

International Co-Investigator Scheme
Agreement
between the
Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)
and the
Research Council of Norway (RCN)

1. The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) is the main Swiss agency promoting scientific research in all disciplines. The SNSF funds scientific research, promotes the international competitiveness of scientific research as well as the capacity for networking and problem-solving, and pays particular attention to funding young scientists.
2. The Research Council of Norway (RCN) serves as the chief advisory body for the government authorities on research policy issues, and distributes roughly NOK nine billion to research and innovation activities each year. The Research Council works to promote international cooperation and increase participation in the EU framework programme on research and innovation.
3. To develop international opportunities, the Research Council of Norway and the SNSF (hereafter referred to as the parties) recognise that support for international collaborative research is critical for achieving their respective aims. Facilitating this collaboration, their respective research communities require simple mechanisms to fund collaborative research projects that avoid double jeopardy and do not involve a significantly greater administrative burden than to obtain funding from national schemes.

The International Co-Investigator Scheme opens, under certain conditions, the national funding programmes for applicants from other countries, and thus strengthens cross-border cooperation.

Therefore, the parties agree to reciprocally open their national research project funding schemes to collaborative proposals involving researchers from the other country.

The International Co-Investigator Scheme principle can be applied if the research project cannot be conducted without the additional applicants from abroad and the foreign sub-project adds a significant value to the overall project. The leadership and the majority of the budget remains in the country where the project is submitted.

4. The international collaborators will be eligible to claim for costs up to 50% of the total research grant. Researchers therefore need to apply only to one party for funding to cover the cost of the entire international collaboration.
5. RCN covers the following costs of the Swiss project partner:
 - Salaries and social security contribution based on the Swiss wage scale
 - Research costs (consumable, travel costs, computing time and data, direct costs of infrastructure use)
6. The following costs of the Swiss project partner are not covered by RCN:
 - Equipment

7. The SNSF covers the following costs of the Norwegian project partner according to the applicable Regulations of the SNSF:
 - Salaries and social security contribution of project staff members based on the Norwegian wage scale
 - Research costs (consumable, travel costs, computing time and data, direct costs of infrastructure use)
8. The following costs are not covered by the SNSF:
 - Salary and social security contribution of the Swiss and Norwegian Principal and Co- Investigators
 - Equipment
 - Overhead costs
9. This agreement serves to simplify the process of applying for funding for collaborative research, by allowing collaborative projects to be funded through normal national procedures. Funding decisions on the proposals will be made according to the normal procedures of the party from which funding is sought. Where appropriate, the parties will seek to involve international academics in the peer review process.
10. Each party shall pay its grant in full to the institution of its national applicant, and this institution shall then be responsible for disbursing funds to the international collaborator(s). The national applicant is responsible for the whole project budget, also for the money spent abroad.
11. Monitoring and evaluation of research grants will take place according to the normal procedures of the funding party, but the parties will make the results of any evaluation available to each other in a suitable way if desired.
12. The parties reserve the right to exclude specific schemes from this agreement if they deem necessary, but the spirit of this agreement is that such exclusions should be rare and only used where there is a compelling strategic case.
13. The ambition of this arrangement is to achieve a balanced flow of research funds between the two countries, so that neither of the research communities served by the parties are financially disadvantaged by the scheme. The flow of money between the two countries will be monitored by the parties and this agreement will be subject to review in one year's time. If it proves that one party has been regularly disadvantaged by the scheme, then mechanisms for recovery of costs may be discussed and implemented by the partners.
14. The agreement enters into force with the signature of both organisations involved.

The Swiss National Science Foundation:

Date: 20.2.2018

Signature:



Position: President of the Research Council

The Research Council of Norway:

Date:

19/3-18

Signature:



Position: Chief Executive

The Swiss National Science Foundation:

Date: 22.2.18

Signature: A. Walt

Position: Director