



support for Brazilian science

Call for Proposals n.3/2019

Submission Window

opens: November 18th, 2019

closes: December 18th, 2019, 3 p.m. (Brasília Time)*

*Applicants who have already registered in the system will be able to submit their proposals through December 19th, 2019, 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.fluxx.io>

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.

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**.

The kind of research we support

Serrapilheira will only support **pure research** projects, dedicated to “how, when, and why,” not utilitarian questions (“what is this good for”).

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 **original**, creative, innovative, bold projects, even if they involve a high component of **risk**.

Projects we won't support

Serrapilheira will not provide funding for projects that are a clear continuation of prior work with foreseeable results. Proposals must be innovative.

Nor will the institute support projects focusing **exclusively** on clinical tests, public health studies, or the development of biomarkers, processes, or products.

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.

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 **24 projects** will be reassessed by external evaluators. During this second assessment stage, as many as **three researchers** will be selected to receive **R\$700,000** for **three years**, with a **R\$300,000** bonus for those who assemble diverse teams.

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, **program of support for Brazilian science**.

About the Program

Beyond simply offering resources, the program offers training, workshops, and events to connect researchers, such as the annual Encontros Serrapilheira. The goal is to enhance grantees' training and advance their career development, as well as to create spaces for interdisciplinary cooperation and encourage initiatives supporting diversity in science, science outreach, and open science.

For more detail about the program of support for Brazilian science, see Serrapilheira's website.

Serrapilheira's guides for **Best Practices in Diversity in Science** and **Open Science** are also available on the institute's website:

<https://serrapilheira.org/chamada-publica-no3/>

Support start date

The official start date for support will be **June 10th, 2020**.



Use of resources

Serrapilheira allows for the flexible use of resources. Grantees may use the funds provided by the institute as they see fit in developing their research, and expenses should be detailed in application proposals.

Stipends or salaries to members of the research team will not be tied to a specific pay scale; budgets may be guided by the compensation offered by major research funding agencies.

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 the researcher's home institution. 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 90% 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, 2012 and December 31st, 2017. 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, 2011 and December 31st, 2017, while female researchers with two or more children must have received a PhD between January 1st, 2010 and December 31st, 2017. The date considered to determine submission eligibility will be the defense date, not the date when the diploma was issued.

Applicants' defense date **must**, with no exceptions, correspond to the timeframe above.

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. Small businesspeople, partners in businesses/ startups, and civil servants in technical positions may also apply, **providing that they do carry out research at the institution indicated.**

This excludes graduate students, postgraduate fellows, substitute professors, research fellows, visiting researchers, and volunteer researchers.

Location of research

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

Opens: **November 18th, 2019**

Closes: **December 18th, 2019, 3 p.m.** (Brasília time)

Applicants already registered in the system will be able to submit their proposals until December 19th, 2019 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 18th, 2019**, at: <https://serrapilheira.fluxx.io>

1. Registration

Applicants must provide the following information:

- name/email/phone
- institution
- street address/city/state/postal code
- gender (optional)
- race/ethnicity (optional)
- 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, comprising sections about the project and the candidate which must be filled out within the application system.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Project title

The project title, in **English** and **Portuguese**, should be easy for non-specialists to understand (up to 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

Areas and Keywords*

It determines which evaluators will assess the project.

Keywords*

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

This section will play a critical role in the first stage of proposal evaluations. We recommend that applicants devote significant time and reflection to this portion of the submission.

Fundamental question (up to 300 characters including spaces)

What is the fundamental question raised by the project?

Hypothesis (up to 600 characters including spaces)

What is the project's testable hypothesis? If the project is exploratory, what is the reason to explore this area?

How the project will contribute to fundamental understanding

(up to 600 characters including spaces)

How will the results of the project advance fundamental understanding in the field?

Importance (up to 600 characters including spaces)

Why is this project important and timely?

Project Summary

- **anonymous project summary** in **English** and **Portuguese** (up to 1,000 characters with spaces for each)
- **extended anonymous project summary** (up to 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. The summary should explain:
 - i. the significance and originality of the project;
 - ii. the major question it tackles;
 - iii. methodology;
 - iv. expected results.

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
- one estimated **budget** (does not need to be minutely detailed, and can include major categories) for the first year of the project (up to R\$100,000) and another estimated budget for the next three years (up to R\$700,000). Usage of the R\$300,000 bonus for working with researchers from underrepresented groups will be discussed with each grantee after he or she is selected for the second stage of support
- **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 soze: **12 pt**
- spacing: **1,5**
- margins:
 - 2 cm** (right and left);
 - 2 cm** (top);
 - 1,5 cm** (bottom)

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Personal information

- nationality
- date of birth
- city/state/country of birth
- curriculum vitae (PDF) in international standard format, maximum of 2 pages, following the National Science Foundation model found here: <http://bit.ly/2kDe1Z2>
- 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)

Academic career

- 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
- independent research financing, excluding fellowships or stipends (if applicable)

Publications

- titles of up to five scientific articles published as the lead author **(the person who made the biggest contribution to the paper, not necessarily 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:
 - i. why they are the author's most relevant work;
 - ii. what major scientific advances they are supporting; and
 - iii. how they relate to the proposed project, if at all (up to 4,000 characters with spaces).

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

Details of the selection process are available on Serrapilheira's website:

<https://serrapilheira.org/chamada-publica-no3/>

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



6. Timeline

September 18th, 2019	Announcement of Open Call
November 18th, 2019	Submission window opens
December 18th, 2019 3 p.m. (Brasília time)	Final deadline for submission
May 29th, 2020*	Announcement of selected projects (up to 24) for the first stage (support of up to R\$100,000 for one year)
July 15th, 2020*	Support begins

***timeline changed due to the Covid-19 pandemic**



Legal Proviso

The Serrapilheira Institute reserves the right to cancel, suspend, modify, review or postpone the selection process described in this Call at any point and at its discretion, 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 the aforementioned or their projects in the selection process described in this Call should it be canceled, suspended, modified or postponed.

The preparation and submission of projects to the selection process in this Call are the sole responsibility of the applicants, who must cover related costs. In responding to this Call, applicants recognize that Serrapilheira alone will conduct the selection process, in keeping with the procedure detailed in this Call.

There will be no margin for any complaint, appeal, request for compensation, refunding of expenses, or damages related to the application process should applicants' projects not be selected at any stage described in this Call.

The Serrapilheira Institute may at any time, without the need for prior consent from applicants or their home institutions, develop and conduct, directly or indirectly, research into the work and proposals submitted by applicants through this Call, and may share the results included therein, respecting the confidentiality of the proposals unless the information therein has already been made public or is generally known, as well as the authorship of said work.

Contact

chamada@serrapilheira.org