative area. Such requirements will be specified and reported to the Argentine IP at the time the subsidy is awarded.

Once the project is finished, a final report must be delivered to the MINCyT within three months after its completion.

b) Scientific Reports

Within two months after the conclusion of the project, each PI will submit a full final report to MINCyT or MOST, respectively, in accordance with the contract or the regulations in force in their country and the PIs will submit a joint summary of the final report both to MINCyT and MOST, in English.

Additional interim progress reports may be required, according to the practices and regulations of each country, as specified in the research contracts.

## SPECIAL PROVISIONS REGARDING ISRAELI APPLICANTS

All procedures and activities under this Call or the projects approved hereunder, including the eligibility of institutions via which applications must be filed, are subject to the standard MOST Procedures Regarding Scientific Projects and Scholarships Funded by MOST and to the MOST Standard Contract for Scientific Projects (both documents referred to hereinafter as "the standard terms").

Applicants are required to familiarize themselves with the standard terms before filing an application under this Call; filing an application constitutes a declaration that the applicant has done so and agrees to be bound by the provisions thereof.

**Sabbatical Leave:**

Israeli researchers who intend a sabbatical leave in the first year of the project cannot be approved as a PI of the research proposal. A PI who intends a vacation or absence longer than three months should request permission from MOST in advance through the relevant R&D Authority. A substitute to the PI will not be approved in the course of the first year.

## MISCELANEOUS PROVISIONS

The Argentinean and Israeli research teams and their Institutions shall enter into a “Cooperation Agreement”, regarding Intellectual Property rights from the output of the financed project.

## INFORMATION

Additional information can be obtained from the following contact persons:

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**On administrative matters:**

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