

Call for Applications nº 03/2013 – CNPq-TWAS 2013

CNPq-TWAS Fellowships Program

Dear candidates, please note that the final deadline for the submission of proposals has been extended until July 19th!

The Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq-MCTI) and TWAS, the academy of sciences for the developing world, invite interested researchers to apply for this Program.

1. OBJECTIVE

This Call for Applications aims to select young researchers from developing countries (except Brazil) to undertake their PhD, Sandwich PhD or Post-Doctoral Research in Brazil in the below mentioned areas of interest.

Brazilian scientists or students are not eligible for this call, but may apply for fellowships under all the other TWAS Fellowships programs. For additional information in this regard, including eligibility criteria and application forms, please visit: <http://twas.ictp.it/prog/exchange/fells/fells-overview>.

2. AREAS OF INTEREST

- 2.1. Agrarian Sciences;
- 2.2. Biological Sciences;
- 2.3. Medical & Health Sciences;
- 2.4. Chemical Sciences;
- 2.6. Engineering Sciences;
- 2.7. Mathematics & Probability and Statistics;
- 2.8. Computer Science;
- 2.9. Physics;
- 3.0. Astronomy and Geosciences;
- 3.1. Oceanography.

3. TYPES OF FELLOWSHIPS

3.1. PhD

The PhD fellowship is directed to researchers who still do not have a PhD degree and would like to undertake it in Brazil. Please note that the CNPq-TWAS Fellowships Program only supports courses undertaken in Post-Graduate Programs evaluated as 5,

6 or 7 by the Brazilian Federal Agency for Support and Evaluation of Graduate Education (CAPES). The list of these Programs in English and Portuguese are available at <http://www.cnpq.br/web/guest/chamadas-publicas>.

3.1.1. The maximum duration of the PhD fellowship is up to 48 months, non-extendable.

3.1.1.1. If the candidate has previously received stipends from other Brazilian agencies to undertake his/her PhD, these stipends will count to the maximum duration of CNPq-TWAS fellowship.

3.2. SANDWICH PhD

The Sandwich PhD is directed to those scholars who would like to have an international experience at a Brazilian Post-Graduate Program during their PhD course. Please note that the CNPq-TWAS Fellowships Program only supports courses undertaken in Post-Graduate Programs evaluated as 5, 6 or 7 by the Brazilian Federal Agency for Support and Evaluation of Graduate Education (CAPES). The list of these Programs in English and Portuguese are available at <http://www.cnpq.br/web/guest/chamadas-publicas>.

Students who wish to undertake a Sandwich Program must be enrolled in their PhD course for at least one (01) year by the date of the submission.

3.2.1. The duration of the Sandwich PhD Fellowship is from 6 months up to 12 months.

3.3. POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH

The Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship is directed to those established and employed researchers who wish to do Post-Doctoral research at a Brazilian Post-Graduate Program evaluated as 5, 6 or 7 by the Brazilian Federal Agency for Support and Evaluation of Graduate Education (CAPES). The list of these Programs in English and Portuguese are available at <http://www.cnpq.br/web/guest/chamadas-publicas>.

3.3.1. The duration of the Post Doc Fellowship is from 6 months up to 12 months.

4. VACANCIES

4.1. The CNPq-TWAS Program offers 30 Sandwich PhD fellowships, 20 full time PhD fellowships and 10 Post-Doc fellowships.

4.2. If there are not enough qualified proposals in one of the fellowship types, CNPq and TWAS will decide upon the reallocation of resources in order to support qualified proposals in other fellowship type.

5. FELLOWSHIP BENEFITS

The below listed items are part of the CNPq-TWAS fellowships, according to each type of fellowship.

The CNPq-TWAS Fellowship does not concede any additional resources for family members. Approved candidates must be financially responsible for their family members.

ITEMS TO BE PAID BY TWAS

5.1. Return air ticket to Brazil – One international air ticket (return economy class by the shortest and most economic route) to leave home country and come to Brazil. No additional tickets shall be provided.

5.2. Refund of visa expenses - Lump sum to cover costs related to obtaining the Brazilian visa.

5.3. Initial lump sum - Initial lump sum to be paid after the awardee's arrival in Brazil.

5.4. Excess luggage costs upon completion of the fellowship, only for periods of stay longer than twelve (12) months (only full time PhD fellows).

ITEMS TO BE PAID BY CNPq

5.5. Monthly stipends - Monthly stipends (non convertible into foreign currency).

5.6. Bench fee (only PhD and Post-Doc fellows) - Additional monthly amount for research-related expenses.

Fellowships Benefits		
Sandwich PhD	PhD	Post-Doctoral Research
Return air ticket to Brazil;	Return air ticket to Brazil;	Return air ticket to Brazil;
Refund of visa expenses;	Refund of visa expenses;	Refund of visa expenses;
Initial start-up sum;	Initial start-up sum;	Initial start-up sum;
Monthly stipends.	Monthly stipends;	Monthly stipends;
	Bench fee.	Bench fee.
	Excess luggage costs upon completion of the fellowship, only for periods exceeding twelve (12) months of stay in Brazil.	

Monthly Benefits			
	Sandwich PhD	PhD	Post-Doctoral Research
Monthly stipends	R\$ 2.200,00	R\$ 2.200,00	R\$ 4.100,00
Bench fee	-	R\$ 394,00	R\$ 400,00
Number of vacancies	30	20	10
Subtotal	R\$ 792.000,00	R\$ 2.490.240,00	R\$ 540.000,00
Total	R\$ 3.822.240,00		

6. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

6.1. To be at most 35 (thirty-five) years old on 31 December 2013 (full time PhD and Sandwich PhD applicants); To be at most 45 (forty-five) years old on 31 December (Post-Doctoral research applicants);

6.2. Hold a university degree (PhD and Sandwich PhD applicants – minimum Master's degree / Post-Doctoral applicants – minimum PhD degree) by the date of application;

6.3. Have good command of Portuguese and/or Spanish and/or English;

6.4. Applicants already holding a visa for permanent or temporary residency in Brazil or in a developed country are NOT eligible;

6.5. Sandwich PhD applicants (ONLY) must be officially enrolled as a PhD Student in their home country for at least 1 (one) year by the date of their application submission. The head of the department of the home institution must confirm that in a declaration;

6.6. To be a regular employee in a developing country (other than Brazil) and hold a research assignment there (only for Post-Doc applicants).

Eligibility Criteria		
Sandwich PhD	PhD	Post-Doctoral Research
To be at most 35 years old on 31 December 2013;	To be at most 35 years old on 31 December 2013;	To be at most 45 years old on 31 December 2013;
Hold a university degree (minimum Master's degree)	Hold a university degree (minimum Master's degree)	Hold a university degree (PhD degree)
Have good command of Portuguese and/or Spanish and/or English;	Have good command of Portuguese and/or Spanish and/or English;	Have good command of Portuguese and/or Spanish and/or English;
Applicants already holding a visa for permanent or temporary residency in Brazil or in a developed country are <u>NOT</u> eligible.	Applicants already holding a visa for permanent or temporary residency in Brazil or in a developed country are <u>NOT</u> eligible.	Applicants already holding a visa for permanent or temporary residency in Brazil or in a developed country are <u>NOT</u> eligible.
To be officially enrolled as a PhD Student in the home country for at least 1 (one) year by the date of the application.		To be a regular employee in a developing country (other than Brazil) and hold a research assignment there.

7. REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

7.1. MANDATORY DOCUMENTS

The documents listed below are of utmost importance to the application. In the absence of any of them, the application will be disqualified.

7.1.1. TWAS Application form completely filled out as a **WORD** file (available at <http://www.cnpq.br/web/guest/chamadas-publicas>);

7.1.2. Signature Page of TWAS Application form, signed and scanned (available at <http://www.cnpq.br/web/guest/chamadas-publicas>);

7.1.3. Detailed research project, previously approved by the Brazilian supervisor;

7.1.4. **Lattes Curriculum**, the CNPq standard online Curriculum Vitae available at https://wwws.cnpq.br/cvlattesweb/pkg_cv_estr.inicio#, filled out and submitted before the submission through the online application form;

7.1.5. Degree certificate (Master's for full time PhD and Sandwich PhD applicants / PhD's for Post-Doctoral applicants);

7.1.6. Curriculum Vitae, including a list of publications;

7.1.7. Copy of the passport showing personal and validity details;

7.1.8. **Official letter of acceptance signed by the head of the host department** – Candidates must choose courses evaluated as 5, 6 or 7 by the Brazilian Federal Agency for Support and Evaluation of Graduate Education (CAPES). The list of these Programs can be found here (<http://www.cnpq.br/web/guest/chamadas-publicas>).

7.1.8.1. The acceptance letter must state 2014 as the year of the beginning of activities and must be signed by the coordinator of the Post-Graduate program. **Acceptance letters signed only by the supervisor WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED and the application will be disqualified.**

7.1.8.2. **The acceptance letter must also state the name of the Brazilian supervisor and the course duration in months** (36, 48 or as defined by the university). CNPq and TWAS will consider this duration in order to concede the fellowship, so applicants are encouraged to verify this question.

7.1.8.3. Candidates accepted by **private institutions** will only be considered eligible if the acceptance letter states the student will be **EXEMPT FROM THE PAYMENT OF ALL FEES**, which will not be covered by CNPq and TWAS under any circumstances. Candidates who present acceptance letters from private institutions without this exemption will be considered **ineligible**.

7.1.8.4. A model for the acceptance letter can be found at <http://www.cnpq.br/web/guest/chamadas-publicas>. We recommend candidates to check if every criteria has been met in the letter supplied by the Brazilian university and, if not, to ask for a new one.

7.1.8.5. Candidates may send their acceptance letter along with a basic CV to TWAS (fellowships@twas.org) prior to submitting their application online in order to ensure that all information is in the correct format.

7.1.9. Certificate of proficiency in Portuguese and/or Spanish and/or English. If one of these languages is the applicant's mother-tongue, a brief declaration must be sent.

7.1.10. Support declaration from the supervisor from the home institution, containing the student's first date of enrollment in his/her PhD (only for Sandwich PhD applicants).

7.1.11. Supporting statement from the head/director of the applicant's employer (signed on headed paper and dated 2013) (only for Post-Doctoral applicants).

Required Documentation		
Mandatory Documents		
Sandwich PhD	PhD	Post-Doctorate
TWAS application form in Microsoft WORD format;	TWAS application form in Microsoft WORD format;	TWAS application form in Microsoft WORD format;
Signature page of TWAS form signed and scanned;	Signature page of TWAS form signed and scanned;	Signature page of TWAS form signed and scanned;
Research project;	Research project;	Research project;
Lattes Curriculum;	Lattes Curriculum;	Lattes Curriculum;
Master's degree certificate;	Master's degree certificate;	PhD degree certificate;
CV with list of publications;	CV with list of publications;	CV with list of publications;
Passport copy (item 7.1.7);	Passport copy (item 7.1.7);	Passport copy (item 7.1.7);
Official letter of acceptance (item 7.1.8)	Official letter of acceptance (item 7.1.8)	Official letter of acceptance (item 7.1.8)
Certificate of proficiency (item 7.1.9)	Certificate of proficiency (item 7.1.9)	Certificate of proficiency (item 7.1.9)
Support declaration from supervisor from home institution (item 7.1.10).	-	Supporting statement from the head of applicant's employer (7.1.11).

7.2. COMPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTS

The below listed documents are important to the analysis of the application and can help its' evaluation. These documents will help the evaluators in the merit analysis of the application, but none application will be disqualified by their absence.

7.2.1. Reference letters;

7.2.2. Undergraduate course transcripts and/or Master's transcripts and/or PhD transcripts.

Required Documentation		
Complementary Documents		
Reference letters;	Reference letters;	Reference letters;
Transcripts	Transcripts	Transcripts

(Master/Undergraduate course)	(Master/Undergraduate course)	(PhD/Master/Undergraduate course)
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8. SCHEDULE

STAGE	DATE
Application period (EXTENDED DEADLINE!)	From May to <u>July 19th</u>
Release of results	October 2013
Period for requesting reconsideration	Ten calendar days after the release of the results
Implementation	2014

9. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT CNPq-TWAS FELLOWSHIPS

9.1. The language of instruction of the courses in Brazil is Portuguese, and the candidates for a doctorate fellowship are expected to have good command of it already in the first year. Note that some host institutions may require a certain level of proficiency in order to allow the continuation of the fellowship.

9.2. Women researchers are especially encouraged to apply.

9.3. Information about living conditions, such as possibilities of accommodation, transportation, and any other issues related to the candidate's stay in Brazil must be obtained locally, directly from the supervisor/host institution. Neither TWAS nor CNPq can provide this information.

9.4. Awarded Fellowships must be taken according to the acceptance letter issued by the host institution. The arrival of the awarded applicants for full-time doctorate and sandwich doctorate courses must be scheduled preferably for the beginning of the academic semesters in Brazilian institutions, in early March each year, or in early August, if the course admits entrance in the second semester. Successful applicants are expected to commence in 2014. **Fellowships will NOT be implemented in 2015.**

9.5. Successful applicants must not take up other assignments during the period of their Fellowships.

9.6. Candidates must return to their home countries on completion of the fellowships and sign a declaration with this regard upon taking up the fellowship.

9.7. CNPq and TWAS shall be entitled to a reimbursement of all or part of any funds paid to an applicant hereunder, in the event that the applicant intentionally or negligently fails to fulfill any or all of the present conditions. The applicant agrees to pay any reasonable legal and/or collection costs incurred by CNPq and TWAS to obtain the repayment.

9.8. Applicants are expected to dedicate themselves to study and research in Brazil. Therefore, applications for part-time fellowships will be considered ineligible.

9.9. All documents must be written in English (including the ones issued by the host supervisor and institution).

9.10. Applicants may apply for only one TWAS Fellowship per year. For example, applicants to the TWAS-CNPq programme cannot also apply to TWAS Fellowship programmes with other partners in the same year, including those provided through BIOTEC, CAS, CEMB, CONACYT, CSIR, DBT, IACS, ICCBS, IROST, S.N. Bose, USM, UPM TWAS Fellowships for Research and Advanced Training and the OWSD Postgraduate Training Fellowships for Women Scientists in Sub-Saharan Africa and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) at Centres of Excellence in the South.

10. APPLICATION PROCESS

10.1. Proposals must contain all necessary documents and must be sent to CNPq exclusively via Internet, through the online application form ([Plataforma Carlos Chagas](http://www.cnpq.br/web/guest/chamadas-publicas)). Guidelines to the online form submission can be found at (<http://www.cnpq.br/web/guest/chamadas-publicas>).

10.2. The fulfilling of a *Lattes Curriculum* previous to the submission is indispensable to the application process. After registering a *CV Lattes*, you will have access to the online application form at [Plataforma Carlos Chagas](https://www.cnpq.br/cvlattesweb/pkg_cv_estr.inicio#). Please access https://www.cnpq.br/cvlattesweb/pkg_cv_estr.inicio# where you can register your Lattes (an English version of the form is available in the page's top right corner). Candidates will not be able to submit applications without a CV Lattes. Guidelines to the CV Lattes fulfilling can be found at (<http://www.cnpq.br/web/guest/chamadas-publicas>).

10.3. Applications must be sent to CNPq by 11:59PM of the deadline date (Brasília time zone). Support by telephone and e-mail will only be available up to 6:30PM and this will not be accepted as justification for applications submitted after the deadline. We strongly recommend candidates to anticipate their applications in order to avoid a crowded system.

10.4. Applications must be submitted in conformity with the eligibility criteria and the required documentation of this Call for Applications, detailed in items 6 and 7. The necessary files must be attached to the online application form in the following file formats: "pdf", "doc", "rtf" or "post script". The whole application must not exceed 1Mb (one megabyte) and proposals that surpass this limit will not be accepted by the electronic system.

10.5. CNPq will not accept any proposal submitted by any other mean, nor after the final submission deadline.

10.6. Applicants can submit only one application. If an applicant submits a second application during the submission period, it will replace the first application. The last submitted application will be the one considered in the analysis. **The applicant must be the candidate her/himself. Proposals submitted by anyone else will be disqualified (the Brazilian supervisor is included in this restriction and cannot submit the proposal in the name of the student).**

10.7. After finishing the submission, an electronic receipt will appear in the browser's screen confirming submission has been completed and informing the application's protocol number. Candidates are expected to save this receipt, which will serve as proof of the submission.

11. EVALUATION AND JUDGING PROCESS

The selection of proposals will be based on analysis and comparative evaluation. The judging process is organized in the following stages:

11.1. Stage I – Evaluation by CNPq's Technical Area

11.1.1. At this stage, CNPq's staff will analyze the proposals according to their conformity with the eligibility criteria and required documentation presented in this Call for Applications.

11.2. Stage II – Evaluation by *ad hoc* consultants

11.2.1. At this stage, the proposals will be sent to renowned Brazilian professors registered in CNPq's system who will analyze the merit and relevance of qualified proposals.

11.3. Stage III – Evaluation, Judging and Classification by the Judging Committee

11.3.1. Proposals will be evaluated and classified by renowned Brazilian professors, who will meet at CNPq's head office. During the Judging Committee, proposals will be classified taking into account the *ad-hoc* analysis and the deliberation between the Committee members.

11.3.2. The Committee may recommend or not the proposals, according to the budgetary limits imposed by CNPq's Board of Directors.

11.4. Stage IV – Approval by CNP's Board of Directors and Final Decision between CNPq-TWAS

11.4.1. All proposals evaluated by the Judging Committee will be submitted to CNPq's Board of Directors. CNPq and TWAS shall jointly make the final decision.

11.5. Stage V – Release of results

11.5.1. The results will be released and published on CNPq's website (www.cnpq.br).

12. RECONSIDERATION REQUESTS

12.1. If the applicant does not agree with the results, he/she can submit a reconsideration request in Plataforma Carlos Chagas (<http://carloschagas.cnpq.br/>), within 10 days of the

release of results. Applicants shall access Plataforma Carlos Chagas with their CV Lattes login and password.

12.2. The 10-day deadline will exclude the first day and consider the closing day.

12.3. CNPq's reconsideration rules can be found at:
http://www.cnpq.br/normas/rn_09_006.htm.

13. CLARIFICATIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

13.1. Clarifications and additional information about this Call for Applications can be clarified by e-mail (twas.ascin@cnpq.br). |

Brasília, 2013.