

**Cooperative Program
Agreement on Scientific Cooperation
between
the University of Illinois System and
the Brazilian National Council of State Funding Agencies (CONFAP)**

Summary	Call for proposals of joint research projects to promote and strengthen collaboration between Brazilian and Illinois researchers and institutions under the MoU signed by University of Illinois System and CONFAP.
Launch of Call:	March 25, 2026
Closing date for applications:	May 26, 2026 at 11:59pm (BRT) for the PIs from the Brazilian state and 11:59 (GMT-5) for PIs from the University Illinois System
CONFAP Support:	Regular Research Grant for mobility and “seed fund”
Announcement of results:	End of August 2026
Start of projects:	From January 2027
Duration of projects:	2 years

In accordance with the provision of **Article 3** of the Memorandum of Understanding for International Cooperation between the **Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois** and the **Brazilian National Council of State Funding Agencies** (hereinafter referred to as U of I and CONFAP respectively), both **Parties** have agreed on the following cooperative program.

1. Aim of the Program

The aim of the program is to promote and strengthen collaboration between researchers and institutions affiliated with Brazilian National Council of State Funding Agencies and researchers the University of Illinois System.

2. Forms of Cooperation

The **Parties** will promote the cooperation between Brazilian and Illinois researchers and research centers, units, or departments through the following forms of cooperation:

- a) Joint research programs
- b) Visits and exchange of research staff
- c) Other cooperative activities mutually accepted

3. Joint Research Projects

For the joint research projects the cooperation will be conducted as follows:

3.1 The Parties shall promote scientific collaboration in the following research areas:

- Climate, Sustainability, Agriculture;
- Public Health and Medicine;
- Democracy and Inclusion.

3.2 The **Parties** will support up to twenty (20) joint research projects implemented in the target priority areas, as stated 3.1, with the participation of scientists from **each Party**.

3.3 Proposals should be in English, prepared by both research teams (maximum of 10 pages), and must contain a clear description of the planned collaboration (distribution of work and methods of implementation) and the added value to be expected from the collaboration. Also, the summarized budget table (attached to this document) must be filled in to itemize the funds requested from CONFAP and the University of Illinois System.

- a) Submission and documents required by University of Illinois System: research proposal; research proposal submission form; budget summary table; and CV of the PIs.

3.4 The call for proposals of joint research projects will be announced simultaneously by the Parties. The call for proposals will be announced on March 25, 2026. The selected joint research projects will be in place for a duration of two years.

3.5 The joint research projects will be expected to start in the first trimester of 2027.

3.6 Proposals must be submitted by May 26, 2026, to CONFAP by the PI from the Brazilian state until 11:59pm (BRT) and to University of Illinois System by the PI from the U.S until 11:59pm (GMT-5). Both **Parties**, U of I and CONFAP, will:



- a) gather all the applications from their respective sides:
 - i. from the **Brazilian side**, proposals must be submitted through the link: <https://sistema.confap.org.br>; the participating State Funding Agencies (FAPs) may require that the proposals must be submitted also in their respective platforms.
 - ii. From **the U of I side**, proposals must be submitted according to the instructions published at the **Brasillinois** website: https://www.uillinois.edu/about/international_partnerships/brasillinois
 - iii. **U of I** and **CONFAP** will not be responsible for incomplete registrations due to IT technical problems, communication failures, communication line congestion, or other factors hindering data transfer.
- b) review them separately;
 - i. from the **Brazilian side**, each of the involved FAPs will perform the review and evaluation;
- c) exchange prioritized lists in the second semester of 2026;
- d) select the joint research projects to be funded on the basis of financial availability to this activity and the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding for International Cooperation;
- e) finance its own team of researchers
 - i. from the **Brazilian side**, funding will be provided by the participating FAPs.

3.7 The list of joint research projects mutually approved will be made public once available.

4. Eligibility Criteria and Principal Investigators

Applications should stimulate a balanced partnership. Each proposal should include one Principal Investigator (PI) from the **Brazilian states** and one from **University of Illinois System** who unite strengths to execute a joint research project. Each PI can only submit one proposal. Applicants are expected to propose a coherent research proposal, clearly showing added value for both partners, and the complementarity of both teams. The proposals must aim to respect the principle of reciprocity with regards to academic qualifications of those who will take part in the exchange activities.

4.1. CONFAP

- a) Eligibility: The PI must be a coordinator/researcher, who are implementing research activities within Brazilian universities, institutes or research centers based in Brazilian States whose State Funding Agencies (FAPs) confirmed their participation to the present call (detailed in item 7).

4.2. University of Illinois System

- a) Eligibility: The PI should be full time faculty or post-doctoral researcher at University of Illinois Systems with a contract of employment for the full length of the proposed project.

5. Financial Support

In accordance with the provision of Article 3 of the Memorandum of Understanding for International Cooperation, the approved joint research projects shall be financed as follows:

5.1 The **Parties** agree to contribute, respectively, to the financing of the program, subject to the availability of the Parties' funds.

5.2 Each project may involve research teams from one or more **Brazilian States**, thus requesting support to the involved **FAPs**, which participate in the present call (detailed in item 7).

5.3 For each project, the involved **FAPs** and the **University of Illinois System** will fund jointly up to USD 40,000 per project with a duration of 2 (two) years. The involved **FAPs** will fund up costs of the research team based in the Brazilian states (up to USD 20,000) and University of Illinois Systems will fund the US-based research team (up to USD 20,000). Decisions related to currency conversion shall be determined at the discretion of each FAP.

5.4 The support given by the **University of Illinois System** to the research teams:

- a) Shall complement the proper resources of each team and is intended to subsidize the general costs linked to the international nature of the projects, the costs of international travel, mainly transportation and per-diem expenses;
- b) Seed funds are also provided for modest level of direct research costs, including consumables, third-party services, low-cost equipment and access to facilities to support activities and extra expenditures for visitors. Workshops are also expected to be organized through the same funding items; and
- c) The Grant can only be used for the exchange of researchers, visits for research planning, international workshops, and initial activities of data collection, always aiming to continue research collaboration and its consolidation.

5.5 The support provided by the **Brazilian institutions** shall follow the rules of each participating **FAP**.

5.6 The grantee must verify with the competent consulate the need to obtain specific visa, as well as to the related costs.

6. Medical insurance

The visitor should have insurance entitling the holder to emergency medical treatment in the host country.

For mobility, both **U of I** and **CONFAP** will cover travel, daily allowances and insurance costs for eligible researchers from their respective regions.

7. Participating Brazilian State Funding Agencies (FAPs)

From the Brazilian side, the present call is supported by the Brazilian State Funding Agencies (FAPs) listed below.

Details on their respective allocated budget and contacts is provided in Annex I – Brazil.

1. Alagoas – FAPEAL
2. Amazonas – FAPEAM
3. Bahia – FAPESB
4. Espírito Santo – FAPES
5. Goiás - FAPEG
6. Paraná – Fundação Araucária
7. Rio Grande do Sul – FAPERGS
8. Rondônia – FAPERO
9. Santa Catarina - FAPESC
10. Tocantins - FAPT

8. Protection of Personal Data

Concerning the protection of personal data deriving from this Cooperative Program, refer to Articles 6 (Confidentiality) and 7 (Intellectual Property) of the Memorandum of Understanding for International Cooperation.

9. Amendments

Amendments to this **U of I-CONFAP** Cooperation Program may be proposed by either **U of I** or **CONFAP**. Such amendments will become effective when **U of I** and **CONFAP** have mutually agreed upon them.

10. Contact

All questions related to this Call for Proposals must be directed to:

- CONFAP: Flavia Cerqueira: internacional.confap@gmail.com

For further information on the support given by the FAPs: contact must be made directly with the FAPs; **contacts are available in the Annex 1**

- University of System: Angelina Sandora: sandora3@uillinois.edu