



Funding opportunities in the Global South as a driver for research collaboration

Team Finland Knowledge network
Research Service Days
Tampere
21th August 2025

Team Finland Knowledge – TFK

Internationalization of Finnish research and higher education



Foster the understanding of the landscape of higher education, research and innovation policies of the country/region



Analysis & reporting: Dissemination of contextualized information on policies, trends and events to Finnish HEIs

Promote cooperation and partnerships



Advance long-term partnerships between governments, funding organizations or HEIs & cooperation in higher education, research, RDI and education services

Increase Finland's attractiveness for skilled workers



Attraction of skilled students and researchers to Finnish HEIs



Funding opportunities for research and mobility in Brazil

Johanna Kivimäki

Counsellor of Higher Education and Science

Team Finland Knowledge network

Consulate of Finland in São Paulo, Brazil

Higher Education and Science in Brazil



- **World's 7th biggest nation (215 M), 9th biggest economy**
 - 20 % undergrad degree; < 1 % **master's** degree, 10,2 doctors/100.000
- Largest HE sector in LAC and 5th largest in the world
 - + 2600 HEIs = 302 public and rest are private , great diversity
 - Best universities are public, with 95 % of the scientific production
 - + 9 M HE students: 75 % in private institutes, majority in undergrad (97 %)
- **Among the world's 10 largest net investors in science and innovation**
- 50 % of LAC and 3 % of global scientific production = 13th globally
 - Most cited: Chemistry, biology/biochemistry, animal/veterinary sciences
 - Global volume: Health, biosciences and natural resources
- International partners: US, UK, Spain, Germany, France, Portugal & Italy
 - FIN: 5 % of international publications with BRA, + 50 HEI partnerships and growing number of Brazilian researchers in Finnish HEIs



Brazilian priorities in HE & Science



Priorities & objectives

- Self-sufficiency and global competitiveness
- Increasing the **population's** level of higher education & innovations
- Retention and attraction of talents
- Attractiveness of academic careers
- Open science with equal access
- Internationalization
 - Internationalization at home
 - Geographic and thematic diversification
 - Focus on the less internationalized HEIs (north, north-east and central-west)

Actions

- Increasing funding for:
 - National study and research scholarships
 - National research groups
 - Internationalization of postgraduate studies and related mobility
- Strengthening the federal network and research infrastructures
- Increasing master's and doctoral education in strategic fields
- National AI Action Plan with 4 MRD € for 2024-2028



Techmakers Brazil-Finland call open

- Business Finland MoU with the Brazilian Company of Research and Industrial Innovation, EMBRAPA, operated by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI)
- Joint *Techmakers Brazil-Finland call*, supported also by APEX Brazil
- Aims to fund science-based innovation projects between Finland and Brazil
 - Requires partnership a between Finnish company and a Brazilian research institute
 - For Finnish partners criteria by Business Finland apply
- Priority sectors:
 - Bioeconomy, Circular Economy, Clean Energy, Decarbonization, Economy Digitalization, and Sustainable Mining
- Rolling call. Deadline in May 2026
- More details about the call and a platform for matchmaking here:
<https://techmakers-brazil-finland-2024.b2match.io>

National Council for Scientific and Technological Development – CNPq



Inbound

- Visiting researcher
 - 3-12 months (+12)
 - ~800 €/month
- Special visiting researcher
 - 1-3 months for 2-3 years
 - ~2000 €/month

+ Support for travel and relocation

Outbound/PhD

- Full PhD
 - Up to 36 months (+12)
 - 1300-1700 €/month
 - In priority areas of knowledge
- PhD exchange
 - 3-12 months
 - 1300 €/month

+ Support for travel, relocation and health insurance

Outbound

- Postdoc
 - 6-12 months (+12)
 - 2100 €/month
- Senior researcher
 - 3-6 months
 - 2300/month €

+ Support for travel, relocation and health insurance

More info: https://www.gov.br/cnpq/pt-br/aceso-a-informacao/bolsas-e-auxilios/copy_of_modalidades

The Brazilian Federal Agency for Support and Evaluation of Graduate Education - CAPES



Outbound/PhD

- Full PhD
 - Up to 48 months
 - 1300 €/month
 - PhD exchange
 - 4-9 months
 - 1300 €/month
- + Support for travel, relocation and health insurance

Outbound/Postdoc

- Institutional postdoc programme
 - Postdoc visit as part of the scholarship in the national postdoc programme
 - 6-10 months
 - Support for travel, relocation and health insurance

Outbound

- Visiting professor
 - 4-12 months (+12)
 - Junior/postdoc: 2100 €/month
 - Senior: 2300 €/month
 - For advanced studies
 - Support for relocation and health insurance

More info: <https://www.gov.br/capes/pt-br/aceso-a-informacao/acoes-e-programas/bolsas/bolsas-e-auxilios-internacionais/encontre-aqui/paises/multinacional>

CAPES Global – Call open until 30 October 2025



- Funding for networks for institutional internationalization of HEIs
 - Must include 4–6 Brazilian higher education institutions from 3–4 different regions (at least 1 from the North, Northeast or Central West) and at different levels of internationalization
 - Focus on specific themes related to the Sustainable Development Goals and relevant Brazilian national strategies. The international partners of the networks are gathered around these themes with added value.
- The funding can be used for, e.g.:
 - research and education initiatives that address global challenges;
 - international academic experiences for students, researchers, faculty and staff;
 - international missions;
 - scholarships abroad (PhD exchange, visiting professor, training); and
 - scholarships to receive partners (visiting professor, young talent, postdoc, PhD exchange)
- Total budget ~55 MEUR/year for 4 years (projects can extend up to 5 years)

More info: <https://www.gov.br/capes/pt-br/aceso-a-informacao/acoes-e-programas/bolsas/bolsas-e-auxilios-internacionais/encontre-aqui/paises/multinacional>

State level funding in Brazil – The FAP system



- 27 research and innovation foundations (FAPs) in each state and the federal district
 - Finance research carried out at state universities, research and innovation centers, as well as international mobility of students and researchers
 - São Paulo research foundation FAPESP is among the most significant national funding agencies
- CONFAP is an umbrella organization for the FAPs, coordinating
 - Brazil's participation in the EU's research and innovation framework programs
 - Funding initiatives between states (e.g. Amazonia+10), incl. in cooperation with international research funding agencies
 - More info: <https://confap.org.br/en>

São Paulo Research Foundation - FAPESP



Inbound

- Post-doctoral fellowships
 - 6-36 months
 - ~2000 €/month
- Special visiting researcher
 - Experienced researchers
 - Up to 12 months
 - Cover travel, maintenance, travel insurance

Outbound

- Research internships Abroad
 - For FAPESP Scholarship/Fellowship Recipients
 - Ba 1710 €/month
 - Ma 1980 €/month
 - PhD 2430 €/month
 - Postdoc 4050 €/month
 - Max.4-12 months
 - Support for travel, relocation and health insurance

Outbound

- Research Grant Abroad
 - Up to 12 months
 - Cover travel, maintenance, travel insurance + dependents when + 6 months
 - If without an employment contract, a monthly fee according to FAPESP researcher salaries



FAPESP SPRINT

- SPRINT – São Paulo Researchers in International Collaboration
 - Projects with reciprocal mobility between research teams
- Possibility to advance from mobility to Seed funding
 - Covers travel and board of research teams for up to 2 years, USD 12500 / year
 - Seed funding of USD 25000 can be applied for the third year
- Requires prove of reciprocal mobility funding from partner university or funding agency
- Upcoming calls:
 - 27 October 2025
 - 23 February 2026
- More info:
 - <https://fapesp.br/en/sprint>
 - <https://fapesp.br/sprint/chamada2025>



GCUB International Mobility Program

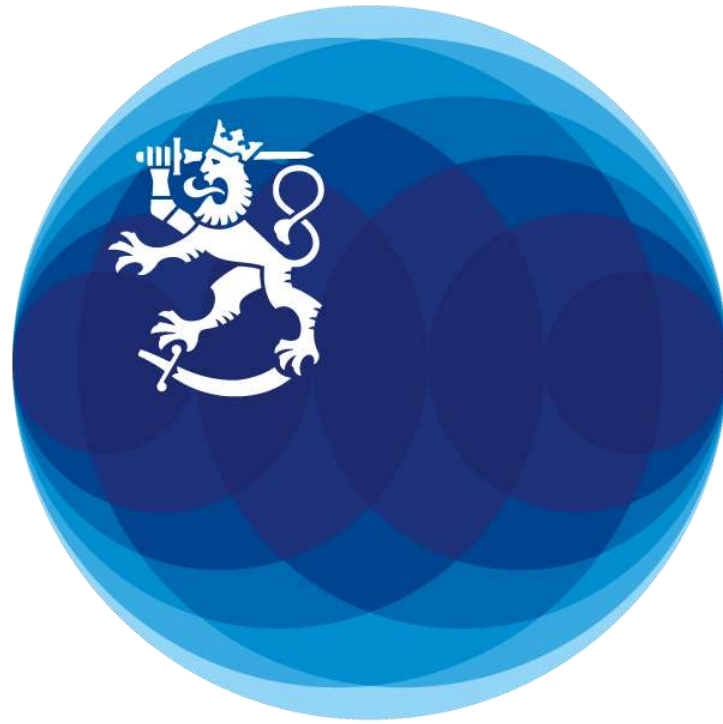
- The International Cooperation Group of Brazilian Universities (GCUB), including 101 Brazilian universities
- **Study scholarships for Master's or Doctoral students from abroad in Brazilian universities**
- Duration:
 - Masters up to 24 months
 - Doctoral up to 28 months
- Support:
 - Exemption from paying enrollment fees, tuition or academic fees
 - Masters ~300 €/month
 - Doctoral ~500 €/month

More info: <https://www.gcub.org.br/bsp/about-the-program-sobre-el-programa/>

EU-Brazil partnership in Research and Innovation



- Brazilian researchers to collaborate with ERC projects
 - Research visits to ERC-funded research groups in Europe for 6-12 months
 - Deadline 30 September 2025, Call [HERE](#)
- MSCA Staff Exchanges, for research and innovation staff mobility
 - Brazil offers funding for their entities participation, more info below
 - Deadline on 8 October 2025. Call [HERE](#)
- Upcoming calls including partnership by Brazil and Finland
 - *Water4All – Water Security for the Planet* - freshwater-related research and innovation, Call: 12 September – 13 November 2025. Pre-call [HERE](#)
 - **The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership's Thematic Portfolio Call** for interest to connect ongoing blue economy projects. Deadline 30 October 2025. Call [HERE](#)
- The Horizon Europe funding for Research Infrastructures
 - **To enable EU researchers access to world's best research infrastructures**
 - Various calls, where entities from Brazil are eligible for funding. Deadline 18 September 2025.



Thank you!

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Southern Africa

Veera Virmasalo
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Embassy of Pretoria (South Africa)

21.8.2025

“Southern Africa” in this presentation



- Southern African Development Community SADC + Rwanda
- Universities. Approximately 70 state-owned (26 of these in South Africa). Differ significantly in terms of research capacity and infrastructure. Some SA unis rank highly, with world-class research infra.
- Research funding. Inadequacy of domestic government funding (GERD max. 0,6%, more typically under 0,3%), dependency on foreign funding problematic, pressure *and interest by HEIs* for increased private sector funding.
- Unique research opportunities. Biodiversity, mineral wealth, social transformation processes, resource-scarce environments with potential for unexpected innovations

African Union (AU) Research Priorities

Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 – 2034 ([STISA](#))



Priority sectors

- Agriculture
- Health
- ICT
- Energy
- Environment


















Cross-cutting priorities

- Industrialization
- Human capital infrastructure and skills
- Frontier & emerging technologies
- Science diplomacy & partnerships
- Private sector engagement
- Youth & gender engagement

All AU countries: AU Research Grants

- Competitive funding programs open for African scientists and institutions
- Must align with AU goals (see next slide)
- Managed by the African Union Commission (AUC) with support from partners like the European Union
- Funding ranges from \$50,000 to \$500,000, depending on the program
- More info: <https://au.int/en/aurg>



<div><div>SHANGHAI RANKING</div><div>HomeRankingsUniversitiesNewsActivities</div></div>					
World Rank	Institution	<div>South Africa</div>	National/Regional Rank	Total Score	<div>PUB</div>
201-300	 University of Cape Town		1-2	36.7	
201-300	 University of the Witwatersrand		1-2	36.4	
401-500	 Stellenbosch University		3	32.9	
501-600	 University of Johannesburg		4-5	35.3	
501-600	 University of Pretoria		4-5	30.7	
601-700	 University of KwaZulu-Natal		6	28.9	
701-800	 North-West University		7	25.5	
801-900	 UNISA University of South Africa		8	23.4	

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SA's Global Strengths in Research

- Climate and Environmental Science
- Health and Biomedical Sciences
- Astronomy and Space Science
- Engineering and Materials Science
- Agricultural and Food Security
- Innovation and Digital Technologies

South Africa: National Research Funding

- Within the [National Research Foundation \(NRF\)](#) funding context, support for the internationalisation of research forms is built into research grants awarded through programmes such as:
 - Competitive Funding for Rated Researchers ([CFRR](#))
 - The South African Research Chairs Initiatives ([SARChI](#))
 - The Centres of Excellence ([CoE](#)) Programme
- For mobility: Knowledge, Interchange & Collaboration ([KIC](#))
 - Research visits to other countries, hosting researchers from other countries, organising of research events

South Africa's research priorities

([STI Decadal Plan](#))



Fields

- Health innovation
- Energy and climate
- Digital and circular economy
- Agriculture and mining modernization

Modalities

- joint training programs
- mobility schemes
- capacity-building initiatives
- community-based research and co-creation models

South Africa: Team Finland focus



In support of Finland's business goals:

- Digital Transformation
 - Water
 - Mining and Critical Minerals
- Especially green solutions & education for these fields.

Other

- Educational sciences and related fields
- Peace and equitable transformation

South Africa: NRF interest to form a platform for SA and Finland research collaboration



- SA has bilateral schemes with many countries, e.g. South Africa Sweden University forum ([SASUF](#))
- For NRF, these function as instruments to direct funding for international collaboration
- Different modalities outlined in [System to System Collaborations. A Position Paper.](#)
- No possibility for **earmarked funding from Finland's National Research Council.** Would there be interest to explore the packaging of existing Finnish – South **African collaborations and funding channels as a “platform”** to increase the possibility of SA colleagues accessing NRF funding for research collaborations with colleagues in Finnish universities?

Upcoming: mapping of potential “local” funding sources for South(ern) Africa



- “Local” EU, World Bank, African Development Bank, UN funds, big foundations (e.g. Gates, Wellcome)
- TKI funding through Business Finland
- Question:
 - Research fields of interest?
 - Organisations of interest?
 - HEI (or other) partners of interest?
 - Potential southern Africa -based consultants?



Thank you!

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Funding possibilities

INDIA

Research Service Day 2025

21.08.2025

Liisa Toivonen

Global Initiative for Academic Networks - GIAN



- Funded by the Indian Ministry of Education
- Launched 2015
- Participating Institutions: IITs, IIMs, Central Universities, IISC, IISERs, NITs and IIITs
- Foreign faculty as Distinguished / Adjuncted / Visiting faculty/Professors of Practice in Indian institutions
- Short term or Semester-long Courses which provide credit to students
- For each course \$8000 for 12-14 hours, \$12000 for 20-28 hours for travel and honorarium
- Local hospitality by host Institutions
- Duration of course mutually decided by host institution and visiting foreign faculty
- 2163 approved and 1824 completed courses on 19.08.2025

<http://www.gian.iitkgp.ac.in/>

Visiting Advanced Joint Research Faculty Scheme - VAJRA



- From 2017 implemented by Science and Engineering Research (Ministry of Science and Technology). Funded by the Department of Science and Technology
- For overseas scientists and academicians with emphasis on Non-resident Indians (NRI) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) / Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) to work as Adjunct or Visiting faculty for a specific period of time in Indian public funded academic and research institutions
- Collaborative research for information sharing
- Residency period in India from 1 month to 3 months a year (for up to 3 yrs)
- \$15000 in first month of residence in a year, \$10000 per month for the next two months
- Funding covers travel costs and honorarium
- Host institution may consider providing additional support

<http://vajra-inda.in/>

Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration SPARC



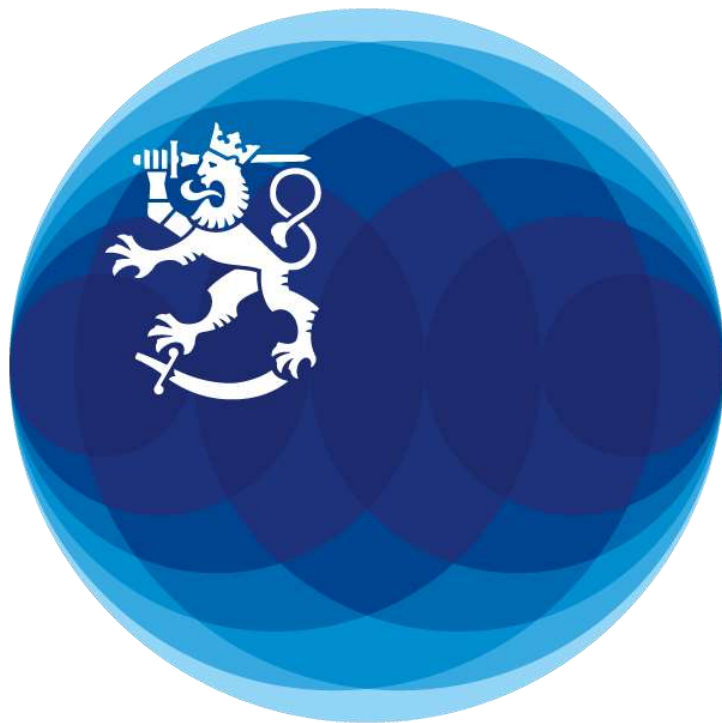
- Funded by the Ministry of Human Resource Development since 2018
- IIT Kharagpur coordinating
- Projects up to 1,38 million \$ (Rs 12 Crore), Focus: 28 countries including Finland
- To improve research ecosystem of **HEI's**, academic courses, research and joint research collaborations
- Indian Partners: Top-100 or category-wise top-100 in NIRF (Including private institutions)
- Foreign partners: Top-500 overall and top-200 subject wise institutions (QS World University Ranking)
- Duration of visits by foreign faculty: 2-8 months
- Travel and living expences of Indian students/faculty at foreign university
- By today 800 proposals have been approved (2025), including projects with Finnish partners (e.g. Aalto University, University of Oulu, University of Turku)

<http://sparc.iitkgp.ac.in>



Examples of other funding possibilities:

- European Union – India joint research funding HORIZON
 - Waste to renewable hydrogen (2.9.25)
 - Cumulative impact of marine pollution on marine organisms and ecosystems)
- India-Finland bilateral funding (DST – BF) – not verified nor opened yet
- Erasmus+ Capacity building
- ADP and other development banks e.g. Capacity building projects
- Funding from individual Indian universities for mobility



Thank you!

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Research funding schemes offered in South-East Asian countries

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Embassy of Finland, Singapore

South-East Asia



- Population 700 million
- Young population (mostly <30)
- Culturally, politically, religiously diverse
- Economic growth mostly 1-5% annually (2024)

South-East Asia



- Many countries provide funding for PhD & postdoc studies abroad
- Singapore one of the most open and best-funded research system
- SG attracts part- or full-time scholars to be placed in SG
- ADB projects to be followed



Singapore – key funding schemes

- One of the most open and well-funded research environments in Asia
- Grants for part time or full time in Singaporean research institutes
- NRF Fellowship
 - early-career international researchers; up to S\$3 million over five years
- NRF Investigatorship
 - internationally established researchers; up to S\$5 million
- A*Star & universities actively recruit international faculty



GYSS - Global Young
Scientists Summit.

Yearly conference.

Welcome to apply and
join us in 2026!



MILLENNIUM
TECHNOLOGY
PRIZE



MY - Key Scholarships for PhD/Postdoc Abroad

- Yang di-Pertuan Agong Scholarship
 - by the Public Service Department (PSD)
 - postgraduate (Master's and PhD) studies in science and technology, both locally and internationally
- Malaysia International Scholarship (MIS)
 - By the Ministry of Education for PhD-level study abroad



VN - MOET Project 89

- Aims to bolster the number of lecturers with doctoral degrees
- Up to US \$25,000 per year for tuition
- Living allowances (around US \$1,300/month), health insurance (up to US \$1,000/year), one-way airfare, and logistics support
- Targets university lecturers under age 40 who commit to returning and contributing to Vietnamese higher education
- Goal of training approximately 7,300 lecturers for doctoral programs by 2030

TH - Royal Thai Government Scholarships



- via Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation – MHESI – support studies within Thailand
- Managed by the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)
- **King's Scholarships (PhD)**: Full support for doctoral studies in engineering, environment, technology; covers tuition, fees, living expenses, and accommodation for about 41 months (~3.5 years)
- **King's Scholarships (Master's)**: For engineering or management disciplines; covers full support for a 22-month program
- **Queen's Scholarships (Master's)**: Environmental-related master's programs; similar coverage and duration

ID - LPDP Scholarship (Lembaga Pengelola Dana Pendidikan)



- Managed under the Ministry of Finance
- Major government scholarship supporting postgraduate studies, including PhD programs overseas
- Covers full tuition, living expenses, and additional academic support
- Various streams: General, Targeted, Affirmative, and Collaborative Scholarships – catering to different applicant backgrounds and needs
- Typical eligibility includes age limits (Regular Scholarships – 40 for Master, 47 for PhD)
- Also bilateral joint (matching) funding

PH – Key Scholarship Programs



- DOST-PCHRD Foreign Graduate Scholarship Program
 - by the Department of Science and Technology
 - PhD studies in molecular biomedicine and tropical medicine at reputable institutions abroad
- DOST-SEI Foreign Graduate Scholarship Program
 - Master's or Doctorate degrees in science and technology fields at reputable universities abroad





Thank you!

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