

ARPI

Adjunct Research Professorship Program

Information for Applicants

VERSION 4.1

JUNE 29, 2022

SCIENCE COMMITTEE (SC) OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

About

ARPI program aims to develop strong fundamental and applied research foundation in the Republic of Armenia. The purpose of the initiative is to attract top researchers and to fund the realization of ambitious research projects with the goal to increase the research and development potential and establish leading research centers in Armenia.

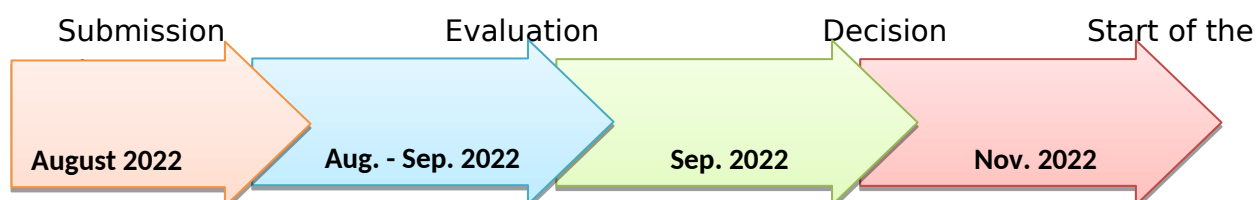
The program is designed to support established and active researchers, in their mid-career, who have a track-record of significant research achievements that identify them as leaders of respective research fields to pursue ground-breaking, innovative research program in Armenia. The program aims to empower excellent Principal Investigators (PIs) as Adjunct Research Professors to realize their research ideas by founding their research groups at best Armenian research institutions. The program covers remuneration of the research group members, including salary of a Co-Investigator (CI), postdoctoral researchers, and PhD, Master and Bachelor students, as well as project-related running costs and start-up costs, e.g. equipment necessary to establish research labs. In addition, funding of PI's activities and visit costs is provided.

Within **ARPI** program proposals submitted by a consortium of two PIs can be considered in the case of collaborative and/or multidisciplinary emphasis including meaningful collaboration between the PIs with complementary expertise that offers the possibility for synergistic advances.

Research fields

Applications can be made in any field of fundamental and applied research.

Timeline



Thematic areas

NS – Natural Sciences	ET – Engineering and Technology	SS – Social Sciences
Mathematics	Urban planning and architecture	Psychology
Computer sciences and informatics	Mechanics	Pedagogical sciences
Physics and astronomy	Electrical engineering and information technology	Economics and business
Chemistry	Mechanical engineering and machine building	Sociology
Earth and environmental sciences	Chemical technology	Law
Biological sciences	Material science	Political sciences
	Biotechnology	Socio-economic geography
	Medical devices	Mass media and communication
	Nanotechnology	
	Ecology	

MS – Medical Sciences	AS – Agricultural Sciences	AH – Armenology and Humanities
General medicine	Cattle breeding, veterinary medicine	History, Archaeology
Clinical medicine	Crop production	Linguistics, Literary studies
Medical biotechnology	Soil science, agro-chemistry, plant protection	Philosophy, ethics
	Agricultural biotechnology	Geology
		Arts

Eligibility

Eligible Principal Investigator

A competitive program applicant must be active researchers who have a track-record of significant research achievements.

ARPI program is open to researchers of any nationality, and any age, who intend to guide the research program in a research institution in the Republic of Armenia, and who meet the following admissibility and eligibility criteria:

- An applicant should hold tenured professorship or equivalent permanent position outside Armenia.
- No other eligibility criteria with respect to the academic requirements are foreseen.
- An applicant should include a secondment phase at the host institution in Armenia, lasting from 4 weeks at the time of the project launch, and from 4 weeks per a year thereafter during the implementation of the project.
- In the case of a consortium of PIs, the above requirements apply to each of the applicants.

Eligible Host Institutions

The PI founds their research group at one of the state-funded research and educational institutions in Armenia.

- The host institution employs the CI at least for the entire duration of the program for the implementation of the research tasks and the training activities.
- The host institution provides the researcher with full access to infrastructure, facilities of the institution.
- The host institution appoints an administrative contact person for the duration of the grant, which will help the PI with financial and administrative issues.

Eligible Research Groups

- The host institution employs all the group members (except the PI(s)) and establishes a research group or a laboratory at least starting from the 24th month for the duration of the **ARPI** program in accordance with full-time or half-time contracts.
- **ARPI** research program requires at least three team members for NS, ET, MS and AS thematic areas and at least two team members for SS and AH (excluding the PI).
- The PIs are free to select the CI and the research group members. The research team may be of national or international character.
- The CI must be born on or after January 1st of 1982.
- The CI should have adequate expertise in the field selected by the applicant to be able to autonomously carry on with the day-to-day research and training tasks in accordance with the program and design of the project.
- The PI will be obliged to hold regular online meetings with the CI and the group members, help them in performing research tasks and assignments, as well as critically reflect on the individual career development goals of the research group members.
- It is the responsibility of the PI to identify a suitable CI and group members. The SC is not in a position to recommend group members, however, the SC will support with advertising the vacancies for the team members on the job portals and within the research and educational institutions in Armenia.
- In the case of a consortium of PIs, all PIs in the team share authority for scientific leadership. A designated PI should serve as an administrative PI and be responsible for administrative leadership.
- At least two of the group members must be born on or after January 1st of 1987, and be at least second year Bachelor students (the eligibility can be extended for certain properly documented circumstances such as for maternity and paternity leave or national service).

Submission restrictions

The following general restrictions for grants apply:

- An applicant must not have resided, studied or been employed in Armenia for more than 12 months in the 4 years immediately before the date of call launch.
- Researchers who currently are involved in one of the **CARIN**, **LAURIK** or **ARPI** research programs or Starting, Consolidating or Advanced research grants funded by the SC may not be involved as group members in **ARPI** research program.

Funding

ARPI program includes the remuneration of the PI, the allocation of eligible direct and indirect research costs.

In the proposal submission the budget should be prepared in the Armenian currency (AMD). The project costs are to be calculated based on the exchange rate of €1 = AMD500.

ARPI program can be up to a maximum of €309,800 (ca. AMD154,900,000) for a period of 5 years.

Additional funding of €30,000 (ca. AMD15,000,000) can be requested in the proposal to cover the following eligible costs when these are necessary to carry out the proposed work:

- the purchase of major research equipment, which constitute host institution's fixed assets
- access to large facilities

The program budget is composed of the following elements:

- Remuneration of the PI consisting of the following elements
 - Activity honorarium of €300 (ca. AMD150,000 gross) per week during their visits to Armenia (maximal €6,000 (ca. AMD3,000,000) for a period of 5 years).
 - Travel costs for visits to Armenia
 - Visa and residency permit costs
 - Round-trip travel costs
 - Accommodation and living allowance costs in Armenia
 - Health insurance costs during the visits to Armenia
- Direct research costs
 - Costs of personnel assigned to the project (CI, PostDocs, PhD, Master and Bachelor students, technicians, up to 5 members), where the average monthly salary of personnel excluding the PI should not exceed €600 (ca. AMD300,000 gross)
 - Other research costs of up to €2,000 (ca. AMD1,000,000) in each year per a group member (excluding the PI(s)) including
 - Research supplies and consumables
 - Costs of research equipment
 - Travel and subsistence costs for group members and external visiting collaborators
 - Open Access publication and dissemination costs, monograph publication costs with prior approval from the SC.
 - Additional funding up to €40,000 (ca. AMD20,000,000) can be requested in the **ARPI** proposals, which include experimental investigations to cover the following eligible costs when these are necessary to carry out the proposed research:
 - Research equipment and supplies
 - Access to large facilities
- After the initial period of 12 months the personnel costs are increased by €300 (ca. AMD150,000) per month in the case of every additional under 35 team member approved by the SC.

- Total indirect costs of up to €5,000 (ca. AMD2,500,000) for **ARPI** program to be used to provide the research group with a working space. Indirect costs are managed by the host institution.

The PI is given budgetary flexibility for proper management of the project. A reallocation requires an amendment to the grant agreement subject to approval by the SC before the date the modification should take place. Note, budgetary flexibility is not applicable to the indirect costs, which cannot be changed.

ARPI program may be temporarily suspended during PI's maternity, paternity, parental leave or long-term sickness.

Expected results and outcome

- Installation and establishment of a laboratory in a host institution in Armenia with a long-term goal to strengthen the international competitiveness of Armenian researchers and research institutions
- Peer-reviewed scientific publications with international outreach
- Increasing the potential of the PI and the host institution to succeed in applications for international and national funding
- Training of young researchers and PhD, Master and Bachelor students; Implementation of projects involving PhD, Master and Bachelor students; Organization and participation in summer schools, scientific conferences and workshops in Armenia.
- After the initial 35 months at least 3 scientific publications in peer-reviewed, international publishing venues (at least in Q3 quarter of "Scimago Journal & Country Ranking"¹) or at least 3 book chapters in publications in a publishing venue included in WOS Book citation Index for NS, ET, MS, AS and SS thematic areas and at least 2 scientific publications in peer-reviewed, international publishing venues indexed in SJR or 1 monograph in a publishing venue indexed in WOS Book Citation Index for AH will be required.
- At the stage of final report at least 8 scientific publications in peer-reviewed, international publishing venues (from which at least 2 in Q1 and 2 in Q2 quarters of "Scimago Journal & Country Ranking") for NS, ET, MS, AS and SS thematic areas and at least 6 scientific publications in peer-reviewed, international publishing venues (from which at least 1 in Q1 and 1 in Q2 quarters of "Scimago Journal & Country Ranking") or one monograph for AH will be required.
- Meeting the afore-mentioned conditions as well as the failure to do so will add/subtract 5 percentage points of final results of future project proposals of the CI and 1 percentage points of final results of proposals of every other team members (maximum 5 percentage points) submitted to the SC. Points reduction will be diminished in case the conditions are thereafter fulfilled.

¹ <https://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php>

- At least one submitted grant application to an international funding agency for at least €50,000 (ca. AMD25,000,000) for NS, ET, MS, AS and SS thematic areas and for at least €30,000 (ca. AMD15,000,000) for AH.
- During the implementation of the project, the team members ensure the outreach, public engagement, including creation and dissemination of popular science materials on the topic, promoting public awareness and understanding of science (public talks, publications in popular science journals, participating in science fairs, making science resources accessible to the general public).

Application Process

The submission deadline for **ARPI** program is **August 26th 2022, at 18:00 Armenia time (UTC +4)**. Please keep in mind that it is not possible to make any changes in the proposal once it is submitted.

Proposals are submitted by the applicant via a web-based online proposal submission system at <http://rl-armenia.scs.am/>.

ARPI proposal should include an abstract, a summary for the general public, full project description outlining research methodology, PI's research track record including a copy of PhD diploma and requested budget. The language of the proposal is English. Supporting documents by the host institution must be provided.

The following elements need to be included in the fellowship application:

- Project title
- Abstract (up to 2000 symbols with spaces)
- PI's CV, including academic research track and publications
- A copy of PI's PhD Diploma
- Project description ([template](#))
- Budget ([template](#))
- Host institution capacity form (up to 2 pages) signed by an authorized representative of the host; the form should include host institution assessment on ambition, feasibility of the proposal, correspondence and suitability of the applicant and the host institution for the successful implementation of the research and career development goals
- Abstract for general public (up to 2 pages including figures and references)
- In the case of the consortium of PIs, the application is submitted by the administrative PI. A signed agreement of participation must be provided by the other collaborating PI.

Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria of the **ARPI** program are:

1. **Scientific quality of the project:** originality and innovative nature of the project; scientific impact; relationship to the state of the art of research in the field; scientific methods and techniques, research tools, equipment and devices to be used; expected results, potential for high quality research outputs; sufficiency of the infrastructure and budget.
2. **Qualification of the applicant:** the capacity to implement the project; scientific achievements of the applicant; important contributions to the field; research performance and research output; supervisory, mentoring experience; engagement in public intellectual and public interests work; scientific prizes and awards.
3. **Assessment of the host institution and impact of the project:** quality and suitability of institutional environment, equipment; mutual gain from transfer of knowledge, technology and expertise between the applicant and the host institution; impact of the project on the development of research in Armenia.

Evaluation

The SC makes every effort to guarantee the ethics and transparency of the criteria-based selection process of the best researchers and projects.

Initially, all applications are screened by the SC office in order to ensure that the eligibility requirements are met. After that the proposal evaluation is divided into two steps.

Step 1 - Remote Expert Evaluation

For the second step of the evaluation, the proposals are referred to at least two reviewer. The reviewers carry out their evaluation based on the complete data included in the proposal with the exception of the project extended synopsis.

Step 2 - Panel Evaluation

After the external reviews are submitted, the panel committee discusses the individual reviews and conducts interviews with the applicants. The interview can be conducted online. The interview provides the input to further clarify the proposal and, in particular, to provide explanations to questions and criticisms submitted by the reviewers. The panel committee evaluates the applications and provides a final evaluation and score for each application based on the scores of the external reviewers, panel experts and interviews. Both scores of the external reviewers and the panel experts account for 50% of the final score.

Evaluation process

The panel committee compiles a ranking list for all applications based on the final scores. The compliant applications will be granted in the order of ranking until depletion of the funds allocated for this call for applications.

In the final evaluation, the panel committee may prescribe certain conditions that the host institution and the applicant are required to fulfill upon receiving the grant.

The formal funding decisions or rejections are issued by the head of the SC. Each applicant receives the evaluation summary report that reflects the final score for the proposal. The comments and marks must give sufficient and clear reasons for the score and should the project be retained for contracting, if appropriate, recommendations for modifications.

Contracting of grants

Allocation of program

Based on the final proposal and evaluation received from the panel committee, the SC makes a granting or rejecting decision.

A decision on rejecting the application may be made in the following cases:

- Based on the results of the evaluation and the threshold score
- The proposal cannot be funded due to the limited budget for the particular call
- If the certain conditions prescribed by the expert panel are not consented by the applicant or the host institution

For each funded proposal, a Tripartite Agreement between the SC, the host institution and the CI is concluded for the funding term. The Agreement entails the rights and responsibilities of the parties within the scope of the **ARPI** program. The group members involved in the program enter into a Supplementary Agreement with the CI, that specifies the duties and obligations of members.

Reporting

The PI in cooperation with the host institution is required to submit progress reports to the SC that cover 12 month periods.

- **Intermediate report** should be submitted within the 12th, 24th and 48th months of fellowship implementation and should include the following:
 - the results in accordance with the objectives of the program
 - a list of published articles as a result of implementation of the program
 - a list of conference, workshop, seminar presentations of the project results, teaching and public outreach activities
 - a report on the usage of funding
- **Triennial report** should be submitted upon 35 months of the project implementation and should include the following:
 - the results in accordance with the objectives of the program
 - a list of published articles as a result of implementation of the program
 - a list of conference, workshop, seminar presentations of the project results, teaching and public outreach activities
 - a report on the usage of funding

- a report on the international recognition of the research group, impact on the research field
- The extension of the project duration is possible based on the report and the Board decision.
- **Final report** should be submitted no later than one month after the end of the program and should include the following:
 - the results in accordance with the objectives of the program
 - a list of published articles as a result of implementation of the program
 - a list of conference, workshop, seminar presentations of the project results, teaching and public outreach activities
 - a report on the usage of funding
 - a report on the potential applicability of the results for Armenian research and economy
 - a report on the international recognition of the research group, impact on the research field and possible directions of future research

Research integrity

Cases of evident intentional false information, fraudulent activities and scientific misconduct such as fabrication, falsification, plagiarism or misrepresentation of data may result in the rejection of proposals and in a possible restriction on participation of the researcher to any of the programs funded by the SC.

Disclaimer

The English version of this call is intended for guidance and information purposes. It does not constitute a certified translation of the legal source. In case of any doubts as to the interpretation of the call's provisions, the Armenian version should prevail.

FAQ

1. When is it possible to apply for ARPI program?

Applications for **ARPI** program are only possible if they have been advertised.

2. On which target groups does ARPI program focus?

This program is particularly suitable for excellent active applicants who hold tenured professorship or equivalent permanent position outside Armenia.

3. What resources are available for ARPI program?

ARPI program offers competitive packages for start-up money, personnel, travel and yearly operating costs. The PI's research group carries out the program of the project at one of the state-funded research institutions in Armenia, where together with the research group they can make use of the infrastructure, resources and excellent research environment. Moreover, the PIs are bestowed a great deal of individual flexibility, and if necessary, can employ additional funds from other programs of the SC according to need and progress.

4. Is a participation in teaching activities expected?

Participation is not in the list of the formal requirements. However, a PI is free and encouraged to get involved in the training of young scientists at a local university.

5. Is there any age limit?

No.

6. Is it possible to apply for an ARPI program with a host institution where the applicant is/was already employed?

Yes. However, an applicant must not have been studied or employed in Armenia for more than 12 months in the last 4 years.

7. Should the applicant contact the preferred host Institution prior to an official application?

Yes, in any case. In this way, common research areas of interest can be identified with the institute and it can be determined whether an institute is fundamentally interested and able to provide necessary premises and resources.

8. What is the composition of the expert panel?

Each panel consists of experts, leading scientists of the particular research field. These panels are responsible for the final recommendation based on the evaluations of the external experts.