

Joint NERC-FAPESP proposals

Applicants considering international collaboration with researchers from São Paulo State, Brazil, should note that this Call will welcome proposals jointly prepared and submitted by PIs from the UK and São Paulo State, Brazil, under the terms of the UKRI-FAPESP (the State of São Paulo Research Foundation) Lead Agency Agreement.

1. Context and Aims

In 2009, the United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI) and FAPESP signed a Lead Agency Agreement to strengthen the existing research links between the UK and the State of São Paulo, Brazil, and to help encourage and support proposals that involve international collaborative teams.

The aim of this joint call, FAPESP-NERC Global Partnerships Seedcorn Fund, is to develop, through short-term collaboration mechanisms, new partnerships between research groups in environmental sciences from the State of São Paulo and the United Kingdom.

Activities pursued under this grant are expected to have benefits beyond the duration of the NERC Global Partnerships Seedcorn Fund and the FAPESP award (e.g. establishing long-term collaborations, pump priming for ongoing, self-sustaining activities and/or developing high-impact knowledge). Accordingly, this call is intended to support mobility and exchange activities (such as travel and workshops) and the costs of exploratory studies (consumables, services and low-cost equipment).

Through FAPESP, this opportunity is open to researchers with an official appointment at Higher Education or Research Institutions in the State of São Paulo, who must follow the NERC guidelines as described in this document, **as well as** the guidelines described below.

2. Research Areas

Proposals submitted to this call should address NERC's areas of activity (<https://nerc.ukri.org/funding/application/howtoapply/topics/>), which include Earth and marine sciences, freshwater biology, archeology, polar sciences, and atmospheric and Earth observation.

3. FAPESP Funding Modality

Proposals submitted by the São Paulo State research partners to FAPESP will be processed according to the rules and guidelines of the Regular Research Grant (www.fapesp.br/apr), with the modifications and exceptionalities described in this call.

4. Eligibility to Apply

Only current Principal Investigators (PR) or Co-Principal Investigators (PP) in one of the grant modalities listed below are eligible to apply to this call at FAPESP:

- a. Regular Research Grants;
- b. Thematic Project Grants;
- c. Young Investigator Grants;
- d. Public Education Program;
- e. Research in Public Policy Program;
- f. Research Partnership for Technological Innovation (PITE);

- g. Engineering Research Centers (CPEs);
- h. Research, Innovation and Diffusion Centers (CEPID).

Each ongoing grant may have only one representative submitting a proposal to this call.

5. Preparing and submitting proposals

5.1. Proposal preparation

- a. Each proposal must have a Principal Investigator from the State of São Paulo and a Principal Investigator from the United Kingdom.
- b. The research project submitted as part of the proposal must be jointly created by the proponents of the State of São Paulo and the United Kingdom.
- c. The research project must be written in English.
- d. All proposals submitted to FAPESP must include all the mandatory documents for analysis listed on the SAGe online platform.

5.2. Exceptions to the FAPESP rules for Regular Research Grants (AP-R)

The conditions listed below supersede the usual rules for a FAPESP Regular Research Grant (APR), found (in Portuguese) in <https://fapesp.br/apr>:

- a. The total budget requested from FAPESP (including Institutional Overhead) cannot surpass R\$ 210,000.00 (roughly £ 30,000) and may include:
 - a1. Travel costs, including air tickets, accommodation, living expenses and travel insurance;
 - a2. Consumables, services and low-cost research equipment; and
 - a3. The cost of workshops held in São Paulo State, Brazil (excluding not-allowed expenses as listed in FAPESP budget guidelines).
- b. Fellowships, overheads (other than institutional overhead) and benefits are not eligible for funding in this call for proposals.

5.3 Submission of proposals

- a. The UK PI must submit a notification of intent to NERC by 18 March 2021.
- b. The deadline for submission of complete proposals is 30 March 2021. No proposal, addendum or explanation will be accepted after this date, unless explicitly and formally requested by FAPESP or by NERC.
- c. Only proposals submitted by the São Paulo PI to FAPESP, through SAGe, and by the UK PI to NERC, through Je-S, will be considered.
- d. The applicant from the state of São Paulo must submit the proposal exclusively through the SAGe system in the **English language**: *[New Proposal] > [New Initial Proposal] > + Agreements > + UKRI - UK Research and Innovation > + NERC - Natural Environment Research Council > UKRI - NERC - Regular Research Grant > [Confirm] > Global Partnerships Seedcorn Fund - Chamada de Propostas (2021) > [Add]*
- e. **IMPORTANT:** the PI from the UK must be registered in the SAGe system. This can be done by accessing SAGe in the English language and choosing the option “*Not registered?*” The researcher must fill in all mandatory fields, indicated with an asterisk (*). After successfully registering, the PI from the UK may be nominated as a member of the research project and then must access the proposal in SAGe to confirm her/his participation in it.

- f. Simultaneous submission of the same research proposal to different funding opportunities from FAPESP and NERC is not allowed.
- g. Only one research proposal is allowed for each PI.
- h. Proposals that do not comply with the terms of these guidelines will not be eligible for review.
 - h1. Proposals whose total budget requested from FAPESP, as indicated in the SAGe budget tab, in the Total Cost of Proposal line, exceeds the amount indicated in this call (item 5.2.a) will be summarily rejected.
 - h2. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the proposal meets all the submission criteria stated in this call.
- i. There are specific conditions for applicants to NERC within the [Operational Guidelines](#), available from the UKRI website. Please observe that applicants based in the State of São Paulo should be included as Project Partners on the JeS form and their role should be described in the Case for Support. Also, a PDF copy of the FAPESP proposal form (SAGe's "Visualize" option) should be included in the application to NERC.

6. Evaluation of Proposals

Proposals that meet the requirements of this call, including those indicated in the NERC instructions listed above will be eligible for evaluation. The evaluation will be carried out under the terms of the FAPESP-UKRI memorandum of understanding, using the process and criteria described in the section "How we will assess your application" (above).

7. Results of the Call

The list of proposals selected under this call will be announced beginning August 2021.

8. Further Information

All questions to FAPESP related to this call for proposals should be sent to the manager responsible for the call, via e-mail: chamada-nerc-gpsf@fapesp.br

Questions and requests for clarification to NERC should be submitted to Claire Simmons, Program Manager, via email: gpsf@nerc.ukri.org