

The Hungarian Academy of Sciences invites distinguished scientists to Hungary for research of 3 to 12 months

Objectives

The Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA) extends invitations to distinguished scientists to come to Hungary for the purpose of research work with MTA research groups at the institutes or research centres of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences or with MTA research groups at Hungarian universities, in order to foster their competitiveness. Successful applicants will be employed at the research group either within the framework of public employment or on a contract basis. All fields of science (natural sciences, life sciences, social sciences and humanities) are included in this programme. The invitation is dedicated to research only (visits to scientific institutions, conferences or courses in Hungary are not within the scope of the invitation).

Applicants

A limited number of distinguished guest scientists are invited for a period of 3-12 months. Invited researchers shall possess a record of excellent (world leading) research. Applications for inviting distinguished scientists to Hungary shall be submitted by leaders of Lendület and other research groups (hereinafter host PI researchers, PI=Principal Investigators), working at research centres, research institutions of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, or by leaders of Lendület and other MTA research groups, working at Hungarian universities, to the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The applications are to be submitted jointly with the candidates, and are to be countersigned by the Head (Rector, Director General, Director) of the Hungarian Host Institution. The time duration of the research is to end by the 30th June 2016. They are expected to be still active, and to work during their stay in Hungary full time. Applications for short visits, conference participations or delivering lectures are not encouraged.

The range and form of funding

In 2015 the annual limit for this programme is HUF 50 M. Successful applicants may get up to HUF 2.5 M/month covering all expenses on top of their remuneration.

Terms and conditions of the invitation

- 1) The host PI researcher will, in cooperation with the administration of the host institution, provide research facilities needed by the distinguished guest scientist to conduct research activities during his/her tenure.
- 2) If needed, the host (research centre, institute, or in the case of research groups, the university) will also assist with immigration processing, securing lodgings and other matters related to the guest scientist's stay in Hungary.
- 3) The distinguished guest scientist and his/her host PI researcher must submit a research report within one month after the completion of the fellowship. A manuscript of a scientific paper intended to be published in one of the top periodicals of the respective scientific field shall be attached to the report. The research report has to be supplemented

- with a maximum two page annex written in Hungarian and, if necessary, supported by illustrations, summarising the joint research and its results for communication purposes.
- 4) The joint publication should be forwarded electronically to the email address meghivas@titkarsag.mta.hu. When presenting or publishing the content or results of the research conducted, the invitation by MTA should be acknowledged.
 - 5) Distinguished guest scientists are expected to devote their stay in Hungary fully to research during their term of the Fellowship, and may not enter employment in Hungary with or without remuneration. They are allowed to deliver university lectures subject to the consent of the hosting researcher, and without further remuneration.
 - 6) Approached by the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the distinguished guest scientist should summarise his/her advice on ways to improve this programme and scientific research at large in Hungary.
 - 7) The name of the distinguished guest scientist, the host PI researcher and the institution, as well as the research report and the summary of the research report will be accessible to the public.

Formal requirements of the application

The application should comprise the form sheet, the CV of the applicant and that of the host researcher, and an accompanying letter (written both in English and Hungarian).

- The completed form sheet (Attachment 1) should be sent together with an accompanying letter (written both in English and Hungarian) to the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. It should contain the electronic signature of the Guest Scientist, and the original signature of both the host PI researcher and the leader of the host institution.
- The accompanying letter of max 1 page should point briefly to the significance of the joint research envisaged, and the expected impact of the Guest Scientist's activity in Hungary.

Application procedure

- 1) Contact must be made between the host PI researcher and the prospective distinguished scientist;
- 2) A joint research plan is to be made for min 3, max 12 months in Hungary;
- 3) The prospective distinguished scientist must send the application form sheet filled in and signed by himself/herself to the host PI researcher (electronic version is acceptable);
- 4) The host PI researcher signs and submits the application (together with the accompanying letter written in both languages) to the head of the host institution (to the director general of the MTA research centre, or to the director of the MTA research institute; or in the case of university research groups, to the rector of the university) who will confirm receipt;
- 5) The head of the host institution will then forward the above to the President of MTA.

Deadline

Applications are to be submitted to the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences until 9th March 2015, 12:00 (CET) as follows:

- 1) in a *pdf* file the application form, the two CVs and the accompanying letters are to be sent to the following address: meghivas@titkarsag.mta.hu (attaching the unsigned *doc* version of the Application Form Sheet, too)

- 2) hard copies of the above documents are to be mailed or delivered personally to the MTA Titkárság Kutatóintézeti Főosztály (1051 Budapest, Nádor utca 7.) The latest date of the stamp is 9th March 2015.

Selection process

Screening is conducted by the selection committee appointed by the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences based on the following criteria: the applicant (host PI researcher) and candidate (guest scientist) should have created lined up a tangible research plan for joint research; plausibility of some significant research results arising from the joint research envisaged; and the general impact of the expected results upon collaboration with the Hungarian scientific community.

The committee shall evaluate the application on three ranking levels (supported fully, partly, or rejected). In case of fully supported applications the sum of funding shall not exceed the amount announced in the call for application. The final decision shall be taken by the President of the MTA until 05th June 2015.

Notification about selection results

- 1) The President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences sends notification about the acceptance or refusal of the proposal to the applying host institutes before 12th June 2015 and, at the same time, he sends the invitation letter to the successful candidates (guest researchers), and its copy to the head of the host institute.
- 2) All further correspondence and negotiations are done directly between the host institution and the guest scientist themselves.

Legal remedy

Applications marred by formal or specific failures are to be discarded. No legal claims will be accepted regarding the evaluation process or its outcome in the case of applications with specific failures.

Conditions for contracting supporting and reporting

Successful projects will be funded upon a contract between the host institution and the MTA Titkárság. The project support is non refundable. The support, in accordance with the contract conditions, can be given in various financial time schedules.

The sum of support has to be used until 30th June 2016.

Unused amounts, or those used by non appropriate terms, or illegally used support – in accordance with existing legal terms – shall be refunded by the applicant. Refunding conditions are to be determined by the contract by the start of the funding.

Miscellaneous

The intensity of the financial support is 100 %. No own financial resources are requested regarding the application. There is no application fee.

Information

MTA Titkárság, Kutatóintézeti Főosztály (MTA Secretariat, Department of Research Institutes)
meghivas@titkarsag.mta.hu
www.mta.hu

Budapest, 23 September, 2014.

