

HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENCE COMMITTEE

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

INCOMING RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2024
(INTEGRATION GRANT)

For Establishing Research Groups and Developing Professional
Careers in Research Institutions of the Republic of Armenia



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CALL FOR PROPOSALS “INCOMING RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2024 (INTEGRATION GRANT)”

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Call for Proposals

- 1.1. The Call for Proposals “Incoming Research Fellowship Program 2024 (Integration Grant)”, (hereinafter ‘**Call for Proposals**’) is carried out in accordance with the Order № 2363-U/2 dated November 14, 2023, issued by the Minister of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter ‘**Minister**’).
- 1.2. The **Call for Proposals** is organized by the Higher Education and Science Committee of the Ministry of Science, Education, Culture, and Sports of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter ‘**Committee**’), being guided by the Order for Contractual (Thematic) Funding of Scientific and Technical Activity established by the RA Government Decision №1122 dated November 17, 2001.
- 1.3. The **Call for Proposals** aims to establish new scientific subdivisions in prospective and cutting-edge research areas under the supervision of foreign scientists under the umbrella of the organizations carrying out a program within the framework of basic funding for scientific and technical activities from the state budget of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter ‘**Organization**’).
- 1.4. The **Call for Proposals** covers all research fields of scientific and technical activities (listed in Annex №2.1).
- 1.5. The procedure of the **present Call** implies submitting an application (hereinafter ‘**Application**’), which shall include the description of the scientific project (hereinafter ‘**Project**’) and other supporting documents/data.
- 1.6. The submitted **Project** (Annex №2.2) shall be ambitious, competitive, promising, and feasible.
- 1.7. The publications presented within the current **Call for Proposals** shall be indexed in international scientific databases (“Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE)”, “Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)”, “Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)”, “Arts & Humanities Citation Index (AHCI)”), **or** published as a book chapter/paper in a scientific periodical issued by a publisher indexed in the Web of Science Book Citation Index, **or** published in periodicals listed in the portal “SCImago Journal & Country Ranking” with an at least Q4 index, and an equivalent of an at least Q2 SJR (SCImago Journal Rank) indicator (hereinafter ‘**International Scientific Database**’ or ‘**ISD**’) for conference proceedings. As for the **Monograph/Collective Monograph/ Scientific Work**

(hereinafter '**Monograph**'), it shall consist of at least 5 author's sheets and be issued by one of the publishers included in the "Web of Science Book Citation Index".

- 1.8. The terms of the **Call for Proposals** shall define the application procedure, the stages, and criteria of **Application** evaluation, as well as funding and reporting procedures for the selected **Projects**.

2. Purpose

2.1. The purposes of the present Call for Proposals are as follows:

- Foster domestic and international collaboration;
- Increase the scientific and technical capacity of the respective hosting Organization;
- Involve researchers from the Diaspora and overseas;
- Engage young researchers and PhD students;
- Promote the integration of young scientists into the international research area;
- Improve the scientific environment;
- Create new, competitive, and prospective scientific subdivisions;
- Strengthen the impact of research on socioeconomic development;
- Improve competitiveness in science.

3. Timeframes

- 3.1. The **Projects** approved for funding shall be carried out within 60 months.
- 3.2. The submission deadline for the **Call for Proposals** via the Online **Application** System is **January 12, 2024, 18:00**, Yerevan time (GMT+4).
- 3.3. The deadline for the submission of the paper-based documents to the **Committee** is **January 19, 2024**.
- 3.4. **Contracts** shall be signed within 10 days after the announcement of the results of the **Call**.
- 3.5. Implementation **Reports** shall be submitted by the last working day of every 12th month since the commencement of the **Project**.
- 3.6. The **Project** shall commence and be implemented within the timeframes specified in the **Contract**.

4. Group

- 4.1. The **Project** is developed and implemented by a group of 2-5 researchers (hereinafter '**Group**') consisting of a principal investigator from abroad (hereinafter '**PI**') and group members.
- 4.2. The members of the **Group** can hold any citizenship.
- 4.3. The **PI** and the members of the **Group** should be either citizens or residents of the Republic of Armenia and reside in Armenia during the whole implementation of the **Project**.
- 4.4. The **Group** shall have a Foreign Partner or Collaborator (hereinafter '**Collaborator**').
- 4.5. The **Group** shall be represented only by the **PI**.

5. The PI

- 5.1. The **Application** shall be submitted by the **PI of the Group**.

- 5.2. The **PI** of the **Group** shall:
- be born after January 1, 1974;
 - have received a scientific degree after January 1, 2004;
 - neither have studied nor worked in the Republic of Armenia for a cumulative period of 12 months during the last 4 years by the announcement of the **Call**.
- 5.3. The **PI** of the **Group** shall be either a citizen or a resident of the Republic of Armenia and reside in Armenia during the whole implementation of the **Project**
- 5.4. The **PI** of the **Group** shall have publications in the particular research field published during the last 5 years (2019-2024) which meet the following criteria:

*For research fields #1-5 (NS, ET, MS, AS, and SS) listed in **Annex 2.1**:*

- **4 ISD-indexed** publications;
- or have an h-index (Hirsch) of at least 10, according to the SCOPUS Scientific Database (<https://www.scopus.com/freelookup/form/author.uri>).

*For research field #6 (AH) listed in **Annex 2.1**:*

- **2 ISD-indexed** publications;
- or **1 Monograph**.

For the specialties included in Research Field #6, 1 Monograph is tantamount to 4 ISD-indexed publications.

- 5.5. If any of the submitted publications are included in Beall's list (<https://beallslist.net/>) of predatory and fraud publications or journals, the Professional Expertise Board established for the evaluation of the **Applications** (hereinafter '**Board**') shall decide on further admissibility of the **Application** for scientific expertise.
- 5.6. The **PI** is responsible for the formation of the **Group** and the successful implementation of the **Project**.

6. Group Members

- 6.1. The members of the **Group** can be both citizens of the Republic of Armenia or hold any other citizenship.
- 6.2. The members of the **Group** should be either citizens or residents of the Republic of Armenia, as well as reside in Armenia during the whole implementation of the **Project**.
- 6.3. The **Group** shall contain:
- at least **3 Group Members** (including the **PI**) for research fields #1-5 listed in Annex 2.1,
 - at least **2 Group Members** (including the **PI**) for research field #6 listed in Annex 2.1.
- 6.4. At least **2 Group Members** shall be born after January 1, 1989. Undergraduate students who are in their third year or above are eligible.

The age threshold of the **Group Members** can be extended in the following cases:

- in the case of military service in the RA Armed Forces - for 2 years;
- in the case of parental leave - for 1 year for each child.

- 6.5. For research fields #1-4 (listed in Annex 2.1), **Group Members** can be first-year undergraduate students majoring in the fields related to the scientific and technical field of the **Project** and awarded at least a 3rd-level diploma at the republican-level School Subject Olympiad in their 11th and 12th school grade.
- 6.6. At least one of the young **Group Members** shall not be involved in any program funded within the basic funding of scientific and technical activities from the state budget of Armenia.
- 6.7. **Group Members** (including the **PI**) shall not be involved in more than one **Application** within the present **Call for Proposals** and shall not be among the recipients of the following grants:
 - "Support Program for Advanced Research";
 - "Starting Grant for Research Groups and Consolidator Grant for Laboratories (Subdivisions) - 2021";
 - "Starting Grant for Research Groups and Consolidator Grant for Laboratories (Subdivisions) - 2023";
 - "Support Program for Integration of Foreign Scientists to the Scientific Community of the Republic of Armenia (Integration Grant) - 2022";
 - "Support Program for Integration of Foreign Scientists to the Scientific Community of the Republic of Armenia (Integration Grant) - 2023";
 - "Support Program for Integration of Foreign Scientists to the Scientific Community of the Republic of Armenia (Integration Grant) - 2023/2";
 - "Adjunct Research Professorship Program (Remote Laboratory) - 2022";
 - "Adjunct Research Professorship Program (Remote Laboratory) - 2023".

7. Foreign Partner (Collaborator)

- 7.1. The **Group** shall have a Foreign partner (**Collaborator**).
- 7.2. The **Collaborator of the Group** shall:
 - hold a scientific degree;
 - carry out research activities in any foreign research institution in the **Project-related** field.
- 7.3. The **Collaborator of the Group** shall have an h-index (Hirsch) of at least 15, according to the SCOPUS Scientific Database (<https://www.scopus.com/freelookup/form/author.uri>), for research fields #1-4 listed in Annex 2.1, and at least a 3 h-index for research fields #5-6 listed in Annex 2.1, or at least **8 ISD-indexed** publications in the particular research field published during the last 5 years (2019-2024).
- 7.4. The **Collaborator** shall not be regarded as a member of the **Group**, and no remuneration shall be envisaged for their activities.
- 7.5. The **Collaborator** shall provide the **PI** of the **Group** with their academic CV and a Confirmation Letter restating their awareness of the **Project** content, the scope of their responsibilities, envisaged joint events (scientific experiments, meetings, and seminars), as well as their consent to their involvement in research activities.

- 7.6. At least one of the publications published as an output of the **Project** shall list the **Collaborator** as a co-author.
- 7.7. During the whole period (60 months) of the **Project** implementation, the **Collaborator** must spend a cumulative period of no less than 25 days annually at the hosting **Organization** in the Republic of Armenia, as well as host **Group Members** in their respective foreign scientific institution for a cumulative period of no less than 25 days.
- 7.8. The **Collaborator** shall not be involved in more than one **Application** under the present **Call**.

8. Organization Eligibility

- 8.1. The **Organization** shall be among those implementing the program funded within the basic funding of scientific and technical activities from the state budget of the Republic of Armenia.
- 8.2. The **Organization** shall provide access to its infrastructure and equipment.
- 8.3. The **Organization** shall support the implementation of the **Project**.
- 8.4. The **Organization** must provide the **PI** with the scientific board conclusion of the **Organization** (or, in the case of higher education institutions, that of a particular department) regarding the **Project's** relevance, importance, and correspondence to the **Organization's** scope of activities.
- 8.5. The **Organization** shall include the **PI of the Group** in a program of basic funding of scientific and technical activities, and the **CI** shall remain included in such program at least till the end of the **Project**.
- 8.6. By the 24th month of the implementation of the **Project**, a new scientific subdivision (group, laboratory, department) shall be established under the umbrella of the **Organization** within the basic funding of scientific and technical activities, ensuring the involvement of the **PI** (Head of the Subdivision) and **Group Members** (Employees of the Subdivision). The total workload of the employees involved in the **Project** shall comprise no less than 200 hours per week (5 Full-time Equivalent, FTE).
- 8.7. The Head of the **Organization** provides the **PI** with a reference letter confirming their awareness of the conditions of the **Call** and expressing their readiness to allocate the financial resources from the basic funding of the **Organization** to comply with the provisions specified in Subparagraphs 8.5 and 8.6 of the present **Call**.
- 8.8. The Head of the **Organization** covers the expenses aimed at creating necessary conditions for the implementation of the **Project** at the expense of financial resources envisaged in the "Overhead Costs" subsection of the "Other Expenses" section of the Financial Estimate (hereinafter 'Estimate').
- 8.9. The equipment, materials, and services necessary for the implementation of the **Project** shall be purchased in the manner prescribed by the RA Law "On Procurements" in conformity with the regulations of public-needs-oriented procurements.
- 8.10. The equipment and devices purchased shall be included in the balance sheet of the **Organization**, and the right of disposal thereof shall belong to the **Organization**, including subsequent use thereof for statutory purposes, i.e., for carrying out research activities.

8.11. A **Contract** shall be signed between the **Organization**, the **Committee**, and the **PI** of the **Project** for the use of the amounts of financial assistance provided by the state in the form of a grant for the implementation of contractual projects of scientific and technical activities (hereinafter '**Contract**').

9. Expected Results

9.1. By the 35th month since the commencement of the **Project**, the **Group Members** shall present the following publications with an indication of the **Organization** as the author's affiliation and containing the note stipulated in Subparagraph 9.5. of the **Call**.

- For research fields #1-5 (listed in Annex 2.1):
 - At least 4 **ISD-indexed** publications;
- For research field #6 (listed in Annex 2.1):
 - At least 2 **ISD-indexed** publications;
 - Or 1 **Monograph**.

9.2. In the case of failure to comply with the provisions of Subparagraph 9.1. of the **Call** by the 35th month since the commencement of the **Project**, it may be decided to terminate the funding of the **Project** upon the conclusion of the **Board**.

9.3. After the completion of the **Project** (for an overall period of 60 months), the **Group Members** shall present the following publications with an indication of the **Organization** as the author's affiliation and containing the funding acknowledgment statement as outlined in Subparagraph 9.5. of the **Call**.

- For research fields #1-5 (listed in Annex 2.1):
 - A minimum of 10 **ISD-indexed** publications, at least 2 of which shall be in Q1 journals and another 2 - in Q2 journals.
- For research field #6 (listed in Annex 2.1):
 - A minimum of 5 **ISD-indexed** publications, at least 2 of which shall be in Q1 journals and another 2 - in Q2 journals.
 - Or 2 **Monographs**.

For the specialties included in Research Field #6, 1 Monograph is tantamount to 4 ISD-indexed publications.

9.4. In at least 5 publications produced as an output of the **Project** for research fields #1-5 listed in Annex 2.1, and at least 3 publications for research field #6 listed in Annex 2.1, the **PI** shall be either the first, the last, or the corresponding author, or credited in any equivalent capacity. At least one of the publications published as an output of the **Project** shall involve the **Collaborator** as a co-author.

9.5. In all publications produced as an output of the **Project**, it is necessary to indicate the funding received from the **Committee** as follows:

This work was supported by the Higher Education and Science Committee of RA (Research Project № _____)

Attention: Without the aforementioned notes, the publication shall not be considered as a Project Output and, therefore, shall not be included in the report.

- 9.6. As an output of the **Project**, the **Group** is expected to apply for an international grant (at least one submitted grant). The grant budget for research fields #1-5 should amount to at least AMD 25,000,000; for research field #6 - at least 15,000,000 AMD.
- 9.7. Within the frames of the **Project's** implementation, all **Group Members** are expected to ensure the creation and dissemination of popular science materials about the **Project** or their particular field of science (interviews, publications in popular science journals, creation, and distribution of video materials, organization of discussions for general audience, etc.). The **Board** shall consider these dissemination efforts when evaluating and accepting the **Project's** final report.
- 9.8. Both successful compliance and noncompliance with the provisions of Subparagraphs **9.1.**, **9.3.** and **9.4.** shall respectively affect the evaluation score of the future applications submitted by the **Group Members** to the upcoming **Call for Proposals** announced by the **Committee**. Particularly, the amount of 5 percent of the final evaluation score shall be subtracted from (in the case of noncompliance) or added to (in the case of compliance) the evaluation score of the applications submitted in the future with the involvement of **PI** (irrespective of their future capacity), and the amount of 1 percent of the final evaluation score - for the future applications with the involvement of each **Group Member**. The score shall be affected by a maximum amount of 5 percent of the total score. The reduction of the final expertise score of future applications submitted by the **Group Members** for subsequent **Calls for Proposals** shall cease to apply once the **Committee** is duly notified about the compliance with the provisions of Subparagraphs **9.1.** and **9.3.**

II. PROCEDURE FOR COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

10. Submission of the Application and Supporting Documents

- 10.1. The **Application** shall be filled in and submitted by the **PI** via the Online **Application** System <https://irf-armenia-2024.hesc.am/>. The Application deadline for the Call for Proposals is **January 12, 2024, 18:00**, Yerevan time (GMT+4).
- 10.2. The following paper-based documents shall be presented to the **Committee** after online submission:
 - **PI's** application letter (Annex 2.3);
 - **Estimate**;
 - the scientific board's conclusion of the host **Organization** (or the university faculty), which shall contain information regarding the **Project's** relevance, importance, and correspondence to the **Organization's** scope of activities;
 - a letter by the Head of the host **Organization** confirming the establishment of a new scientific subdivision within the **Organization**;

- for those **Group Members** who are undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate students, references from their universities are required with an indication of specialty and the year of study;
- the academic CV and the Confirmation Letter of the **Collaborator**;
- the copies of diplomas envisaged under Subparagraphs 5.2. of the present **Call**;
- the academic CVs of the **Group Members**.

10.3. Other documents may be required if necessary.

10.4. By January 19, 2024, a representative of the **Organization** (Scientific Secretary or another authorized person) shall submit all the required paper-based documents of their **Organization** to the **Committee** in one package (22 Orbeli Brothers St., 7th floor, 706 room).

10.5. Should there be any further inquiries regarding the **Call for Proposals**, please contact the relevant department of the **Committee** at scexpert@hesc.am or by dialing +37410210140-108.

Attention: The Committee shall consider only those applications that are submitted via the online system. The applications that have not been submitted in accordance with the aforementioned procedure or deadlines shall not be considered.

11. Estimate

11.1. The **Estimate** consists of two sections: "Remuneration" and "Other Costs". The "Other Costs" section includes "Equipment, Materials and Services", "Travels", "Consolidation of Group/Laboratory", and "Overhead Costs" subsections.

11.2. For the "Remuneration" section of the **Estimate**:

- The maximum monthly salary for the **PI** shall be AMD 600,000 gross, and in the case of their relocation to the Republic of Armenia with family member(s) - AMD 750,000 gross;
- The advisable average monthly salary of the **Group Members** (excluding that of the **PI**) shall be AMD 300,000 gross.

11.3. If the total remuneration is less than the above-mentioned amount, the surplus can be used in the "Other Costs" section of the **Estimate**.

11.4. No remuneration is envisaged for the **Collaborator** of the **Group**.

11.5. For the "Equipment, Materials, and Services", "Travels", and "Overhead Costs" subsections of the "Other Costs" section of the **Estimate**, an amount of AMD 25,000,000, AMD 20,000,000, AMD 15,000,000, and AMD 10,000,000 for a total of 60 months shall be considered for 5-, 4-, 3- and 2-member **Groups**, respectively. The amount of funding envisaged for those costs can be increased at the expense of the surplus mentioned in Subparagraph 11.3.

11.6. The expenses for purchasing scientific equipment, materials, and services necessary for the research may be envisaged under the "Equipment, Materials, and Services" subsection of the "Other Costs" section of the **Estimate**. A contract for services may be signed only with legal entities upon the consent of the **Committee**.

- 11.7. The costs for the implementation process and presentation of the proceedings of the **Project** at international conferences and mutual visits of the **Collaborator** and the **Group Members** may be envisaged under the "Travel" subsection of the "Other Costs" section of the **Estimate**.
- 11.8. An amount of AMD 15,000,000 may be allocated to the improvement of the laboratory/group infrastructure and other **Project-related** costs for the first 12 months under the "Consolidation of Group/Laboratory" subsection of the "Other Costs" section of the **Estimate**.
- 11.9. The purchase of scientific equipment shall not be scheduled for the last year of the **Project**.
- 11.10. Up to AMD 2,500,000 may be requested within a period of 60 months under the "Overhead Costs" subsection of the "Other Costs" section of the **Estimate**.
- 11.11. When calculating daily and accommodation costs of the study visits, it is necessary to be guided by the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Armenia №2335-Ն dated December 29, 2005. All of the subsections of the **Estimate** shall be justified in the **Budget Estimate Narrative**.
- 11.12. Justification and distribution of the **Estimate** may be amended upon the recommendation of the **Board** and the consent of the **PI**.

III. APPLICATION CONSIDERATION AND EVALUATION

12. Conformity of Applications to the Terms of the Call

- 12.1. The **Committee** shall consider the following circumstances:
- Compliance of the submitted **Applications** with the terms of the **Call**;
 - Whether the **Application** contains publications included in Beall's list (<https://beallslist.net/>) of fake and predatory publishers or journals.
- 12.2. The **Application** shall not be considered if:
- it does not contain all the required documentation;
 - it does not meet the **Call's** criteria;
 - its content is identical to one of the research projects funded, currently or previously, from the state budget of the Republic of Armenia.
- 12.3. The results of the examination shall be provided to the **Board** members.
- 12.4. The **Board** shall consider and approve the list of **Applications** subject to Scientific **Expertise**.

13. Scientific Expertise

- 13.1. **The Board**, in cooperation with **the Committee**, shall design and approve the evaluation sheets and the procedure for the first and second stages of Scientific Expertise of Applications.
- 13.2. Pursuant to the provisions of the RA Law "On Scientific and Technical Expertise", the **Committee**, the **Board**, or the experts shall be prohibited from providing any information regarding the **Applications'** content, Scientific Expertise process, and the results thereof to a third party.

14. The 1st Stage of Scientific Expertise

- 14.1. During the 1st Stage of Scientific Expertise, the **Board** shall consider the Extensive Summary (Annex 2.5) of the **Project**, the **PI's** track record, their academic **CVs**, and the **Organization's** and **Collaborator's** compatibility with the **Project's** purposes. Subsequently, based on the **Board** members' consensus, the shortlist of eligible applications for the next stage of Scientific Expertise shall be formed.
- 14.2. The **PIs** of the groups that have not been shortlisted as a result of the 1st Stage of Scientific Expertise shall be duly notified.

15. The 2nd Stage of Scientific Expertise

- 15.1. At the 2nd Stage of Scientific Expertise, the following aspects of the **Application** shall be evaluated by the Experts: the **Project** (Annex №2.2), the current state of research on the topic, relevance and prospects, the implementation feasibility at the **Organization**, compatibility with the research trends in the particular area, the validity of the scope and timespan of the **Project**, significance of the international cooperation, the qualifications and professional compliance of the **PI**, the **Collaborator**, and the **Group Members** in terms of the **Project** objectives, the disposal and dissemination of scientific results, **Estimate** justification, as well as other issues related to the peculiarities of the current **Call**. At this stage, the **Board** shall also conduct interviews with the **PIs of the Groups**.
- 15.2. The **Application** shall be reviewed by at least 2 independent experts. A **Board Member** is also entitled to act as an independent expert.
- 15.3. For each **Application**, the expert shall fill out the Expert Evaluation Sheet.
- 15.4. The maximum score of the Interview shall not exceed 50% of the maximum evaluation score of the **Application**.
- 15.5. If the scores of two experts differ by 30 percent or more from the maximum evaluation score of scientific expertise, the **Application** shall be subject to further examination by a third expert.

16. The 2nd Stage of Scientific Expertise (Interview)

- 16.1. The **Board** shall conduct interviews with the **PIs of the Groups**.
- 16.2. Each member of the **Board** shall fill out an Interview Evaluation Sheet for each **Application**.
- 16.3. The maximum score for the Interview amounts to 50% of the maximum evaluation score for the **Application**.

17. Evaluations Results

- 17.1. The total score of scientific expertise shall be calculated as the sum of the arithmetic mean of the Evaluation Scores of 2 experts and the Interview Score. If the **Application** has been evaluated by 3 experts, the final **Application** score shall be calculated as the sum of the arithmetic mean of two of the closest scores submitted by 3 experts (in the case of equal difference between 3 experts' scores – the arithmetic mean of two higher scores) and the arithmetic mean of the Interview scores.

- 17.2. Based on the final evaluation results of the **Applications** shortlisted for the 2nd Stage of Scientific Expertise, the **Committee** shall form the Application Ranking List in descending order and further submit it to the **Board** for consideration.
- 17.3. The **Board** approves the **Application** Ranking List and presents the recommended threshold score for each research field for the consideration of the Chairman of the **Committee**.
- 17.4. Based on the volume of allocations from the Republic of Armenia's state budget for the contractual (thematic) funding of scientific and technical activities, the **Committee** shall determine the threshold score for each of the research fields and shall submit the draft order listing the **Applications** eligible for funding and the amount of funding to the **Minister's** approval.
- 17.5. The list of **Applications** eligible for funding and the amount of funding thereof shall be approved by the Order of the **Minister**.
- 17.6. The list of **Applications** eligible for funding as a result of the **Call** shall be published on the official website of the **Committee**.
- 17.7. The **Committee** shall duly provide each Head of the **Organization** with the Approved **Applications** List for their respective **Organization**.
- 17.8. The **Committee** shall provide the **PIs** with the Expertise results and the threshold score.

IV. OTHER PROVISIONS

18. Contract Signing

- 18.1. The **Committee**, the **Organization**, and the **PI** of the approved **Application** shall sign a **Contract**.
- 18.2. The copies of the relevant contracts signed with the **Group Members** within the **Call** shall be submitted to the **Committee**.
- 18.3. The **Contracts** shall be signed within 10 days after the publication of the results of the present **Call**.
- 18.4. The **Projects** shall commence and be implemented within the timeframes outlined in the **Contract**.

19. Reporting

- 19.1. The **PI** of the **Group** shall submit an Interim Implementation **Report** to the **Committee** every 12th month (by the last working day) since the commencement of the **Project**. Based on the reports, the **Board** shall decide on the continuation of funding of the **Project**.
- 19.2. By the 35th month (by the last working day) since the commencement of the **Project**, the **PI** of the **Group** shall submit a triennial report to the **Committee**, which shall include the description of anticipated intermediate results of the **Project** (as outlined in Subparagraph 9.1). Based on those reports, the **Board** shall decide whether to terminate the **Project's** funding or continue it for another 24 months.

- 19.3. By the 60th month (by the last working day) since the commencement of the **Project**, the **PI** of the **Group** shall submit the Final report to the **Committee**, as a result of which the **Board** shall issue a conclusion on the acceptance of the report.
- 19.4. During the implementation of the **Project**, the **Committee** is entitled to initiate monitoring of the **Project** and present the results to the **Board**.
- 19.5. While deciding on the continuation of funding of the **Project**, the **Board** shall take into consideration the results of the monitoring.
- 19.6. Funding of the **Project** shall be terminated in the case of failure to submit the interim report within the established timeframe.
- 19.7. The **Committee** reserves the right to publish the abstracts and reports of the funded **Projects** either in a paper-based or electronic format.

20. Additional Information

- 20.1. Should the submitted **Project** and the reports based thereon include intellectual property or patent rights objects, the **PI** shall comply with the Laws of the Republic of Armenia "On Copyright and Related Rights" and "On Inventions, Utility Models and Industrial Designs."
- 20.2. The **PI** shall be allowed to redistribute the financial means envisaged in the "Other Costs" section of the **Estimate** by submitting an appropriate justification and receiving the **Committee's** written permission thereto.
- 20.3. During the implementation of the **Project** (no earlier than 12 months after the commencement), the **PI** is entitled to apply to the **Committee** with a proposal to increase the number of the **Group Members** by a maximum of 2 performers under the age of 35 holding a qualification relevant to the **Project**, along with an appropriate justification. In the case of an increase in the number of **Group Members**, the value of the **Contract** signed between the **CI**, the **Organization**, and the **Committee** shall increase by AMD 1,800,000 gross per each new **Group Member** (for the period of 12 months).
- 20.4. The **Group Members** involved in the **Project** under Subparagraph 20.3 shall not be employed in any Organization carrying out a program within the framework of basic funding for scientific and technical activities from the state budget of the Republic of Armenia.
- 20.5. The **PI** of the **Group** may apply to the **Committee** with a request to make an equivalent change of the **Collaborator** or a **Group Member**, providing an appropriate justification. In the case of a change in the list of **Group Members**, a copy of the newly signed contract with the new member under the grant project shall be submitted to the **Committee**.
- 20.6. The **PI** may apply to the **Committee** with a request to reduce the number of **Group Members** by one, providing an appropriate justification. In the case of a reduction in the number of **Group Members**, an Agreement shall be concluded on changing the Contract price.
- 20.7. The **PI** may apply to the **Committee** to suspend the remuneration of a **Group Member** for a period of up to 3 months, presenting the appropriate justification. In the case of failure to reinstate or substitute a **Group Member** within the three-month period, the number of the **Group Members**

shall be reduced by one, and an Agreement on the change of the Contract price (including the amount of three months' remuneration) shall be signed. In the case of the inclusion of a **Group Member**, the amount increased in the subsection "Remuneration" of the **Estimate** can be redistributed by the **PI** of the **Group** between the subsections of the **Contract**.

20.8. The absence of any **Group Member** from the Republic of Armenia for 2 or more months must be agreed upon in writing with the **Committee**.

21. Termination of the Project Funding

The **Committee** is entitled to terminate the funding of the **Project** in the following cases:

- Interim reports have not been submitted within the established timeframe, or the **Board** has issued a negative conclusion on the acceptance of the report;
- A redistribution of financial means has been made in the "Other Costs" section of the **Estimate** without the **Committee's** written permission thereto;
- A change has been made in the list of the **Group Members** without the **Committee's** written permission thereto,
- The absence of any **Group Member** from the Republic of Armenia for a period of two months or more without the **Committee's** written permission thereto,
- The provision of Subparagraph 9.1. of the present **Call** failed to be fulfilled.
- The provisions of Subparagraphs 8.5 and 8.6 of the present **Call** failed to be fulfilled. Moreover, such noncompliance shall also affect further **Applications** from the **Organization** in the amount determined in the conclusion of the **Board** formed for the next **Calls for Proposals**.

RESEARCH FIELDS BY CLASSIFIERS

<p>1. Natural Sciences</p> <p>1.1. Mathematics 1.2. Computer and Information Sciences 1.3. Physical and Astronomical Sciences 1.4. Chemical Sciences 1.5. Earth and Related Environmental Sciences 1.6. Biological Sciences</p> <p>2. Engineering and Technology</p> <p>2.1. Civil Engineering and Architecture 2.2. Electrical Engineering, Electronic Engineering, Energy Engineering, Computing and Information Technologies 2.3. Mechanics 2.4. Mechanical Science and Mechanical Engineering 2.5. Chemical Technologies 2.6. Material Studies 2.7. Medical Engineering 2.8. Environmental Studies 2.9. Biotechnology 2.10. Nanotechnology</p> <p>3. Medical and Health Sciences</p> <p>3.1. Basic Medicine 3.2. Clinical Medicine 3.3. Medical Biotechnology</p>	<p>4. Agricultural Sciences</p> <p>4.1. Animal Agriculture and Veterinary Science 4.2. Crop Science 4.3. Soil Science, Agrochemistry, Plant Protection 4.4. Agricultural Biotechnology</p> <p>5. Social Sciences</p> <p>5.1. Psychology 5.2. Economics and Business Administration 5.3. Education 5.4. Sociology 5.5. Law 5.6. Political Science 5.7. Social and Economic Geography 5.8. Media and Communications</p> <p>6. Armenian Studies and Humanities</p> <p>6.1. History and Archaeology 6.2. Languages and Literature Studies 6.3. Philosophy and Ethics 6.4. Theology and Religious Studies 6.5. Arts</p>
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Project

To be filled out in English, on up to 12 pages, including graphs, tables, images, and references.

1. Annotation

2. Review of the Current State of Research on the Topic

3. Project Aims and Objectives

4. Research Project

5. Scientific Methods of Project Implementation

6. Calendar Plan (by quarters or Gantt Chart)

7. Group Members' Achievements in the Mentioned Field

8. Research Group Development Prospects (risks and opportunities)

9. Group Members' Achievements in the Mentioned Field, Expediency and Feasibility of the Foreign Partner's Involvement

10. Quantitative and Qualitative Indicators for the Expected Results (publications, conference proceedings, use of innovative methods, such as technological investment, demonstration, sample, prototype, etc., management of intellectual property (patent, copyright, etc., fostering international cooperation, prospects for collaboration)

11. References

Annex №2.3

to the Call for Proposals
"Incoming Research Fellowship Program 2024
(Integration Grant)"

TO THE ATTENTION OF
MR. LEVON FARMANYAN
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
RA HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENCE COMMITTEE

From _____

(Name, Surname)

(Postal Address)

(Phone Number)

Application Letter

Kindly find enclosed herewith the Application entitled _____ submitted for consideration under the Call for Proposals "Incoming Research Fellowship Program 2024 (Integration Grant)".

Applicant _____

(Signature)

(_____)

(Name, Surname)

«____» _____ 2024

Annex №2.4

to the Call for Proposals
“Incoming Research Fellowship Program 2024
(Integration Grant)”

TO THE ATTENTION OF
MR. SARGIS HAYOTSYAN
CHAIRMAN OF THE RA HIGHER EDUCATION
AND SCIENCE COMMITTEE

Application Letter

Kindly find enclosed herewith the Applications submitted by the
_____ (name of the Organization) entitled

_____ for consideration under the Call for Proposals “Incoming Research
Fellowship Program 2024 (Integration Grant)” within the framework of contractual (thematic) funding
of scientific and technical activities.

Head of the Organization _____ (_____)
(Signature) (Name, Surname)

«____» _____ 2024

Project Title

Extensive Summary

The Extensive Summary is evaluated at the 1st Stage of Scientific Expertise. It should be written in English (maximum 2 pages).

*The Extensive Summary should concisely describe the **Project**, outlining the relevance and expediency of the research.*