



Call for Proposals no.2 /2018

Program in Support
of Exceptional Young
Scientists

Submission Window

opens: November 5th, 2018

closes: December 14th, 2018, 3 p.m.

(Brasília Time)*

*Applicants who have already registered in the system will be able to submit their proposals through December 15th, 2018, at 3 p.m. Brasília time, 24 hours after the submission window has closed. (We remind applicants that the submission form is only made available after completion of the eligibility test, which should be taken immediately after registering.)

Registration and Proposal Submission

<https://serrapilheira.org>

The Institute

Serrapilheira is a private, nonprofit institution dedicated to supporting science in Brazil. It seeks to promote outstanding research and science outreach initiatives by means of financial support.

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1. What this Call is for

Supporting young researchers

This Call is designed to help develop the careers of scientists **who**, in seeking to build or consolidate their research agendas, **are posing big questions in their fields**.

Fields of support

Serrapilheira will finance projects that contribute to fundamental knowledge in the natural sciences*, mathematics, and computer sciences.

Interdisciplinary proposals in these fields are also welcome.

Projects we want to support

Serrapilheira will provide flexible resources for creative, innovative, bold projects, even if they involve a high component of risk.

Projects we won't support

Proposals that seek to simply continue the research currently being carried out by the applicant and/or his/her former advisor.

Natural sciences*

As the institute understands it, this includes all the sciences that examine nature, trying to understand it in the broadest and most essential senses. They address questions that are fundamental (how, when, and why), not utilitarian (what's it good for). This category includes, above all: life sciences, physics, geosciences, and chemistry.



2. About our support

Resource allocation

First year

Serrapilheira will finance up to **24 young researchers**, providing funds of up to **R\$100,000** for a **one-year** period.

Next three years

At the end of this one-year period, all the projects will be reassessed by external evaluators. During this second assessment stage, as many as **three researchers** will be chosen to receive funds of up to **R\$1 million** for a **three-year** period.

Renewal

After this three-year period, these projects **may be renewed** on an annual basis for an indeterminate period, through a competitive process.

The financial support for these renewal periods will be **up to R\$300,000** per **year**.

Frequency

This Call will be opened annually as part of a larger initiative, Serrapilheira's **Program in Support of Outstanding Young Scientists**.

More details will be provided shortly by the institute.

Conditions

Some portion of the funds provided after the one-year period will be subject to the condition of including underrepresented groups in the grantee's research teams. Inclusion and diversity requirements will be presented at a later date to successful candidates.

Support start date

The official start date for support will be June 1st, 2019.



Use of resources

Serrapilheira allows for the flexible use of resources. Applicants must evaluate how the resources granted by the institute can best support the development of their research, and expenses must be detailed in the proposal.

Research stipends and salaries are not defined by any single standard; the budget may be calculated based on the sums offered by leading research development foundations.

Financing conditions and financial management

Financing conditions will be determined by the institute. Grants are sent directly to researchers and will be managed by a foundation chosen by Serrapilheira, not to the researcher's home institution. There will be no exceptions. We encourage home institutions to provide researchers with the proper conditions in which to develop their projects. The contract will be signed by the foundation, the scientist, the institution to which they are affiliated, and Serrapilheira.

Administrative fees

It is important to note that any administrative fees regarding the management of financial support will be discounted directly from the grant itself. Researchers will be free to negotiate the overhead fee paid to their home institutions, ranging from 2% to 5% of the value of the grant. This percentage will cover operational costs and the basic infrastructure provided by the home institution.

With this in mind, we estimate that the net sum applied to research will be between 87% and 92% of the gross value of the grant (8% for the administrative fees charged by the support foundation, plus the overhead described above).



3. Conditions for submission

This Call is aimed at **young researchers active in Brazil**, be they Brazilian or of any other nationality.

The criteria for submission are as follows:

Year of PhD

Applicants must have received their PhD between January 1st, 2011 and December 31st, 2016. This window may be adjusted up to two years for women with children. A female researcher with one child must have received her PhD between January 1st, 2010 and December 31st, 2016, while female researchers with two or more children must have received a PhD between January 1st, 2009 and December 31st, 2016. The date considered to determine submission eligibility will be the defense date, not the date when the diploma was issued.

Affiliation with Brazilian home institution

Applicants must be conducting scientific research and hold a permanent position as professors or researchers at a university, institute, or other entity in Brazil, be it public or private. This excludes graduate students, postgraduate fellows, substitute professors, research fellows, visiting researchers, and volunteer researchers.

Research site

The projects should be carried out in Brazil, although some activity may occur abroad, such as fieldwork or collaborative research. Researchers working exclusively at foreign institutions are not eligible to receive Serrapilheira financing through this Call, and our grants may not be transferred to other countries.



4. How to apply

Languages

Applications must be written **in English**.

All of the mandatory fields in the registration and submission forms must be filled out **in English**.

The only fields for which **Portuguese is also required** are the **project title** and **summary**.

Submission Window

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Applicants already registered in the system will be able to submit their proposals until December 15th, 2018 at 3 p.m. Brasília time, 24 hours after the submission window has closed.

Incomplete submissions will be considered invalid.

STEP BY STEP



Accessing the application portal

Applicants should access the application portal, which will open on **November 5th, 2018**, at: <https://serrapilheira.org>

1. Registration

Applicants must provide the following information:

- name/email/phone
- institution
- street address/city/state/postal code
- gender
- race/ethnicity



- link to curriculum vitae (Lattes preferred)
- link to Google Scholar profile
- ORCID digital identifier

2. Eligibility requirements

Once they have registered, applicants will be redirected to the eligibility page, where they can confirm that they meet the criteria for this Call:

- year of PhD
- appropriate affiliation with Brazilian home institution
- location of research

3. Submission formula

Having registered and submitted information about their eligibility, candidates will be redirected to the submission formula, which includes the following sections:

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Project title

The project title, **in English and Portuguese**, should be easy for non-specialists to understand (150 characters including spaces).

Main field*

- Nature sciences:
life sciences, physics, geosciences, chemistry
- Computer sciences
- Mathematics

Sub-field* (if applicable)

- Nature sciences:
life sciences, physics, geosciences, chemistry
- Computer sciences
- Mathematics

Keywords*

Select three keywords to freely describe your sub-field of study* (examples: neurology, symplectic geometry, biodiversity, quantum computing, immunology, astrophysics, geochronology, nanocatalysis, etc.)

Areas and keywords*

This information is very important, since it determines which evaluators will assess the project.



Project Summary

- **anonymous project summary** in **English** and **Portuguese** (up to 1,000 characters with spaces for each)
- **extended anonymous project summary** (4,000 characters with spaces)
candidates should summarize their proposals, writing in a way that will be intelligible to people who work in the same field, but are not necessarily specialists in their sub-field. In addition to describing the originality of the project, the summary should present the major question it addresses, a brief description of the present state of the field, and the objectives of the proposal at hand. The summary should clearly indicate the stages of development for the research project, explaining how it is organized.

The extended summary will play a critical role in the first stage of proposal evaluation. We recommend that applicants devote significant time and reflection to this portion of the submission.

Research proposal

Applicants should present an exhaustive description of the project **divided into two parts: first focusing on the first year of support and then on the next three years. It must contain:**

- a **broad introduction** touching on the state of research in the field in question, the objectives of this proposal, and, if applicable, preliminary data/ results
- the **methodology** to be used to attain the project objectives (and, if applicable, an alternative methodology)
- a detailed **timeline** in the form of a Gantt chart
- an **estimated budget** for the first year of the project (up to R\$100,000) and another for the next three years (up to R\$1 million)
- **bibliography**

First-year budget

- separate field for the total budget for the first year

Proposal formatting guidelines

The project proposal (10-15 pages, including bibliography) should obey the following guidelines:

- page layout: **A4**
- font: **Times New Roman**
- font size: **12 pt**
- spacing: **1,5**
- margins:
2 cm (direita e esquerda);
2 cm (superior);
1,5 cm (inferior)



APPLICANT INFORMATION

- nationality
- date of birth
- city/country of birth
- academic career: undergraduate degree, master's (if applicable), doctorate, postdoctoral work (if applicable)
- year of doctoral dissertation defense
- year of hiring as a professor or researcher
- publications:
 - titles of up to five scientific articles published as the lead author **(the one who gave the biggest contribution to the paper, and not necessarily the one who is the head of the laboratory or leader of the research group)**, indicating which of them the applicant believes to be the most relevant
 - description of the applicant's contribution to the research in question, and a justification for the selection of these articles, explaining:
1) why they are the author's most relevant work; 2) what major scientific advances they are supporting; and 3) how they relate to the proposed project, if at all (4,000 characters with spaces)
- independent research financing, excluding fellowships or stipends (if applicable)
- professional and academic activities (up to 5), such as: science outreach, participation in advisory committees and academies of science, organization of conferences, review of scientific journals, activities to promote diversity in science
- curriculum vitae (PDF) in the international format, which differs from Lattes
- link to online curriculum vitae (Lattes preferred)
- link to Google Scholar user profile
- ORCID digital identifier
- link to laboratory website (if applicable)



- link to social media (if applicable)

5. The selection process

Evaluators

For the selection of proposals submitted for this Call, we will form panels composed primarily of scientists currently working at distinguished international institutions, groups diverse in both race and gender, whenever possible.

Criteria

Serrapilheira is looking for young scientists who are posing big questions in their fields and who have the potential to develop, or are already developing, outstanding research. These are the only criteria we will use when selecting proposals.

The quality and rigor of research developed up to the point of submission will be evaluated independently of the quantity of publications.

The best candidates will be chosen, irrespective of their fields of research.

Evaluation process

As part of the rules for this Call, we request that candidates submit an extended summary and the full version of their project proposal.

1st stage

To begin with, the **extended summaries** that fit the bounds of this Call will be distributed to the evaluation panels. This is an essential stage in the evaluation process, which is why we recommend that candidates invest significant time and reflection when drawing up their extended summaries.

Each summary will be assessed by at least three reviewers; the best will be selected for each of the fields listed above. At this stage, the external evaluators will not be aware of applicants' identities, and must simply answer the following questions:

- does the proposal address a “big question” in the field? Explain.
- does the proposed methodology meet the objectives of the project? Explain.

Based on these questions, the panel of reviewers will select the projects which will move on to a more detailed analysis in the next stage.

2nd stage

In this stage, reviewers who specialize in the field in question will have access to all



of the material submitted by applicants.

Evaluation criteria

The criteria for evaluating proposals which have made it through to this phase are:

- does the proposal address relevant challenges and/or does it address a “big question”?
- scientific approach: can the project be developed in the time period proposed? Is the methodology in line with the project’s objectives? Are the projected timeline and resources adequate and justified?
- head researcher: does the researcher demonstrate an ability to develop cutting-edge research? Is the head researcher creative? Does s/he have the ability to form independent ideas?
- ranking: exceptional / excellent / good / not competitive (Evaluators will have to justify each ranking)

The Serrapilheira Institute commits to:

- excluding reviewers from the evaluation process who have any conflict of interest involving applicants who submit proposals to this Call
- ensuring that all proposals will be evaluated by qualified reviewers
- guaranteeing that every proposal will be evaluated by at least three reviewers



6. Timeline

October 3rd, 2018	Announcement of Open Call
November 5th, 2018	Submission window opens
December 14th, 2018 3 p.m. (Brasília time)	Final deadline for submission
April 26th, 2019	Announcement of selected projects (up to 24) for the first stage (support of up to R\$100,000 for one year)
June 1st, 2019	Support begins

7. Final considerations

Best practices for open science

Serrapilheira suggests that raw data and results throughout the support period be published in publicly accessible databases. That includes peer-reviewed articles, monographs, and programming code, as well as other kinds of data. Researchers supported by the Institute should publish their work in open-access journals whenever possible.

Serrapilheira will put out a Best Practices Guide for Open Science in the near future.

Intellectual property

Should the research supported by this Call result in patent applications, Serrapilheira will not make any claim to intellectual property rights.

Code of conduct

Proposed research activity must obey ethical practices and current standards of practice in Brazil. It is the responsibility of the scientists supported by Serrapilheira to obey those rules and norms. We demand that they respect human and animal health, as well as rights to privacy, bodily well-being, data protection, and non-discrimination. If any of these rights is infringed upon, the grant may be canceled.

Research integrity

Serrapilheira stands firmly in support of research integrity.

In the event of a proven case of scientific misconduct on a project financed by Serrapilheira, such as plagiarism or the falsification of results, the grant for that project will be canceled.



Legal proviso

The Serrapilheira Institute reserves the right to cancel, suspend, modify, or postpone the selection process described in this Call at any point, without any obligation to justify the alteration, which will be effected via the publication of an announcement on the same channels through which this Call is being publicized.

No payment or compensation of any sort will be due to any person, including but not limited to potential applicants, applicants who have already submitted projects, and institutions to which such applicants or potential applicants may be affiliated, based on the participation of said applicants, potential applicants, or projects in the selection process described in this Call, or due to its cancellation, suspension, modification or postponement.

The preparation and submission of projects to the selection process in this Call are the sole responsibility of the applicants, who must cover any and all related costs. Applicants recognize that it is up to Serrapilheira to conduct the selection process, in keeping with the procedure detailed in this Call. This means that there will be no margin for any complaint, appeal, request for compensation, refunding of expenses, or damages should applicants' projects not be selected at any stage of the processes described in this Call.

Contact

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