

Consolidation Grant 2026 – Call

Bilateral research cooperation with the Latin American Region 2025-2028

The State Secretariat for Education, Research, and Innovation (SERI) has mandated the University of St.Gallen as the Swiss Leading House Latin America (LH) for bilateral collaboration with partner institutions in Switzerland and Latin America for the period 2025-2028, and to explore new research in the region.

The current call for Consolidation Grant 2026 aims to promote mono- or interdisciplinary projects and involve bilateral or multilateral partnerships with Latin American countries. Researchers of all disciplines are invited to apply.

Project proposals should ensure a direct transfer to society, benefiting local communities and building capacity. Researchers must also present socially, culturally, or technically innovative projects that foster resilience.

Aims and objectives

The aim of the Consolidation Grant (COG) is to encourage more advanced, solid projects, filling the gap between smaller instruments and the Swiss National Science Foundation's (SNSF) and other funding agencies' larger calls. It promotes sustainable, long-term research cooperation between Swiss and Latin American scholars to produce accountable scientific outcomes in domains identified as priorities by both Latin American and Swiss institutions. The goal of this instrument is to provide a solid impulse to prepare larger applications (*Anschubfinanzierung*). Along with organizing collective workshops, conferences, and fieldwork, the COG fosters initiatives to support the mobility of young researchers (PostDocs, PhD and MA students).

Eligibility and responsibility of project members

Each proposal must have one principal applicant based in Switzerland and one in Latin America.

Eligibility of the Swiss applicant:

The Swiss Principal Investigator must hold at least a PhD degree, and employment as a scientist in an eligible Swiss institution (Swiss federal institutes of technology, cantonal universities, federal and cantonal research institutes, universities of applied sciences) with a permanent position contract (minimum of 40%) unrelated to the COG project. Research institutions in Switzerland must be accredited by swissuniversities.

Eligibility of the Latin American applicant:

The Principal Investigator in Latin America must be affiliated with an accredited university or a research institute. They must also hold a faculty or scientist position and have several years of academic experience. They must have a permanent position contract unrelated to the COG project. A second Principal Investigator in Latin America is only possible if the project involves different universities in the region.

Co-investigators based in Switzerland and Latin America can also participate as team members, including master's and PhD students.

Principal investigators who have previously received a Leading House Latin America grant are welcome to apply if their projects were completed and final reports submitted by April 30th, 2026.

Funding and budgeting

COGs fund projects with a minimum of CHF 25,000 and a maximum of CHF 40,000. The grant will be disbursed in two installments: 80% upon signing the grant contract and 20% after approval of the final report.

All expenses must be justified and related to the proposed research activities. Financial contributions from each side of the partnership and in-kind contributions are expected – likewise, third-party contributions, if applicable – and should be detailed in the Budget Form.

The mutual commitment of partners in both countries will serve as an indicator of the partnership's strength and the project's financial sustainability. It includes financial co-funding and in-kind contributions by all partners and possibly third-party contributions. The Swiss Alliance for Global Research Partnerships (GRP-Alliance) [Guide for Global Research Partnerships](#) shall be used as a guideline for the project process.

The budget will be reviewed and may be cut if expenses are not calculated or justified properly.

The grant received from the Leading House must be spent in Switzerland and in one or more Latin American countries. Expenses outside Latin America and Switzerland can be covered only in exceptional cases and upon prior consultation with the Leading House. The Leading House expects a balanced distribution of resources between Switzerland and Latin America.

Administration of funds and reporting

The Swiss Principal Investigator bears the primary responsibility for the project, including its technical and administrative coordination and the timely delivery of scientific and financial reports. They must submit a final scientific and financial report within one month of the COG project's termination. The latest reporting deadline will be September 30, 2028.

Application

Applications shall be submitted in electronic format only. Please submit the complete application on the University of St. Gallen Leading House Latin America (LH) website according to the instructions provided there. The Principal Investigator in Switzerland (Swiss PI) must complete the application. Their responsibility is to ensure that the formal requirements are fulfilled and that the content is accurate and complete.

All information provided in the administrative part and all uploaded documents must be written in English. The Leading House does not provide applicants with contact details of possible project partners in Switzerland and Latin America. It is the responsibility of the main researchers applying for the grant to find their contacts and partners.

Evaluation and selection of projects

Applications will be evaluated by invited experts and decided upon in a committee meeting. The LH distinguishes between formal eligibility criteria and evaluation criteria. Projects qualify for funding only if the eligibility criteria are met and are ultimately selected based on the evaluation criteria. Promotion of female researchers is mandatory.

The following evaluation criteria will apply in this call:

Relevance

- The project must pursue a direct transfer to society. Researchers also must present socially, culturally, or technically innovative projects that foster resilience.
- Researchers must demonstrate that the studied topics are relevant to the global agenda, especially for Switzerland and Latin America.
- The proposal must demonstrate the need for international cooperation for the success of the inputs and outputs.

Academic originality and consistency

- An adequate state-of-the-art literature review and identification, as well as justification of a research gap.
- Novel and clearly defined research question(s) and hypothesis.
- Comprehensive and detailed research method, along with original and feasible proposed activities.
- The accuracy of the research plan and application.
- Quality and experience of the team members involved in the project. Expertise and complementary proficiency of the partner laboratories/institutes and the applicants.

Expected results and follow-up

- The feasibility and relevance of the expected impact, outputs, and scientific production (e.g., publications, workshops).
- The projected dissemination strategy.
- The sustainability of the project and long-term collaboration through follow-up grants or the establishment of permanent collaborations.

Project Maturity

- The track record of results achieved in the past collaborations between the Swiss and Latin American team members.
- The evolution of the partnership over the years and the relevance of the present proposal for upgrading the research cooperation.

Timeline

Call launch:	May 01, 2026
Deadline for submission:	July 31, 2026
Evaluation and funding decision:	August – November 2026
Notification:	December 11, 2026
Contract:	January 2027
Earliest project start:	February 1, 2027
Project duration:	18 months
Latest project end:	August 31, 2028
Project report due:	September 30, 2028

Please register for the [Info Session](#) on June 09, at 16:00 (Swiss time)

Annex I: Guidelines for Writing the Scientific Proposal

Please provide all the information listed below in a separate document (**max 2,500 words**). To ensure a blind peer-review process, do not explicitly refer to members of the research team, institutes, or universities; the project proposal needs to be **anonymous**.

1. **Project title, abstract, and keywords:** The abstract should be a maximum of half a page and include objectives, research plan, methodology, expected results, and purpose of the partnership. Please include up to five keywords for your project.
2. **Relevance and justification:** The proposal should be relevant to Switzerland and Latin America and demonstrate the need for international collaboration. Projects must also be socially, culturally, or technically innovative and foster resilience.
3. **State of the art and research gap:** Briefly describe the current state of the art in research and identify a research gap: include the main research question(s) and hypothesis(es).
4. **Research plan, methods, and timeframe:** Include approach and methodology, milestones, and timeframe of feasible proposed activities. The research project must be conducted within 18 months (2027-2028).
5. **Expected results and follow-up:** Explain the expected impact, output, scientific production, follow-up activities, and the possibility of a long-term collaboration on the research project. The proposal should ensure a direct transfer to society. This grant should also be used to prepare and submit proposals to larger funding agencies and instruments in Latin America, Switzerland, and Europe (e.g., SNF, ERC). Applicants ought to explicitly indicate to which call and funding agency the research team plans to submit its proposal in the next step.
6. **Experience of the applicants:** Outline the applicants' previous work areas and performance of the applicants relevant to the proposed research. Describe the strengths and complementarities of the research teams.
7. **Promotion of female and emerging researchers:** Briefly describe the gender and career-stage balance of researchers involved in the project.
8. **Intended Intellectual Property Rights (IPR):** Include IPR agreements (if applicable).
9. **Ethical, safety, and regulatory issues:** Please describe if the proposed work raises ethical, safety, or regulatory issues. If so, detail how the team will deal with them.
10. **Bibliography:** the list of references does not count towards the 2,500-word limit.

The proposal must be uploaded to the Leading House website together with the following:

- **Budget**
- **CVs** Curriculum Vitae, and publications (max. 2 pages) of the Swiss and Latin American Principal Investigators (PIs), including a list of the five most important publications related to the proposal.

The budget must be submitted in PDF using the Excel template provided on the website.
CVs and proposals must be submitted in PDF format.

Annex II: Guidelines for preparing the budget

- Travel expenses of up to CHF 2,200 (round trips) per person may be granted. This covers all travel expenses per person within Switzerland and Latin America (e.g., flights, car, train, bus). Travel insurance and visa costs can be covered within this limit. Travel expenses that surpass this limit will only be covered as an exception and must be thoroughly justified.
- The Consolidation Grant can only cover economy-class flights and public transport tickets. Car rentals, taxis, and Uber rides will be covered only as an exception and must be thoroughly justified.
- Accommodation costs can be granted. Please indicate the estimated costs in detail. Accommodation costs are up to CHF 150/night in Switzerland and up to CHF 80/night in Latin America. Alternative accommodation options (Airbnb, apartment rentals) are recommended for research stays exceeding two consecutive weeks.
- Consumable costs are a maximum of CHF 70/day in Switzerland, and a maximum of CHF 50/day in Latin America. Consumables include all meals and small expenses during the exchange period. They also include urban public transport tickets for short trips. There is no need to present receipts for consumables at the end of the project. A daily rate is applicable.
- Members of the project team can benefit from paid accommodation and consumables for a maximum of three months.
- Consolidation Grants can fund software for qualitative and quantitative data collection and processing (e.g., online data management, survey platforms) and communications software for virtual seminars/workshops (e.g., Zoom, Skype). The platform subscription must be justified, and this fee can only be covered if the Principal Investigator's university does not provide it.
- Work-related institutional costs (exclusively for Universities of Applied Sciences and Universities of Teaching Education): the COG can be used to cover the time dedicated to the project by staff in the Swiss institution(s), **excluding the principal investigator**. This expense should not exceed 20% of the overall grant. These funds cannot be used to create new positions. Payment of work-related institutional costs to partners outside Switzerland is not allowed.
- Subcontracting: Costs generated by third parties mandated by the research project (outsourcing through subcontracting) may be charged to the grant in exceptional cases if the involvement of third parties is justified and necessary, and if the costs of services provided within the scope of subcontracting correspond to no more than 20% of the grant.
- Aiming to support gender equality, the Consolidation Grant can cover childcare costs up to CHF 1,000 of the total awarded grant to be split between the Swiss and Latin American teams.
- As a result of the project, publication costs can be covered.
- Equipment is only allowed if it is project-specific and not part of the host institution's basic infrastructure

A purchase receipt must be provided for all costs except for consumables.

Specification of costs that cannot be covered

- Salaries.
- Conference rooms and other infrastructure. Should be provided by the host universities (in-kind contribution).
- Overhead.

Contact

University of St.Gallen
Institute of Management in Latin America (GIMLA-HSG)
Swiss Leading House Latin America
Müller-Friedberg-Strasse 6/8
CH - 9000 St.Gallen
+41 71 224 27 36
leadinghouse@unisg.ch
latinamerica.unisg.ch

Dr. Leticia Vargas, Head of Research and Academic Partnerships
leticia.vargasbento@unisg.ch

Kalliopi Chante, Administration
kalliopi.chante@unisg.ch

Lea Stupp, Assistant
lea.stupp@student.unisg.ch

Prof. Dr. Vanessa Boanada, Program Director
vanessa.boanada@unisg.ch