

Frequently Asked Questions

**Support for Brazilian science
Call for proposals nº 5/2021**

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What type of research will the Serrapilheira Institute public call support?

We seek fundamental research projects that propose ground-breaking questions in the scope of the supported areas of study. Ground-breaking questions are those that question current scientific knowledge, open new perspectives for advancement, or deepen the knowledge of a scientific area. The purpose of the institute is to invest in original and bold projects, even if they involve risk strategies. Projects that are a clear repetition of previous projects will not be supported. Proposed projects must provide new contributions.

How can we identify whether the project meets the criteria set by the Serrapilheira Institute?

Fundamental research addresses general and essential aspects of science, seeking answers that advance fundamental knowledge. The following questions are part of the pre-proposal selection process and provide parameters to identify whether the research is of a fundamental nature:

- What is the fundamental question raised by the project?
- What is the hypothesis? If the project is exploratory, what is the reason for exploring this area?
- How will the hypothesis be tested? If the project is exploratory, how will the area be explored?
- How will the results of the project advance the fundamental understanding of the area of study?
- Why is the project original and bold?
- What are the risks associated with the project?

What does it mean to have a permanent position?

A permanent position means that the candidate has a permanent contract with the host institution. For public entities, the candidate must have been appointed to the position by the date of application.

Will reviewer's comments be released?

Candidates who reach the final stage of the selection process but are not selected may have access to the reviewer's comments. There will be no release of reviewer's comments for pre-proposals not called for phase 2.

How many times can I submit proposals to the Serrapilheira Institute science program?

Each candidate may submit only one proposal per call and a maximum of two proposals during the entire period in which he or she is eligible. This rule became effective with the 4th call in 2020.

Can I receive support more than once?

Scientists who have received previous resources from the Serrapilheira Institute and have not had their support renewed are able to submit proposals again.

How will the bonus for the composition and formation of teams with diversity be implemented?

We encourage diversity through inclusion actions, especially with an ethnic-racial and gender focus. The mode of implementation of bonuses to form underrepresented groups in research areas will be discussed with each scientist selected through this call. The value of the bonus will depend on the inclusion action to be developed and may vary between 10% and 30% of the total value of the original budget approved for the development of the research. Therefore, the requisition of resources for the diversity bonus should not be included in the budget proposal for the research project.

How do I submit a proposal to the Serrapilheira Institute?

Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Serrapilheira Institute portal at Fluxx (<https://serrapilheira.fluxx.io>) within the deadlines established in this call.

What are the two phases of the selection process?

In phase 1, those interested should submit a pre-proposal with basic information about the project. All eligible proposals received will be evaluated by reviewers. Thereafter, some candidates will be asked to submit a full proposal - a time that we refer to as phase 2. The final stage includes an interview in English with the candidates.

Should I add a detailed budget to my proposal?

The pre-proposal (phase 1) should not contain a budget. The candidates selected in phase 1 are asked to submit full proposals for phase 2. In this phase, a detailed budget with the estimated expenses associated with project development should be presented.

Can Serrapilheira Institute support through public calls be renewed?

After three years of support, the projects may be renewed annually for an indefinite period.

I am not eligible for this call. How can I provide submissions for other calls?

You can check all our calls (open and completed) here: <https://serrapilheira.org/todas-as-chamadas/>. In addition to public calls to support science, the Serrapilheira Institute also makes calls to select students for the Quantitative Biology and Ecology Training Program. The institute also supports science outreach projects - proposals can be submitted at any time. Find out more about our programs: <https://serrapilheira.org/programas/>.

Can I talk to someone on the science support program team?

You can contact the team by email:
chamada@serrapilheira.org.

Other questions:**Why support only fundamental research?**

As scientists are currently increasingly encouraged to conduct research with a view to applicability, resources for fundamental research are scarce. Therefore, we want to stimulate projects focused on the production of new knowledge, supporting research motivated by curiosity, which is not necessarily aimed at practical application.

Why should the candidate have a permanent position?

As the goal of the Serrapilheira Institute is to support long-term projects, it is important that candidates have permanent positions as a guarantee of greater stability and infrastructure to develop the research.

Why is participation restricted to scientists who completed their doctoral studies starting in 2014?

We chose to give priority to the participation of scientists who obtained the title more recently because they have more difficulty in gaining access to resources, especially when they compete with scientists in more advanced stages of the academic career.

If the goal is to support young scientists, why not include those who obtained degrees less than two years ago?

We want to form a group of scientists who are not yet senior scientists but who have already gone through an independent professional experience. However, those who completed their doctorate after the established period may apply for future annual calls from the institute.

For the requirement relating to scientific articles, can preprints or book chapters be sent?

No, candidates must be principal authors of at least two high-impact scientific articles published in scientific journals.

Contact

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