

Adjunct Research Professorship Program (Remote Laboratory)

Information for Applicants

Disclaimer

The English version of this call is intended for guidance and information purposes. It does not constitute a certified translation of the legal source. For a detailed description of the grant please follow the Armenian version.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

About

Adjunct Research Professorship Program (Remote Laboratory) program aims to develop a strong fundamental and applied research foundation in the Republic of Armenia. The purpose of the initiative is to attract top researchers and to fund the realization of ambitious research projects with the goal to increase the research and development potential and establish leading research centers in Armenia.

The program is designed to support established and active researchers, in their mid-career, who have a track record of significant research achievements that identify them as leaders of respective research fields to pursue a ground-breaking, innovative research program in Armenia. The program aims to empower excellent Principal Investigators (PIs) as Adjunct Research Professors to realize their research ideas by founding their research groups at the best Armenian research institutions. The program covers the remuneration of the research group members, including the salary of a Co-Investigator (CI), postdoctoral researchers, and Ph.D., Master, and Bachelor students, as well as project-related running costs and start-up costs, e.g., equipment necessary to establish research labs. In addition, funding for PI's visit costs is provided.

Within the *Remote Laboratory* program proposals submitted by a consortium of two PIs can be considered in the case of collaborative and/or multidisciplinary emphasis including meaningful collaboration between the PIs with complementary expertise that offers the possibility for synergistic advances.

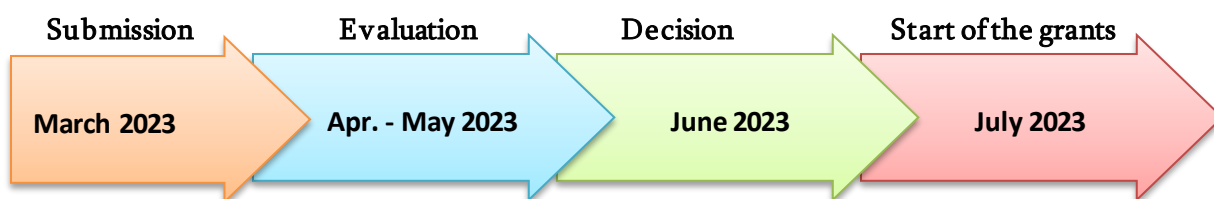
Research fields

Applications can be made in one of the fields listed below.

NS – Natural Sciences	ET – Engineering and Technology	SS – Social Sciences
Mathematics	Urban Planning and Architecture	Psychology
Computer Sciences and Informatics	Mechanics	Pedagogical Sciences
Physics and Astronomy	Electrical Engineering and	Economics and Business

	Information Technology	
Chemistry	Mechanical Engineering and Machine Building	Sociology
Earth and Environmental Sciences	Chemical Technology	Law
Biological Sciences	Material Science	Political Sciences
	Biotechnology	Socio-Economic Geography
	Medical Devices	Mass Media and Communication
	Nanotechnology	
	Ecology	
MS – Medical Sciences	AS –Agricultural Sciences	AH – Armenian Studies and Humanities
General Medicine	Cattle Breeding, Veterinary Medicine	History, Archaeology
Clinical Medicine	Crop Production	Linguistics, Literary Studies
Medical Biotechnology	Soil Science, Agro-Chemistry, Plant Protection	Philosophy, Ethics
	Agricultural Biotechnology	Geology
		Arts

Timeline



Eligibility

Eligible Principal Investigator

The Remote Laboratory program is open to researchers of any nationality, and age, who intend to guide the research program in a research institution in the Republic of Armenia, and who meet the following admissibility and eligibility criteria:

- An applicant should hold a tenured professorship or equivalent permanent position outside Armenia.
- Has not resided, worked, or studied in Armenia for 12 months during the past 4 years.
- An applicant should include a secondment phase at the host institution in Armenia, lasting 4 weeks per year during the implementation of the project.
- For the research fields of NS, ET, MS, and AS and SS PIs should have at least 4 papers or book chapters published during the last 5 years and indexed in one of the following Web of Science collections - "Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE)", "Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)", "Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)", "Arts & Humanities Citation Index (AHCI)" or indexed in the portal "Scimago Journal & Country Ranking". Papers can be replaced by a monograph or collective monograph (one monograph is tantamount to 4 papers) published by one of the Publishers included in the Web of Science Book Citation Index. For the field of AH, the requirement is equal to 2 papers or one monograph.
- In the case of a consortium of PIs, the above requirements apply to each of the applicants.
- During the implementation of the program PIs can move to Armenia (at least for a period of 12 months) and become a member of the new laboratory/department/group.

Eligible Host Institutions

The PI founds their research group at one of the state-funded research and educational institutions in Armenia.

- The host institution employs all the group members (except the PI(s)) and establishes a laboratory/department/research group at least starting from the 24th month for the duration of the **Remote Laboratory** program in accordance with full-time or half-time contracts.
- The host institution provides the researcher with full access to the infrastructure, and facilities of the institution.
- The host institution appoints an administrative contact person for the duration of the grant, which will help the PI with financial and administrative issues.

Eligible Research Groups

- Research groups must have 2-5 members (CI included).
- **Remote Laboratory** research program requires at least three team members for the research fields of NS, ET, MS, and AS and at least two team members for SS and AH (PI is not included).

- At least two of the group members must be born after January 1st of 1988 and be at least second-year Bachelor students (the eligibility can be extended for certain properly documented circumstances such as for maternity and paternity leave or military service).
- The PIs are free to select the CI and the research group members. The research team may be of a national or international character.
- The CI must be born after January 1st of 1983 and must be a resident and citizen of Armenia.
- The CI should have adequate expertise in the field selected by the applicant to be able to autonomously carry on with the day-to-day research and training tasks in accordance with the program and design of the project.
- The PI will be obliged to hold regular online meetings with the CI and group members, help them in performing research tasks and assignments, as well as critically reflect on the individual career development goals of the research group members.
- It is the responsibility of the PI to identify a suitable CI and group members. The SC is not in a position to recommend group members, however, the SC will support with advertising the vacancies for the team members on the job portals and within the research and educational institutions in Armenia.
- In the case of a consortium of PIs, all PIs in the team share authority for scientific leadership.
- Researchers who are currently involved in one of the following grants are not eligible to apply for the *Remote Laboratory* research program:
 - Advanced Research Grant
 - Integration Grant (2022 and 2023)
 - *Remote Laboratory* 2022
 - Support for Starting Scientific Groups or Consolidating Laboratories (Departments)

Budget

In the proposal submission, the budget should be prepared in the Armenian currency (AMD). The project costs are to be calculated based on the exchange rate of €1 = AMD426.

The Remote Laboratory program can be up to a maximum of € 363,606 (ca. AMD154,900,000) for a period of 5 years.

Additional funding of € 35,207 (ca. AMD15,000,000) can be requested in the proposal to cover the following eligible costs when these are necessary to carry out the proposed work:

- the purchase of major research equipment, which constitutes the host institution's fixed assets
- access to large facilities

The program budget is composed of the following elements:

- Remuneration of the PI consisting of the following elements
 - Activity honorarium of €351 (ca. AMD150,000 gross) per week during their visits to Armenia (maximal € 7,041 (ca. AMD3,000,000) for a period of 5 years).
 - Travel costs for visits to Armenia

- Visa and residency permit costs
- Round-trip travel costs
- Accommodation and living allowance costs in Armenia
- Health insurance costs during the visits to Armenia
- Direct research costs
 - Research team's (CI, Postdocs, Ph.D., Master, and Bachelor students, technicians), average monthly salary should be €704 (ca. AMD300,000 gross)
 - Other research costs of up to €2,348 (ca. AMD1,000,000) in each year per group member (excluding the PI(s)) including
 - Research supplies and consumables
 - Costs of research equipment
 - Travel and subsistence costs for group members and external visiting collaborators
 - Open Access publication and dissemination costs, monograph publication costs with prior approval from the SC.
 - Additional funding up to €46,966 (ca. AMD20,000,000) can be requested in the proposals, which includes experimental investigations to cover the following eligible costs when these are necessary to carry out the proposed research:
 - Research equipment and supplies
 - Access to large facilities
- Total indirect costs of up to € 5,866 (ca. AMD2,500,000) for the *Remote Laboratory* program to be used to provide the research group with a working space. Indirect costs are managed by the host institution.

Expected results and outcome

- After the initial 35 months teams from the research fields of NS, ET, MS, and AS, and SS must have at least 3 published papers or book chapters indexed in one of the following Web of Science collections - "Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE)", "Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)", "Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)", "Arts & Humanities Citation Index (AHCI)" or indexed in the portal "Scimago Journal & Country Ranking", or one monograph or collective monograph (one monograph is tantamount to 4 papers) published by one of the Publishers included in the Web of Science Book Citation Index. For the research field of AH, the requirement is equal to 2 papers or one monograph.
- At the stage of the final report teams from the research fields of NS, ET, MS, and AS, and SS must have at least 8 published papers or book chapters indexed in one of the following Web of Science collections - "Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE)", "Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)", "Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)", "Arts & Humanities Citation Index (AHCI)" or indexed in the portal "Scimago Journal & Country Ranking" (at least 2 of the publications must be in Q1 and 2 in Q2 journals) or 2 monographs or collective monographs published by one of the Publishers included in the Web of Science Book Citation Index. For the research field of AH, the requirement is equal to 6 papers (at least 2 of the publications must be in Q1 and 2 in Q2 journals) or 2 monographs.
- Publications within the framework of this project must have the following note:

This work was supported by the Science Committee of RA (Research project № _____).

- Meeting the afore-mentioned conditions as well as the failure to do so will add/subtract 5 percentage points from the results of CI's future project proposals and 1 percentage points from every other team member (maximum 5 percentage points) submitted to the SC. Points reduction will be diminished in case the conditions are thereafter fulfilled.
- At least one submitted grant application to an international funding agency for at least €58,560 (ca. AMD25,000,000) for the research fields of NS, ET, MS, AS, and SS thematic areas and at least €35,136 (ca. AMD15,000,000) the research field AH.
- During the implementation of the project, the team members ensure outreach, and public engagement, including the creation and dissemination of popular science materials on the topic, promoting public awareness and understanding of the research (public talks, publications in popular science journals, participating in science fairs, making scientific resources accessible to the general public).

Application Process

The submission deadline for the *Remote Laboratory* program is **April 07th, 2023, at 18:00 Armenia time (UTC +4)**. Please keep in mind that it is not possible to make any changes to the proposal once it is submitted.

Proposals are submitted by the applicant via a web-based online proposal submission system at rl-armenia-2023.scs.am

The following elements need to be included in the fellowship application:

- PI-1's Application (template)
- Team members' CVs (including PI and CI).
- A copy of the team members' last Diploma. In the case of students and Ph.D. students references from universities.
- Project description (template)
- Budget (template)
- Host institution's board conclusion (up to 2 pages) signed by an authorized representative of the host; the form should include the host institution's assessment of ambition, the feasibility of the proposal, correspondence, and suitability of the applicant and the host institution for the successful implementation of the research and career development goals
- Host institution's director's assignment to establish a new laboratory/department/group.
- Abstract for the public (up to 2 pages including figures and references)
- In the case of the consortium of PIs, the application is submitted by the administrative PI. A signed agreement of participation must be provided by the other collaborating PI.

Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria of the *Remote Laboratory* program are:

1. **Scientific quality of the project:** originality and innovative nature of the project; scientific impact; relationship to the state of the art in the field; scientific methods and techniques, research tools, equipment, and devices to be used; expected results, the potential for high-quality research outputs; sufficiency of the infrastructure and budget.
2. **Qualification of the applicant:** the capacity to implement the project; scientific achievements of the applicant; important contributions to the field; research performance and research output; supervisory, and mentoring experience; engagement in public intellectual and public interests work; scientific prizes and awards.
3. **Assessment of the host institution and impact of the project:** quality and suitability of institutional environment, and equipment; mutual gain from transfer of knowledge, technology, and expertise between the applicant and the host institution; the impact of the project on the development of research in Armenia.

Evaluation

The SC makes every effort to guarantee the ethics and transparency of the criteria-based selection process of the best researchers and projects.

Step 1 - Technical Evaluation

Initially, all applications are screened by the SC office to ensure that the eligibility requirements are met. After that, the extended annotation, PIs' and CIs' track records and CVs, and the appropriateness of the host institution are evaluated by the panel members. PIs' of rejected applications will be informed about that.

Step 2 - Panel Evaluation

For the second step of the evaluation, the proposals are referred to at least two experts. The experts carry out their evaluation based on the complete data included in the proposal. After the external reviews are submitted, the panel committee discusses the individual reviews and conducts interviews with the applicants. Interviews will be conducted online. The interview provides input to further clarify the proposal and to provide explanations to questions and criticisms submitted by the experts. The panel committee evaluates the applications and provides a final evaluation and score for each application based on the scores of experts, and interviews. Both scores of the external experts and the panel experts account for 50% of the final score.

Evaluation process

The panel committee compiles a ranking list for all applications based on the final scores. The compliant applications will be granted in the order of ranking until the depletion of the funds allocated for this call for applications.

In the final evaluation, the panel committee may prescribe certain conditions that the host institution and the applicant are required to fulfill upon receiving the grant.

Each applicant receives the evaluation summary report that reflects the final score for the proposal. The comments and marks must give sufficient and clear reasons for the score.

Contracting of grants

Allocation of program

Based on the final proposal and evaluation received from the panel committee, the SC makes a granting or rejecting decision.

A decision on rejecting the application may be made in the following cases:

- Based on the results of the evaluation and the threshold score
- The proposal cannot be funded due to the limited budget for the call
- If the certain conditions prescribed by the expert panel are not consented to by the applicant or the host institution

For each funded proposal, a Tripartite Agreement between the SC, the host institution, and the CI is concluded for the funding term. The Agreement entails the rights and responsibilities of the parties within the scope of the *Remote Laboratory* program. The group members involved in the program enter into a Supplementary Agreement with the CI, that specifies the duties and obligations of members.

Reporting

The PI in cooperation with the host institution is required to submit progress reports to the SC. The extension of the project duration is possible based on the report and the Board's decision.

- *Intermediate report* should be submitted within the 12th, 24th and 48th months of fellowship implementation and should include the following:
 - the results in accordance with the objectives of the program
 - a list of published articles as a result of the implementation of the program
 - a list of conference, workshop, and seminar presentations of the project results, teaching, and public outreach activities
 - a report on the usage of funding
- *Triennial report* should be submitted upon 35 months of the project implementation and should include the following:
 - the results in accordance with the objectives of the program
 - a list of published articles as a result of the implementation of the program
 - a list of conference, workshop, and seminar presentations of the project results, teaching, and public outreach activities
 - a report on the usage of funding
 - a report on the international recognition of the research group, its impact on the research field, and possible directions of future research
- *Final report* should be submitted no later than one month after the end of the program and should include the following:

- the results in accordance with the objectives of the program
- a list of published articles as a result of the implementation of the program
- a list of conference, workshop, and seminar presentations of the project results, teaching, and public outreach activities
- a report on the usage of funding
- a report on the potential applicability of the results for Armenian research and economy
- a report on the international recognition of the research group, its impact on the research field, and possible directions of future research

Research integrity

Cases of evident intentional false information, fraudulent activities, and scientific misconduct such as fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, or misrepresentation of data may result in the rejection of proposals and in a possible restriction on the participation of the researcher in any of the programs funded by the SC.

FAQ

1. When is it possible to apply for the Remote Laboratory program?

Applications for the **Remote Laboratory** program are only possible if they have been advertised.

2. On which target groups does the Remote Laboratory program focus?

This program is particularly suitable for excellent active applicants who hold tenured professorship or equivalent permanent position outside Armenia.

3. What resources are available for the Remote Laboratory program?

The Remote Laboratory program offers competitive packages for start-up money, personnel, travel, and yearly operating costs. The PI's research group carries out the program of the project at one of the state-funded research institutions in Armenia, where together with the research group they can make use of the infrastructure, resources, and excellent research environment. Moreover, the PIs are bestowed a great deal of individual flexibility, and if necessary, can employ additional funds from other programs of the SC according to need and progress.

4. Is participation in teaching activities expected?

Participation is not on the list of formal requirements. However, a PI is free and encouraged to get involved in the training of young scientists at a local university.

5. Is there any age limit?

There is no age restriction for the PI.

6. Is it possible to apply for the Remote Laboratory program with a host institution where the applicant is/was already employed?

Yes. However, an applicant must not have been studied or employed in Armenia for more than 12 months during the last 4 years.

7. Should the applicant contact the preferred host Institution prior to an official application?

Yes, in any case. In this way, common research areas of interest can be identified with the institute, and it can be determined whether an institute is fundamentally interested and able to provide the necessary premises and resources.

8. What is the composition of the expert panel?

Each panel consists of experts, leading scientists of the specific research field. These panels are responsible for the final recommendation based on the evaluations of the external experts.