

Guidelines for the funding of ANII - MPG Tandem Research Groups

The Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación (ANII) announces this International Call for Proposals to strengthen the collaboration between universities and research institutions in Uruguay and Max Planck Institutes (MPI) worldwide.

Highly qualified investigators with several years of very successful postdoctoral experience are invited to submit research proposals to establish a **Tandem Research Group (TRG)** at universities or research Institutes in Uruguay, in strong collaboration with researchers in one of the current 85 Max Planck Institutes.

The Tandem Research Groups should strengthen the personal collaborative ties between the Head of the Research Group and the MPI, safeguarding the continuity of scientific collaboration and research activities for mutual benefit. They are intended to foster research collaborations on topics of common interest with the Max Planck Institutes following the highest quality standards and significantly contribute to increasing the international circulation of the best minds.

Each Call for Proposals will follow the guidelines that are provided below.

1. Objectives of the Calls

1.1 This call aims to select highly qualified scientists with several years of outstanding postdoctoral experience who are willing and highly motivated to lead a Tandem Research Group (TRG), which will be funded under the ANII-MPG Tandem Research Group Program for 5 years.

1.2 This call should help to establish new TRG in universities and research institutions in Uruguay which are led by outstanding postdoctoral investigators in strong cooperation with outstanding principal investigators at Max Planck Institutes.

2. Duration of Tandem Research Groups

2.1 The Tandem Research Group shall be set up for five years with the possibility of a two-year extension after successful evaluation.



2.2 After five years, and under the condition that the Group Leader obtained a permanent position in a university or research institution in Uruguay, they can continue their research activities by applying for funding in ANII regular lines.

3. Application requirements

Applications should be submitted to the Representation for Latin America of the Max Planck Society (latam@gv.mpg.de) under ANII's conditions and restrictions unless explicitly defined otherwise in this Call (See Annex 1-Guidelines Max Planck Candidates Uruguay 2026 " at the end of this document, page 8)

4. Eligibility

4.1 Eligible candidates must:

- a) Comply with all the eligibility requirements established by ANII at "Annex 1-Guidelines Max Planck Candidates Uruguay 2026", at the end of this document, page 8.
- b) Be successful in their scientific career with several years of postdoctoral experience in internationally competitive research groups and highly motivated to develop and carry out an internationally competitive research program.

4.2 This program is particularly suitable for excellent applicants who have already held one or two post-doc positions and who would now like to — and deem themselves apt to — head a research group and to elaborate together on their own research ideas independently.

Please note that the positions for an independent research group a TRG are only open to applicants who hold a doctorate degree.

5. Fields of research

This Call for Proposals invites research proposals in the following themes:

- Computational Sciences and Informatics
- Molecular Biology, Biomedicine and Health
- Environmental Sciences and Monitoring
- Energy Research
- Research on Education and Social and Legal Development
- Plant Sciences and Biotechnology
- Material Sciences and Nanotechnology

6. Timeline

Call announced by ANII	July 08, 2026
Closing date for the submission of proposals including a letter of support from an interested institution in Uruguay and from a Max Planck Institute	September 17, 2026
Evaluation coordinated by the Representative for Latin America of Max Planck Society	September – October 2026
Meeting of ANII Committee	November, 2026
Final approved proposals notified	November, 2026

7. Project Proposal characteristics

The project proposal must be **submitted in English** and contain:

1.1 The following documents are required for the application:

- a) Cover Page
- b) Curriculum vitae including a list of scientific publications and a description of scientific achievements (max. 3 pages) **(CV in English)**
- c) Copies of three selected publications (full text copies)
- d) Research plan for the group (max. 3 pages) (please consider item 12.2 to organize available resources during the five years)
- e) Draft budget for the first five years (please specify how you plan to distribute the human resources available in item 12.2)
- f) Names and contact details of six potential international reviewers, a maximum of two may be from Germany. It is the applicant's responsibility to inform the referees in advance that the Representative for Latin America of Max Planck Society might communicate with them requesting an evaluation of their project.

1.2 Candidates must include a **letter of support** in MPI letterhead and signed by a principal investigator at a Max Planck Institute, stating past, present and future collaborative activities and financial commitment. (see sample letter for reference

in Annex 2)

1.3 Candidates must include a **letter of support** by the university or research institution in Uruguay which will host the research group. The letter of support shall be signed by the Dean of the hosting university or the director of the hosting research institution, stating past (if applicable), present and future collaborative activities and financial commitment.

8. Submission of proposals

8.1 The proposal as specified in the previous section must be submitted by the deadline stated in section six above.

8.2 No proposal will be accepted after the deadline for submission, nor will any addendum or explanation be accepted, unless those explicitly and formally requested by ANII or Max Planck

8.3 Submissions will only be accepted in the form of a single PDF file containing all the items requested, to the following email address: latam@gv.mpg.de **with the subject line** "Call for the establishment of ANII - MPG Tandem Research Groups 2026" Only proposals which have been received within the deadline of each Call will be processed.

9. Analysis and selection procedure

9.1 All proposals will be screened considering the eligibility aspects described in item four above. Proposals that do not comply with the terms of this Call will not qualify for analysis.

9.2 The proposals accepted for review will be analyzed by MPG. The merit review process will evaluate primarily the Principal Investigator. Criteria will be:

- a) The applicants must be a researcher that has already a remarkable scientific output for their career level, evaluated by the summary of their Curriculum Vitae.
- b) The applicant must be qualified to independently coordinate a research project to set up and run a research group.

9.3 Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- a) Definition of objectives.
- b) Originality and relevance of the intended contributions for the respective research field.
- c) Innovative scientific rationale and chosen methods.
- d) Adequacy of the requested resources to the desired scientific or technological contribution.

9.4 Once the evaluation process is completed, the Representation for Latin America of the Max Planck Society will submit a list of merit with the proposed candidates to the board of Directors of ANII who will select the final candidates according to budget availability.

10. Results of the Call

The final results will be jointly notified by the Representation for Latin America of the Max Planck Society and ANII through direct communication to the candidates by email.

Afterwards, the final results will be published on ANII website <http://www.anii.org.uy/> and the web page of the collaborating Max Planck Institutes and of the Max Planck Society – Section Cooperation with Latin America (<https://www.mpg.de/de/international/lateinamerika>).

11. The Grant Contract

Selected proposals will be the object of a grant contract (ANII) to be signed by the Group Leader and a representative of the Higher Education and Research Institution to which they will be affiliated.

12 Funding

12.1 The TRG will be jointly funded and supported by ANII, the collaborating Max Planck Institute and the hosting university or research institution in Uruguay.

12.2 ANII will provide funding for:

- a) research expenses allowed for by ANII or for technical personnel (2 years) for **up to USD 12.000**.
- b) a doctoral fellowship in Uruguay to be selected by the Group Leader (3 years).
- c) a postdoctoral fellowship in Uruguay for a postdoctoral researcher to be selected by the Group Leader (2 years);

12.3. The cooperating Max Planck Institute will provide **up to € 30.000 per year** for the research work of the TRG. The funding of the MPI is to be used by the Head of Tandem Research Group to cover personnel and travel costs, material costs and running lab costs, access to facilities and infrastructure and the purchase of minor scientific equipment for the Research Group's work. The budget of the Research Group may not be used towards salary increments or salaries of permanent staff. Such funding will be stated in the Letter of Institutional Support by the Director of the corresponding collaborating Max Planck Institute that the candidates shall submit as part of the

application. The activities supported under this call are financed through the budgets of the participating Max Planck Institutes. The role of the central administration of the Max Planck Society (MPG) is limited to the coordination and implementation of the programme.

12.4 The hosting university or research Institution will guarantee the salary of the Tandem Research Group leader and of the academic and non-academic staff. The hosting Institution is responsible for the social insurance for the Tandem Research Group leader and other staff and for providing further assistance.

13. Accommodation and Infrastructure

As a model for the support letter, the following text is recommended:

"The hosting Institution in Uruguay, agrees to provide the laboratory and office rooms and the infrastructure for the Tandem Research Group as well as administrative services. Within the scope of this cooperation agreement, the hosting institution of ... agrees to grant the investigators in the Tandem Research Group cost-free use of the scientific and technical facilities and infrastructure at the hosting institution of ..., Uruguay".

14. Confidentiality, Publications, Intellectual Property

Before any funding by ANII is delivered to the finally selected research proposals, the Hosting Higher Education and Research Institution in Uruguay and the associated Max Planck Institute must formally agree in a Cooperation Agreement for the Tandem Research Group an aspects of funding, confidentiality, publication and intellectual property rights, among others, in observance of the policies of each funding Party.

15. Coordination of the Call for Proposals

All questions related to this Call for Research Proposals should be directed to:

15.1 ANII: becas@anii.org.uy

15.2 Representation for Latin America of the Max Planck Society: latam@gv.mpg.de

16. Follow-up and reports

ANII will carry out the technical and financial follow-up of the projects funded according to the Terms and Conditions of each call. In the case of projects that request an extension, ANII may request Max Planck to issue a report on them to evaluate if such extension is granted.



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In order to evaluate the results of the cooperation, the responsible unit for Latin America at the Max Planck Headquarters will submit to ANII reports on the advances of the Tandem Research Group. This report – which is also to be signed in agreement by the collaborating lead researcher at the corresponding Max Planck Institute - will be submitted every two years and will give information on the advances achieved by the projects from the scientific point of view.

ANNEX 1 - Guidelines Max Planck Candidates Uruguay 2026

Complementary requirements for Uruguayan applicants

1. BACKGROUND

This document defines the terms and conditions for the funding awarded by ANII within the scope of the Call for the establishment of ANII - MPG Tandem Research Groups 2026 for Uruguayan candidates. This call for proposals shall be governed by the current General Regulations of the National Fellowship Program, and by the cooperation agreement between ANII and the Max Planck Gesellschaft.

2. REQUIREMENTS

• HEAD OF A TANDEM RESEARCH GROUP (HEAD OF THE ASSOCIATED GROUP IN URUGUAY)

- Uruguayan or foreign researchers residing in Uruguay for a period of no less than two years at the closing date of the call, who have the support of national public or private non-profit institutions and whose activities include research, may apply for funding (specific template for the ANII - Max Planck call is attached).
- Applications will not be accepted if the principal investigator of the associated group in Uruguay, at the closing date of the call, is in default with ANII in any of its programs (e.g.: outstanding technical progress reports, final reports, closure reports, surveys).
- National researchers, including grant applicants, must submit their curriculum vitae (CV) in CVUy format and updated by the closing date of the call.

• NATIONAL DOCTORATE FELLOW IN URUGUAY

The candidate for the national doctoral fellowship must meet the following requirements:

- Be Uruguayan or a foreigner residing in the country. Foreign candidates must present proof of residence in Uruguay/identity card at the time of being nominated for the scholarship.
- At the time of signing the contract, the candidate must provide ANII with proof of membership in the doctoral program.
- A counselor must be a member of the proposing team. The quotas and requirements for counselors established in the General Regulations of the National Scholarship System shall be respected.



- At least one of the counselors, counselor or co-counselor, must reside in the country. If the counselor resides abroad, it is the co-counselor who must sign the contract with the ANII and provide the scholarship places.
- The candidate, counselor, and co-counselor (if applicable) must have entered their CVs in the CVUy system at the time the scholarship contract is signed.
- The candidate cannot have a workload greater than 30 hours per week dedicated to labor activity.
- Not have failed to comply with a previous scholarship or be disqualified by resolution of the Board of Directors for non-compliance with the Agency's programs.

● **NATIONAL POSTDOCTORATE FELLOWSHIP IN URUGUAY**

The candidate for the postdoctoral fellowship must meet the following requirements:

- Be Uruguayan or foreigner with residence in Uruguay or abroad.
- Not have benefited from another ANII postdoctoral fellowship.
- Have completed his/her CV in CVuy format at the time of signing the fellowship contract.
- Submit a letter of endorsement from the national institution where he/she will carry out the fellowship (signed by the highest institutional authority) where the endorsement for the 20% counterpart contribution of the fellowship is included. The ANII fellowship and the counterpart amount must be executed simultaneously during the fellowship period.
- Possess a doctoral degree obtained no more than six years prior to the date of signing the contract.
- To have a Research Group Leader who must be a member of the proposing team.
- To have a dedication for the grant of 40 hours per week.
- To present a letter of support from the Max Planck Institute involved in the project
- Not to be disqualified by resolution of the Board of Directors for non-compliance with the Agency's programs.

Fellowships must be executed within the duration of the project..

3. ITEMS TO BE FINANCED

For the operation of the Tandem Research Group, ANII shall award financial support for:

- **Doctoral fellowships in Uruguay (3 years):** A national doctoral fellowship shall be awarded for a maximum term of 36 months (not renewable). During the term of this fellowship, the grant holder shall receive the current sum awarded for ANII's national doctoral fellowships.



- **Postdoctoral fellowships in Uruguay (2 years):** A national postdoctoral fellowship shall be awarded for a maximum term of 24 months (not renewable). ANII may fund up to 80% of the total sum awarded, with a maximum monthly stipend of **UYU 90.000**, while the applying institution must cover the remainder of the grant. The cost of a one round-trip airline ticket to or from Uruguay shall also be reimbursed for up to USD 4,000.
- **Research expenses (2 years):** A sum of up to USD 12,000 shall be awarded as funding for supplies and/or the hiring of technical staff.

4. FOLLOW-UP AND DISBURSEMENTS

Support will be formalized through the signing of an agreement between the beneficiary and ANII. In the case of the national doctoral fellowship and the national postdoctoral fellowship, each grantee must sign an agreement with ANII that will include his or her work plan for the funded project.

5. RESULTS AND PRODUCTS

The results of the research will be compiled in a final technical report that will be published in REDI, ANII's institutional open access repository. Any work resulting from the selected projects must be reported in this final report and deposited in the open access repository of the institution of affiliation in Uruguay of the project leader or, failing that, in ANII's institutional repository, as established in ANII's open access regulations.

6. PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

The application implies the authorization to ANII to communicate and disseminate in different channels (web page, press, etc.), without time limitation and within the framework of its legal duties, the identification data of the applicant(s) (individual or legal entity), information on the call for proposals and the project, such as project amount, ANII contribution, other contributions, publishable summary, related persons or institutions, and other information or personal data necessary to ensure transparency in the fulfillment of ANII's legal duties, unless it is expressly classified as confidential. ANII will treat the data in accordance with its privacy policy and terms of use.

7. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The application implies full acceptance of these terms and conditions. ANII reserves the right to decide on any circumstance not expressly provided for in them, without right of appeal by the applicants. ANII is governed by Law No. 18,084.



ANNEX 2
Guidelines for “Letter of Institutional Support”

Please mention:

- if there is any previous academic relationship to the PI
 - the interest of your institution in the project
 - the resources you will provide
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[Insert MPI letterhead]

[Sponsor Contact Information]

Re: Letter of Support

Dear (insert PI name),

I wish to express my enthusiastic support for your application to establish a “**Tandem Research Group**”, with the proposal “(insert proposal title)”.

I understand that you will pursue (insert a few words describing project) and I am confident that the opportunities enabled by this grant will advance the research activities of the participating investigators, fostering significant scientific growth and new discoveries.

As (insert title of person providing commitment letter), I can assure you that the Institute will provide resources to facilitate this project at (insert name of the Host Institution). Specifically, the Institute will make available existing resources such as [examples: space that is already in use but will now also support this research program, personnel who currently have research built into their workload will now devote some of this time for this research project, equipment that is currently in a facility may now be used to support this research] in order to accomplish the objectives of this grant.

I am highly supportive of the efforts as outlined in this proposal.

Best regards,

(insert title, name and position of person providing commitment letter)