

UNESCO-TWAS/FAPESP Call for Proposals for Postdoctoral Fellowships for Researchers from Developing Countries

Summary

FAPESP Support Opportunity:	Post-Doctoral Fellowships (PD). Up to 20 fellowships in this modality will be contemplated in this Call.
Expression of Interest	Until 01/11/2026
Opening of SAGe	01/12/2026
Submission deadline:	Until 01/04/2027
Date of Disclosure of Results:	From August 2027
Duration of the fellowship:	12 months, non-extendable.
Contact:	Chamada-twas@fapesp.br (FAPESP) — fellowships@twas.org (UNESCO-TWAS)
Countries listed by TWAS as "developing countries"	https://twas.org/subset/all-developing-countries

1. Objective

In order to promote scientific and technological cooperation among developing countries, the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) — through their program, The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) — will offer up to 20 Postdoctoral Fellowships to researchers from developing countries, in all areas of natural, applied and social sciences.

This Call is intended to select supervisors from research institutes in the state of São Paulo, to receive Postdoctoral Fellows during the period of 12 months. The supervision of these Fellowships must be carried out by Principal Investigators (PI) or Co-Principal Investigators of ongoing projects at FAPESP, in accordance with the eligibility requirements to be addressed in **section 2 — Eligibility**.

The awarded scholarships will be developed in Host Institutions in the state of São Paulo, with a duration of twelve (12) months, with no possibility of renewal. Exceptionally, the scholarships will also not receive resources from the Technical Reserve or the Research Internship Abroad Scholarship (BEPE). Up to 20 scholarships will be awarded in this Call.

All FAPESP requirements for the award of Postdoctoral Fellowships available in <https://fapesp.br/bolsas/pd> should be considered, unless otherwise defined in this Call for Proposals.

For the purposes of this Call, countries listed by TWAS as developing countries will be considered, except Brazil. The list is available at <https://twas.org/subset/all-developing-countries>.

2. Eligibility

2.1. Eligibility of candidates for supervisors

Invited to participate in this Call as supervisors of Postdoctoral Fellows are:

- a) Principal Investigators (PI) of ongoing research grants at FAPESP in the following modalities: Regular (except mobility projects), Thematic Project, Young Investigator, Research, Innovation and Dissemination Centers (RIDC), Engineering Research Centers/Applied Research Centers (CPEs/CPAs), Science Center for Development (CCD), Public Education Program and Public Policy Program (PPP).
- b) Co-Principal Investigators of ongoing Thematic Projects, RIDCs, CCDs, ERCs and CPAs are also eligible to submit proposals.
- c) The ongoing Research Grant at FAPESP must be indicated at the time of submission of the expression of interest as a "linked process" and must be in force until at least 6 months from the beginning of the Post-Doc process.

Supervisor candidates must also meet the "Supervisor" requirements stipulated in the Postdoctoral Fellowship modality, as described in section 6.2 in fapesp.br/bolsas/pd.

The submission of more than one proposal in this Call by the same supervisor is prohibited. Researchers contemplated in Call [54/2023](#) are also not eligible for this new opportunity.

2.2. Eligibility of scholarship applicants

Applicants for the Postdoctoral Fellowship must meet the requirements of FAPESP (fapesp.br/bolsas/pd) and meet the eligibility criteria below.

All candidates will have their profile analyzed by FAPESP, including academic trajectory, adherence to the linked project and potential for scientific contribution to the receiving Research Grant

- a) Be a permanent resident and natural-born of one of the developing countries, listed in <https://twas.org/subset/all-developing-countries>;
- b) Not have a temporary or permanent residence visa in Brazil or in any developed country;
- c) Candidates already in Brazil are not eligible in this Call;
- d) Hold a doctorate in a natural, applied or social sciences area;
- e) Apply for the Scholarship within seven (07) years after obtaining the doctorate. In case of granting maternity/paternity leave, see full rule in www.fapesp.br/8484;
- f) Have official acceptance by a supervisor of a Host Institution in the state of São Paulo, Brazil;
- g) Have oral and written proficiency in English, to a sufficient degree to carry out the activities foreseen in the research project, proven by a formal statement from the Fellowship supervisor. It is expected that the supervisor candidate and the scholarship candidate talk previously to attest to the postdoctoral fellow's proficiency and other skills

Postdoctoral fellows contemplated in Call [54/2023](#) are not eligible for this new opportunity, even if with another supervisor.

The following restrictions apply to applicants, in alignment with the general TWAS Scholarship policy:

- a) Supervisors/postdoctoral students who have previously benefited from this UNESCO-TWAS/FAPESP Call ([Call 54/2023](#)) will not be able to apply;
- b) Each applicant may submit a proposal for only one program in the TWAS portfolio per calendar year.

If the proposal submitted to this Call is approved, the foreign postdoctoral fellow will not be able to apply for a new Research Grant or Fellowship to FAPESP in the 18 months following the end date of the Postdoctoral Fellowship.

It is expected that the postdoctoral fellow will be fully dedicated to the research project, and leaves of absence during the scholarship period will be prohibited, under penalty of interruption of payments.

3. Conditions of the Scholarship

- a) This is an **individual scholarship**, awarded directly to the postdoctoral fellow. FAPESP **does not provide additional resources for the maintenance of family members in the state of São Paulo** (tickets, supplementary tuition, health insurance for dependents, family housing costs, etc.). The fellow is responsible for the financial responsibility of any family member who accompanies him or her during the duration of the scholarship.
- b) The scholarship requires **full dedication to the research project**, with exclusive activity **in the state of São Paulo**. Partial dedication is not allowed. The postdoctoral fellow may not assume other paid activities or competing academic commitments in other institutions, in Brazil or abroad, during the term of the grant. The candidate is asked to consider this requirement when planning their activities and any previous institutional commitments.
- c) At the end of the fellowship, the postdoctoral fellow must return to their country of origin, in alignment with the program's mission of strengthening scientific capacity in developing countries. Joining this Call does not constitute a path to permanent residence in Brazil.
- d) Postdoctoral fellows must be aware of and observe the code of ethics of the Postdoctoral Program of the Host Institution in which they will develop their activities, when applicable. It is up to the Host Institution to inform the fellow, upon arrival, which is the applicable normative instrument and to provide access to its full text.

4. Fundable Items

4.1. UNESCO-TWAS will be responsible for the following expenses:

a) Visa: UNESCO-TWAS will cover visa-related expenses, in all cases, in accordance with UNESCO regulations and rules and based on budget availability.

It is the responsibility of the postdoctoral fellow and the supervisor to verify with the competent consulate the need to obtain the specific visa, as well as to obtain it.

4.2. FAPESP will be responsible for the expenses of:

a. Tuition fees: in an amount defined in the FAPESP Scholarship Values Table, available at www.fapesp.br/3162 (Scholarship Values Table in the Country). Until the opening of the postdoctoral fellow's bank account at Banco do Brasil — a financial institution used by FAPESP to transfer scholarships — the **scholarship supervisor will be responsible for transferring the monthly fees to the fellow**. The amounts will be transferred to the supervisor as part of the assistance to be received in the project for this purpose and must be fully transferred to the fellow by means of a signed receipt, in a template made available by FAPESP.

b. Installation Grant: The Installation Grant is granted in accordance with the rules available in www.fapesp.br/7771. Exceptionally, for this Call, the amount of the additional monthly fee granted as Installation Grant will be granted in the initial proposal, if approved, and it will be authorized that the deposit of this monthly fee be made in the supervisor's checking account, to

transfer the amount to the fellow after his arrival in São Paulo. The release of the monthly fee related to the installation grant must be requested by the supervisor through the e-mail of the Call (Chamada-twas@fapesp.br), upon presentation of a copy of the boarding pass referring to the fellow's visit to the state of São Paulo to start the Fellowship. Subsequently, the receipt of the transfer of the Installation Grant, signed by the fellow, in a template made available by FAPESP, must be presented at SAGe.

Resources may be requested for reimbursement of the postdoctoral fellow's tickets, according to the rules available in www.fapesp.br/7771.

d. Maternity/Paternity Leave: period of leave without interruption of payment in the event of the advent of offspring (complete rule in www.fapesp.br/8484).

Notes

Exceptionally for this Call, it will not be allowed to apply for a Research Internship Abroad Scholarship (BEPE). Likewise, the Postdoctoral Scholarship cannot be interrupted for the postdoctoral fellow's participation in research internships abroad.

Technical Reserve resources will also not be granted to the postdoctoral fellow contemplated in this Call. Likewise, the reimbursement of the social security contribution to the National Institute of Social Security – INSS will not be granted.

FAPESP will not be responsible for the payment of fees and other costs for study or research that may be waived or covered by the Host Institution, according to its policy.

Receiving support from FAPESP requires the fulfillment of the conditions and obligations required in the FAPESP Postdoctoral Fellowship modality and is subject to the signature of the Grant Agreement to be issued by the Foundation, in compliance with its usual administrative procedures.

5. Commitment of the Host Institution

The Call in question is marked by the high scientific standard and the international dimension: the fellowships are foreigners, coming from the countries included in the <https://twas.org/subset/all-developing-countries> list. For many, in addition to the intellectual challenge of the project, there is another equally real one — the insertion in a bureaucratic environment that they have potentially never known up close.

We know that issues such as obtaining a work or research visa, issuing a CPF and other registration documents, and opening a bank account may seem like common procedures, but they represent concrete and sometimes frustrating obstacles for foreigners.

Therefore, it will be necessary to present in the proposal to be submitted in this Call a document signed by the **Director of the Host Institution or Legal Representative designated by him**, declaring the commitment of the Institution, especially in the phase of arrival and installation of the postdoctoral fellows, ensuring:

- 5.1) the designation of a **focal point** — a person from the graduate or international relations sector — to guide the contemplated researchers in the first institutional and administrative procedures;
- 5.2) **support in providing guidance on** work and research visas for foreign researchers, including articulation with the Federal Police, Federal Revenue Service and other competent bodies;
- 5.3) **guidance on opening a bank account** and receiving FAPESP scholarships, in particular with Banco do Brasil — a financial institution used by FAPESP to transfer scholarships (see also Section 4.2.a).

6. Responsibilities of the institutions

6.1. UNESCO-TWAS

- Announce the Call and share the list of potential supervisors in developing countries, through its networks of Research and Higher Education Institutions;
- Cover the fellows' visa-related expenses, in accordance with UNESCO regulations and budget availability (see Section 4.1);
- To approve the selection of pre-selected proposals by FAPESP, together with the Steering Committee of the Call;
- Monitor the performance of the program in collaboration with FAPESP and communicate the results.

6.2. FAPESP

- Operate the reception, analysis and selection of proposals, according to the procedures described in this Call;
- To finance the approved postdoctoral fellows, covering tuition, installation assistance, maternity/paternity leave and scholarship tickets (according to section 4.2 of this Call);
- Monitor the execution of the grants and analyze the partial and final scientific reports;
- To ratify, together with UNESCO-TWAS, the final decision of the Joint Steering Committee.

6.3. Host Institution

- Fully comply with the commitments outlined in Section 5 (Institutional Support);
- Provide the institutional infrastructure stated in Annex II of the proposal;
- Ensure compliance with the code of ethics of the postdoctoral program by the fellow (according to section 3., item d of this Call);
- Formally designate the international relations or graduate focal point for the awarded fellows.

7. Submission

7.1. Expression of interest form

Candidates for supervisors of Postdoctoral Fellowships must fill out this form in order to express their interest in receiving the foreign postdoctoral fellow at their Institution.

In this form it will be necessary to inform:

- a) Name of the researcher;
- b) The number of the current FAPESP Grant;
- c) The duration of the Aid;
- d) The abstract in English of the research project to be developed by the postdoctoral fellow, specifying his/her contribution to the ongoing Research Grant at FAPESP.

It is not necessary to submit the name of the postdoctoral fellow, nor budget in the expression of interest phase.

Candidates for supervisors who are considered eligible to receive the postdoctoral fellows will be included in a list, in which their contacts and the abstract sent in the expression of interest form will be made available.

This list will be available at the bottom of this page and will be shared by UNESCO in Research and Higher Education Institutions in developing countries, so that potential candidates for Postdoctoral Fellowships can find and contact them.

7.2. Proposal in SAGe

After alignment between supervisor and fellow, a proposal in the modality Fellowship in the Country — Post-Doctoral Program must be submitted to FAPESP by the supervisor of the Fellowship, through the specific path in SAGe: New Initial Proposal > + Other Funding Lines > + Cooperation Agreements > + UNESCO/TWAS — The World Academy of Science > > Fellowships in the Country > Postdoctoral Fellowship > + Call for Proposals 2026.

The name of the postdoctoral fellow must be indicated in the "Beneficiary" field. To do so, the fellow must have previously registered with SAGe — through their ORCID number or by filling out the complete registration in "Not registered?". All fields marked with (*) must be filled in for the registration to be considered valid.

The following documents are required for analysis:

- a) Linked Research Grant Project Summary;
- b) Research Project of the postdoctoral fellow, closely linked to the main Grant, in up to 4 pages (in English);
- c) Supervisor's Curriculum Summary;
- d) Postdoctoral fellow's curriculum summary (in English); Complete academic record of the doctorate, issued as an official document (in English);
- e) If the researcher responsible for the proposal is not the same as the Principal Investigator (PI) for the Main Award, a declaration signed by the PI agreeing with the link (in Portuguese);
- f) Statement by the Head of the Host Institution, according to the model available for download at SAGe (in Portuguese);
- g) Information approved by the Host Institution on the institutional infrastructure, according to the model in Annex II available for download at SAGe (in Portuguese);
- h) Document describing the Data Management Plan, up to 2 pages (in English);
- i) Formal statement from the supervisor attesting to the beneficiary's proficiency in English (in English);
- j) Declaration of Institutional Support, signed by the Head of the Host Institution or his/her legal representative, according to the requirements described in Section 5 of this Call (in Portuguese).

The following are mandatory documents for contracting (only for approved proposals):

- a) Certificate of completion of the beneficiary's Doctorate;
- b) Proof of leave or dismissal for candidates with an employment relationship during their stay in São Paulo (in English);
- c) Post-Doctoral program development plan, according to the model available for download at SAGe.

8. Timeline

Step	Date
Call Announcement	08/09/2026

Deadline for filling out the expression of interest form	01/11/2026
Announcement of the list of potential supervisors	01/12/2026
Opening of SAGe	01/12/2027
Deadline for submission of proposals	01/04/2027
Communication of proposals selected by FAPESP and approved by UNESCO-TWAS	From August 2027
Start of approved projects	From August 2027

9. Analysis

FAPESP will be responsible for selecting the proposals.

Proposals will be analyzed through a competitive process that will evaluate the merit and relevance of the proposal, taking into account the research project, the candidate's profile (to be examined by FAPESP, according to Section 2.2), the supervisor and the relationship with the ongoing project supported by FAPESP.

The list of candidates pre-selected by FAPESP will be submitted for approval by UNESCO/TWAS. The final decision will be taken jointly by FAPESP and UNESCO/TWAS, according to the procedure established by a Joint Committee.

Gender is a UNESCO Global Priority: therefore, **the Steering Committee will consider gender balance among those selected in the final decision.**

Considering compliance with the schedule provided for in this Call, there will be no possibility of reconsideration of the result.

10. Scientific Report

The Scientific Reports of the Fellowship must be submitted on the dates specified in the Grant Agreement.

It is suggested that the partial and final Scientific Reports of the Fellowship be prepared following the script available in www.fapesp.br/14453.

- a) Every Scientific Report must have a section indicating how the Data Management Plan is being followed and any modifications. When sending the Final Scientific Report, the postdoctoral fellow must provide a link to a Web page that describes how to access the data made available by the project.
- b) Any publication of the results of the research carried out must be made in accordance with the open access policy of UNESCO and FAPESP.

The reports presented by the postdoctoral fellows must be reviewed and commented on by the supervisor, with the submission of the Scientific Report Submission Form.

The report of the completed stages of the development plan of the Post-Doctoral program must also be presented, according to the plan attached to the process at the time of acceptance of the initial award of the Fellowship.

If a report is not submitted within the stipulated deadline or if the report is not approved, the Fellowship is suspended until its satisfactory presentation or reformulation, at the discretion of FAPESP. If the default persists for three months, the Fellowship is retroactively canceled.

11. Accountability

Considering the lack of a Technical Reserve, there will be no commitment to Accountability for the PD scholarship.

12. Contact

Questions about this notice should be directed to Chamada-twas@fapesp.br with a copy to fellowships@twas.org.