

Call for the establishment of Tandem Research Groups in Uruguay

FAQ's

→ What is the funding system for Tandem Groups in Uruguay?

Tandem Groups in Uruguay are funded as follows:

ANII will fund:

- Research expenses allowed by ANII or for technical staff (2 years). This is a fund totaling USD 12,000, which can be used to hire a technical assistant or purchase supplies.
- A PhD scholarship in Uruguay for a candidate to be selected by the Group Leader (3 years);
- A postdoctoral scholarship in Uruguay for a postdoctoral researcher to be selected by the Group Leader (2 years).

The collaborating Max Planck Institute (MPI) will contribute up to €30,000 per year for the activities of the Tandem Research Group. This contribution is not necessarily monetary and may include: training of personnel at the Max Planck Institute or one of the International Max Planck Research Schools; access to the institute's facilities; mobility of MPI researchers to Uruguay for lectures, courses, etc.; organization of events such as conferences, workshops, or similar activities, among others. The funding modality must be agreed upon by the parties and may vary widely depending on the research field and available resources.

The host university or research institution will guarantee the salary of the Group Leader as well as academic and non-academic support staff. It will also be responsible for social security for the Tandem Research Group Leader and the rest of the staff.

→ What is the procedure for establishing contact with the Max Planck Institute which you wish to establish communication with?

The first step is to identify the Max Planck Institute and, within the Institute, the Director / Group Leader / Principal Investigator with whom you wish to establish collaboration. It is important to check that the research areas are complementary and that the proposal to be presented will be beneficial to both parties.

If you are not in contact with and/or you do not know the researcher you want to collaborate with, the next step is to establish the first contact. To do so, it is advisable to write an email referring to the program (and include its terms and conditions) and presenting the research and collaboration proposal. If your proposal is not answered, we recommend contacting the Max Planck Society Latin America Representation (latam@gv.mpg.de) and requesting assistance.

→ **Who is to sign the letter of support at the MPI?**

It is required that the Max Planck Institute expresses its commitment to making the necessary contributions to the project through a letter of endorsement (see model in the rules) that must be signed by a Director of the Institute.

→ **Can I apply if I have a PhD degree and not a postdoc degree?**

Yes, this is possible. However, it should be noted that relevant postdoctoral experience will be valued.

→ **If my proposal is in collaboration with a PI who plans to change his/her principal affiliation to another Institution before completing the 5 years of funding, can I still submit it?**

It is important to bear in mind that these projects are in collaboration with Max Planck Institutes and not with individual investigators. Therefore, should this situation arise, it is important that the PI involved guarantees that the Institute will continue to support the group for the entire period and that the activities cannot be transferred to another Institution. That is, if the PI changes their main affiliation to, for example, a University in Germany, the group will continue to be bound to the collaborating MPI and the PI must continue to support these tasks or ensure that another PI from the Institute will take over their role in the collaboration.

→ **Can I apply if I have already led a group in the past?**

Yes, in this call it is possible to reapply as a group leader even if you have already been a beneficiary of this program. However, it is important to remember that the call aims to expand existing collaborations. Therefore, being the quality of the applications the top priority in the selection process, in cases of difficulty of selection due to a high number of applications of excellent quality, the status of “former group leader” may influence the decision.

→ **What is the difference between a Partner Group and a Tandem Group?**

Partner Groups are the result of a program managed by the central administration of the MPG. The program is aimed at excellent young scientists who have completed a postdoctoral stay at a Max Planck Institute for at least 6 months and who wish to continue their lines of research at an institution in their country of origin. The program is funded by the central administration with an amount of EUR 20,000 per year for 5 years and an annual call for applications is open to all countries, so that candidates compete with all applicants from all over the world

Tandem Groups, on the other hand, build bridges for cooperation on new topics of mutual interest between Max Planck Institutes (IMP) and scientific partners in other countries. The Tandem Groups in Uruguay are funded by ANII, the collaborating Max Planck Institutes and the host institution in Uruguay (which assures the salary of the group leader). The calls are framed in a collaboration agreement between ANII and the MPG and are generally launched once a year.

→ **What is the duration of the groups?**

The groups are funded for a period of 5 years with the possibility of an extension of two additional years upon successful evaluation.

→ **If my proposal is selected, how long does it usually take to complete all the steps to start activities?**

Once candidates have been notified of a successful selection, the parties will have to sign agreements outlining the conditions and characteristics of the collaboration. This involves the host institution, the Max Planck Institute, the researcher selected as group leader and ANII. The timeframe may vary depending on the complexity of the process for the various actors but it usually takes between 7 months and a year.

→ **Do I have to include in the proposal the name of the doctoral and postdoctoral fellow that will form my group?**

No. In fact, the fellows must be proposed by the group leader once the successful selection of the project has been confirmed.