



SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION



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Indo-Swiss Joint Research Programme (ISJRP)

**Joint Research Projects:
Call for Proposals 2021**

Opening date: 01.09.2021

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1. Introduction

Pursuant to the “Agreement between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the Republic of India on Cooperation in the Fields of Science and Technology”, concluded on 10 November 2003, the Indo-Swiss Joint Research Programme (ISJRP) was initiated by the Indian and Swiss governments in order to further develop the bilateral cooperation in scientific and technological areas of strategic relevance to both countries. The programme supports cutting-edge research that brings together faculty and young researchers from Switzerland and India. The current call for joint research projects (JRPs) is financed by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) in Switzerland and the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) in India, on the principles of reciprocity, parity and activity-matching funding. An Indo-Swiss Joint Committee on Science, Technology and Social sciences defines the strategic goals and orientations of the programme.

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) in India and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) jointly launch a call for Joint Research Projects (JRPs), organize the evaluation of the submitted proposals and monitor the funded projects.

2. Joint Research Projects (JRPs)

Grants for JRPs aim at promoting collaborative projects with clearly defined goals, involving at least one partner based in Switzerland and one based in India. Applications should describe ambitious research and propose innovative approaches. The research is to be carried out at the research facilities involved (excluding field work). Reciprocal visits and short stays in Switzerland for researchers from India and vice versa are also included within the scope of a JRP.

Project duration: The duration of the JRPs under the **MoES** topics is **3 to 4 years** and JRPs under the **ICSSR** topics **3 years**. Proposals with a duration outside the respective range are not eligible and will therefore not be considered.

3. Research field

The call supports research and development projects in two different fields of research, one under the MoES and under the ICSSR.

Under the **MoES**, the overarching topic of the call is “Mountain research, with a focus on glaciers or climate research”. The proposal must fall under one of the following subtopics:

- Glaciers as climate archives
- Cryospheric modelling
- Forecasts for heavy rainfall/cloudburst
- Multi-risk early warning systems
- Orographic cloud and precipitation formation
- Aerosols from mountainous ecosystems to act as cloud condensation nuclei and ice nucleating particles

Under the **ICSSR**, the following topics in the field of social sciences are available:

- International Migration and Immigration Policies
- Technology, Social Media and Social Cohesion
- Heritage and Cultural Exchange in Global Age

- AI, Big Data and Social Science

Proposals outside of the thematic areas defined above are not eligible. More specifically, concerning the MoES call, the researcher will need to clearly specify in the respective data container on *mySNF* the subtopic (out of those mentioned above) under which their project falls. For the call under the ICSSR, the proposals should fall in the list of the 4 topics listed above in the field of social sciences.

4. Eligibility

Each proposal for a JRP must have at least one main applicant based in Switzerland and one main applicant based in India; they will be the principal investigators on the Swiss and Indian side respectively. They bear the main responsibility for the project, including its technical and administrative coordination as well as the timely delivery of scientific and financial reports. Further applicants based in Switzerland and/or India can also participate in a JRP.

Eligibility criteria in Switzerland

Applicants requesting funding must meet the eligibility requirements of the SNSF. The eligibility criteria for the main and the further applicants are identical. The SNSF [Funding Regulations](#), the [General implementation regulations](#) and the [Regulations on Project Funding](#) are applicable or applicable *mutatis mutandis* where not stated otherwise. All main applicants and further applicants may only submit one application per call. Project partners as described in Article 11.2 of the SNSF Funding Regulations are not entitled to receive funds from the SNSF if their affiliated institution is located in India. Applicants can submit a proposal for a JRP under the present call even if they hold or have applied for another SNSF grant. Moreover, grantees may submit proposals to all SNSF funding schemes during the funding period of a JRP. In either case, there must be no substantial thematic overlap. Please note that the present call is not in conflict with the restrictions applicable to the SNSF's national project funding in accordance with Article 13 of the Regulations on Project Funding.

Eligibility criteria in India: MoES

- Government of India supported or recognised (Public or Private) academia; research organisations and urban or other local bodies. Public and/or private universities and research organisations must have a well-established research support system, for basic or applied research. Submission of proof of establishment under Indian statute; recognition documents and registration at Government of India's Public Finance Management System (PFMS) - <https://pfms.nic.in> shall be obligatory.
- Government of India recognised not-for-profit, NGO(s)/ VO(s)/ Trust(s)/ Research foundations, having experience of at least 3 years in scientific research, teaching, training and extension activities; and must follow research as one of the mandates. Proof of registration at 'NGO DARPAN' of NITI Aayog (<http://ngodarpan.gov.in/>), Certificate of registration under Society Registration Act, Firm's Memorandum of Association, Registration at Government of India's Public Finance Management System (PFMS) (<https://pfms.nic.in>), Valid SIRO certificate for firm's in-house R&D recognition and audited account statements for the past three years shall be obligatory.

Eligibility criteria in India: ICSSR

Applicants must be employed in a research or academic position in a recognised research or academic institution – either publicly funded university/college recognised by the UGC or a publicly funded research institute or ICSSR research institute. They must also hold a PhD or equivalent qualification and have sufficient research publications to their credit.

5. Funding

JRP proposals contain two separate budgets: one budget in INR for the Indian applicant(s) (to be paid by the MoES or ICSSR depending on the field of research and according to its rules) and one budget in CHF for the Swiss part (to be paid by the SNSF according to its rules). The available budget for this call allows for the funding of 7 projects in the field of Mountain Research (MoES/SNSF) and 8 projects in the field of Social Sciences (ICSSR/SNSF), provided that a sufficient number of high-quality proposals are submitted. The funding per project is sufficient for each side to support employees' salaries (PhD students, postdocs, other staff) as well as consumables, some minor equipment and mobility costs related to the project.

Eligible costs in Switzerland

The maximum permissible budget for a project is CHF 350,000 for four years and CHF 250,000 for three years.

- Personnel costs (salaries within the salary ranges and rates set by the SNSF and social security contributions of scientific and technical employees); please note that the salaries of applicants and co-applicants are not eligible costs
- Material costs, if they are directly linked to the research project, in particular material of enduring value, the cost of expendable items, field expenses, travel expenses or third-party charges
- Direct costs incurred through the use of research infrastructure linked to the research
- Costs for granting access to research data (Open Research Data, max. CHF 10,000 per project)
- Costs of organizing conferences and workshops in connection with the funded research
- Costs of national and international cooperation and networking activities directly associated with the funded research

The SNSF regulations apply to the Swiss budget. However, overhead costs are not admissible. Please note that costs for open access publications can be requested separately via the OA platform of the SNSF. Flexibility grants and other supplementary measures can be requested during the running time of the project.

Eligibility costs in India: MoES

MoES will fund the Indian consortium members as per requirement of the project, for the project duration, up to 4 years. Budget should be commensurate with the essentiality of participation, workload and objectives of the project and cost of participation. MoES will support (Grant-in-aid) 100% of the approved budget costs (maximum to 1.5 cr per project, regardless of number of Indian participating entities).

Eligible costs for funding are:

- Direct costs: manpower (JRF, SRF, RA, TA etc.);
- Consumables;
- Travel costs (domestic and international);
- Fieldwork, laboratory equipment, training and awareness;
- Indirect costs: overhead charges as per MoES norms.

The Indian participant must ensure that each Indian participant follows budget format proposed by the MoES:

Direct Costs

Manpower cost: as per the requirements of the project (emoluments will be as per prevailing Gov. of India norms);

Travel Costs

Mobility of investigator(s) & project staff(s): for visit(s) and work related to the project to be undertaken by Indian investigator(s) & project staff(s) in Switzerland, the cost of travel and man-days of stay (i.e. round-trip international travel by economy class, admissible insurances, local transport, boarding and lodging) must be justifiably budgeted by respective Indian organisation for each year of Annex 1 point 5.

It is expected that the institution hosting the collaborating investigator(s) & project staff(s) of other consortium participants, shall provide research facility and research resources to accomplish defined objectives and if required, it can be reflected in each participant budget adequately.

Overhead/Indirect Cost

Overhead expenses payable to institute for Indian partners, up to 10% of the total project cost.

Eligibility costs in India: ICSSR

Funding of up to INR25 lakhs per proposal (project duration: 3 years). More details see Annex 1 point 5.

Visiting costs between Switzerland and India

When budgeting visits between the Swiss and Indian partners, all expenses (international travel related expenses, living expenses, Health/medical overseas insurance) are to be charged to the budget of the visiting side. The hosting side is expected to extend the required logistic and research facility support.

6. Submission

Proposals are to be jointly prepared by the Swiss and Indian applicants. They must be **submitted by the Swiss main applicant to the SNSF via its electronic submission system (*mySNF*, www.mysnf.ch)**. No hard copies will be accepted.

Indian researchers are asked to note that all applications must be submitted via the SNSF online system, as indicated above. The Indian applicants can have access to the electronic submission system through their Swiss partners. After logging into *mySNF*, the correct funding scheme must be selected: *Programmes (national and international) > Bilateral Co-operation (Initiatives of the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation) > Trilateral Call with India – SNSF-ICSSR-MoES*. Applications submitted in India and not via the SNSF online system in Switzerland will not be processed. Neither the SNSF nor the MoES or ICSSR will be held responsible for the non-submission of applications. After the submission on *mySNF*, the Indian applicants need to send a soft copy along with one hard copy to the MoES or the ICSSR depending on the field of the proposal (details below).

The call evaluation is highly competitive; therefore, an application does not guarantee funding.

Swiss researchers are asked to note that their submission falls under the SNSF Funding Regulations and Regulations on Project Funding, both of which which are applicable or applicable *mutatis mutandis* where not stated otherwise.

The application consists of two parts:

- The administrative part, which must be completed online:
 - Personal data of the Swiss main applicant
 - Personal data of the Indian main applicant
 - Personal data of further applicant(s) from Switzerland and/or India
 - Data of project partners
 - Information on the employment of all applicants
 - Basic data on the project (e.g. title, research field, starting date, duration, summary)
 - Funding requested from the SNSF
 - Information on authorisations required in Switzerland
 - Data Management Plan (DMP)
 - Other information (e.g. whether the project is related to other SNSF projects, the name of the Swiss university/research institution at which the planned project will be implemented, statement concerning already available funds or funds requested elsewhere)
- PDF documents that are to be uploaded to *mySNF*:
 - The research plan (must have the structure indicated in Annex 1) including the funding requested from ICSSR or MoES
 - The CVs and publication lists of all applicants and other researchers involved
 - If applicable, equipment quotes
 - Details of ongoing and completed projects with ICSSR or MoES (for the Indian applicants).
 - Certificates from the Investigator(s) and Head of Institute(s) (for MoES): the text of the certificates is available on <https://moes.gov.in/sites/default/files/Certificates-rev-27Sept2018.pdf>.

For specific questions related to www.mysnf.ch, please contact the support team by e-mail (mysnf.support@snf.ch) or telephone (+41 31 308 22 00). Please note that you need a user account in order to submit proposals via *mySNF*. To open an account, please [register with the SNSF as a user](#). Applicants with existing user accounts need not apply for new ones.

The proposal must include a Data Management Plan (DMP) set up according to the requirements issued by the SNSF. The proposal can only be submitted once the DMP has been completed. Applicants must submit a DMP that is understandable, suits their project and meets the standards set by their research community. **At this stage, the DMP is considered a draft and excluded from the evaluation process. It is not shared with external reviewers.** The final DMP must be provided at the latest by the end of the project. The content of the DMP is directly entered in the *mySNF* submission form. It is not possible to upload a DMP as a separate PDF file. Please keep in mind the time needed to complete the DMP during the submission procedure.

The submitted documents must comply with the principles of scientific integrity. All applicants take responsibility for the correctness of their contributions. If the project plan is not written in accordance with the rules of good scientific practice all applicants are accountable and may be asked to provide a statement; ultimately the proposal may not be considered. Reference is made to internationally recognised standards on good scientific practice.

Deadline for submission of applications: 30.11.2021, 17:00 CEST. Incomplete applications will not be considered. No request for extension of the deadline shall be considered.

Language: All documents must be submitted in English.

Submission to MoES

The Indian participant(s) must submit the complete proposal (same as submitted on *mySNF*) as one single consolidated PDF file, at latest within seven working days after the deadline of the call by email to the following persons:

Dr Vijav Kumar, Scientist G, vijay.kumar66@nic.in
Dr Aparna Shukla, Scientist E, aparna.shukla@gov.in

In addition, one (1) hard copy of the research proposal submitted to *mySNF* should be sent to MoES by Speed Post. The envelope should be superscripted with the title:

“Indo-Swiss Joint Research Call Mountain research, with a focus on glaciers or climate research”, for attention of:

Dr. Vijay KUMAR
Scientist-G
Ministry of Earth Sciences,
Government of India,
Prithvi Bhavan, Opp. India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003

Please note that the proposal will be disqualified if not submitted to MoES to above indicated email ID & address by indicated date. Absence of timely submission or any discrepancy found between the proposal submitted at the *mySNF* Portal and to MoES will result in disqualification from consideration by MoES for funding.

Submission to ICSSR

The Indian participant(s) must submit the complete proposal (same as submitted on *mySNF*) as one single consolidated PDF file, at latest within seven working days after the deadline of the call by email to:

Mr. M.P.Madhukar, Deputy Director, adinchargeics@gmail.com

In addition, one (1) hardcopy of the research proposal submitted to *mySNF* should be sent to ICSSR by Speed Post.

M.P.Madhukar, Deputy Director
In-charge, International Collaboration Division
Indian Council of Social Science Research
JNU Institutional Area
Aruna Asaf Ali Marg
New Delhi – 110 067

Please note that the proposal will be disqualified, if not submitted to ICSSR to above indicated email ID & address by indicated date. Absence of timely submission or any discrepancy found between the proposal submitted at the *mySNF* Portal and to ICSSR will result in disqualification from consideration by ICSSR for funding.

7. Evaluation

Peer review: Proposals for JRPs will be reviewed according to standard international peer review procedures, jointly organised by the SNSF, the ICSSR and the MoES. The reviewers are determined by the members of the evaluation panel and the administrative offices. These external experts complete a peer review of the applications and assess the scientific quality of the JRPs using a score system.

Evaluation panel: Two ad hoc evaluation panels will be set up. One panel evaluation is composed of experts proposed by the SNSF and the MoES and it will evaluate the proposals related to the topics from the MoES. The other panel evaluation is composed of experts proposed by the SNSF and the ICSSR and it will evaluate the proposals related to the topics from the ICSSR. Based on the peer reviews and the panel members' own assessment, the evaluation panels will rank the proposals. The experts' recommendations will include a rationale for the rating. Priority will be given to applications with the highest rankings, regardless of the research area.

Decision: At the SNSF, the ranking list and the projects proposed for funding must be approved by the Specialised Committee for International Co-operation and the Presiding Board. At the MoES, it must be approved by the Secretary and at the ICSSR by the Competent Authority and then by the Research Committee. Through this procedure, the projects will be considered as approved by the Indo-Swiss Joint Committee.

The criteria used to evaluate the scientific quality of the proposals:

- Scientific relevance
- Originality of the aims and objectives
- Appropriateness of the methodology and feasibility
- Track record and expertise of the researchers

- Complementarity of the research partners

The evaluation results will be communicated to the Swiss main applicants by the SNSF and to the Indian main applicants by the MoES or the ICSSR depending on the field of the project.

The earliest starting date for the JRPs: 01.09.2022

8. Reporting

Swiss and Indian project partners will report separately to the SNSF and the MoES or ICSSR respectively. Scientific and financial reports are to be submitted annually.

In Switzerland:

The Swiss main applicant will be responsible for reporting to the SNSF. Standard SNSF rules apply both for the scientific and the financial report, which must be submitted annually.

In India:

The Indian main applicant will be responsible for reporting to the MoES or ICSSR. The MoES or the ICSSR rules apply both for the financial and the scientific report, depending on the field of the project.

9. Payments

In Switzerland (SNSF funding):

The standard SNSF rules apply. In principle, the budgets for JRPs are transferred to the Swiss principal investigator (PI) in annual instalments at the beginning of each project year.

In India (MoES funding):

The standard MoES rules apply.

In India (ICSSR funding):

The standard ICSSR rules apply. In principle, the budgets for JRPs will be transferred to the Institute of Affiliation of the Indian principal investigator (PI) in annual instalments at the beginning of each project year, subject to submission of annual financial and technical reports.

10. VAT

In Switzerland (SNSF funding):

The JRP grants are not subject to VAT or other taxes and charges. However, research expenses are not excluded from VAT. Therefore, all research expenses budgeted in a JRP (e.g. equipment, consumables, etc.) can be charged to the programme, VAT included, unless the research institution (e.g. university, public research organisation, etc.) is able to recover the VAT.

In India

The JRP grants are not subject to VAT or other taxes and charges.

11. Publications and intellectual property

The PIs are obliged to publish research results coming from the JRPs in appropriate form and according to SNSF, MoES and ICSSR standards.

Applicants must consult both the Swiss and Indian host institution concerning their internal intellectual property regulations. If necessary, an agreement should be reached in advance. It is the responsibility of both PIs to make sure such an agreement is signed before the project starts. A copy of the agreement needs to be sent to the MoES, ICSSR and the SNSF.

12. Further information and contacts

In Switzerland

Swiss National Science Foundation
Andrea Landolt/Ladina Knapp
International Co-operation division
Wildhainweg 3, P.O. Box 8232
CH-3001 Berne
E-mail: international@snf.ch
Website: www.snsf.ch

In India: MoES

Dr Vijay KUMAR
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In India: ICSSR

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JNU Institutional Area
Aruna Asaf Ali Marg
New Delhi – 110 067
Tel: ++ 91 (0) 11 - 26742832
Email: adinchargeics@gmail.com
Website: www.icssr.org

Annex 1: Guidelines for writing the project proposal

The research plan must **not exceed 20 pages and 80,000 characters (with spaces)**; this includes title or front page, summary, footnotes, illustrations, formulae, tables (and, if applicable, the table of contents), but not the bibliography. A minimum of **point 10 font size and 1.5 line spacing** must be used.

The SNSF, MoES and ICSSR will not consider applications that do not meet the formal requirements and/or are manifestly inadequate.

The research plan needs to be structured as follows:

1. Summary of the research plan (max. 8,000 characters)

This should include the most important features of your research plan and place your project in a broader scientific context.

2. Research plan

2.1 Current state of research in the field

By citing the most important publications in the relevant field, please set out the scientific background and basis of the project, explain the need to perform research on the topic you propose and briefly describe important research currently being conducted internationally.

2.2 Current state of own research and partnership aspect

- Please describe briefly the work done by the different applicants in the relevant research field or in related fields and indicate the relevant publications.
- Explain how the different applicants complement each other for the proposed research project.
- If applicable, describe past collaborations between the Swiss and Indian partners.

2.3 Detailed research plan

Against the background described in sections 2.1 and 2.2, state the aims that you plan to achieve during the lifetime of the project. Please consider the following points:

- Which investigations and/or experiments do you plan to carry out/are necessary to achieve the stated aims?
- What is the rationale for getting the project started and how do you intend to develop the work later on?
- What is the expected added value (synergistic benefit) of the collaboration?

Information concerning the methods necessary to achieve the aims:

- Which methods do you intend to use?
- Which of these methods still need to be developed?

Data and data collection:

- Which data are available to you and from where?
- Which data need to be collected?

2.4 Work division, schedule and milestones

- Please indicate how you plan to divide the work among the different partners.

- As far as possible, please give an approximate schedule for the work to be carried out within the project and indicate the most important milestones. In particular, please describe the major tasks of the staff to be employed within the project by the different applicants.
- List the planned visits between the Swiss and Indian research groups (visiting scientist, hosting scientist, purpose of visit, date and duration of visit).

2.5 Importance, impact and results

Scientific importance and impact

Please describe briefly the importance of your research for the scientific community and the impact you expect from the project on research and training/teaching in your field/discipline.

Please indicate how you will publish/communicate your results.

Expected results and dissemination plan

Describe in detail the project outcomes you envisage. Explain how you will share these findings with stakeholders and the community. Address the potential for knowledge transfer to industry (if applicable).

Broader impact

If your application concerns use-inspired research, please indicate whether and to what extent the proposed project will have a broader impact and what this impact will be. The following points should be addressed:

- Need for research as perceived by practitioners/industry: are there any knowledge gaps? Are innovations and improvements expected?
- Transferability of results: to what degree can research results be put into practice?
- Other potential impacts: in which spheres outside science could the implementation of the research results entail changes and what is the nature of these changes?

3. Bibliography (does not count to the 20 pages)

4. Ethical, safety and regulatory issues (does not count to the 20 pages)

Does your proposed work raise ethical, safety or regulatory issues? If yes, how will you deal with them? Indicate this clearly.

	Switzerland (yes/no)	India (yes/no)
Research on humans		
Research on human embryonic stem cells		
Research on animals		
Research on GMO or pathogens		

5. Requested funds in India (does not count to the 20 pages)

For the **budget submitted to MoES**, please use the following format:

Budget format

Name of the Investigator:

Name of the Institution:

Type of Organisation:

(amount in Rs.)

Head	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
A. Non-recurring				
1. Equipment				
Total A				
B. Recurring				
1. Consumables				
2. Manpower JRF, SRF, RA, TA				
3. Travel				
a. Domestic (including field work)				
b. International travel				
c. Local hospitality for visiting scientist.				
4. Training and Awareness				
5. Review meeting:				
6. Contingency				
7. Other expenses (Specify)				
8. Indirect cost (Overheads) – as per MoES norms				
TOTAL B (1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8)				
TOTAL (A+B)				

Important notice:

- This budget table should be made for each Indian participating/applicant partner.
- In case of projects longer than 3 years, information should be provided by Year 4 as appropriate.
- Details and Justification should be provided for each head.
- For equipment head, provide the following additional information:
 - Detailed specifications of the equipment proposed,

- Details of such equipment, if any, in the Institute and the need for additional facility,
- Cost estimate (notional quotations)
- For major equipment, please indicate as to how the instrument will be maintained after the project completion.

For the **budget submitted to ICSSR**, please use the following format:

Summary of India costs: *Please give the total cost of the project (in Indian Rupees) of Indian project component*

A. Non-Recurring

1. Equipment

B. Recurring

1. Consumables

2. Travel

3. Contingency

4. Overheads (7.5 per cent of the total expenditure incurred)

C. Manpower

Total Project Cost (A+B+C) Indian Rupees: