

Hevolution Foundation Geroscience in Latin America (HF-GLA) Program

Frequently Asked Questions

General

1. Q: What is HF-GLA?

A: The Hevolution Foundation Geroscience in Latin America (HF-GLA) is a grant initiative with a total budget of \$ 5M USD, designed to support research projects in Aging Biology and Geroscience, excluding Clinical Trials, within Latin America. It aims to provide up to \$ 200,000 USD per award and disbursed over four years.

2. Q: How can I apply?

A: Please review the [instructions](#) for the HF-GLA program to learn how to apply.

3. Q: What is the application, review and selection process?

A: The Principal Investigator (PI) will prepare (and the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) at the applicant's institution will submit) a full proposal (see link to instructions above) by the deadline (**October 7th, 2024, 5:00 PM EST**). Please see below for definitions of PI and AOR below. The review process involves an international panel of experts in aging biology and geroscience, and the review will focus on technical feasibility, innovative approach, and relevance to healthy aging and Hevolution's mission (link).

4. Q: I am not familiar with a biosketch. Is there a template I can use?

A: The template for the biosketch can be found on Proposal Central, please see the link to the instructions above for further information on the biosketch.

5. Q: Can I get an extension on the deadline?

A: No, we will not accept late submissions. Please plan accordingly.

6. Q: How will I know that my application was received?

A: After submitting your full application through Proposal Central, you will receive an automatically generated confirmation email. Please keep this email for your records. If you do not receive this email within 48 hours of submitting your application, please check your spam/junk folder. If you do not receive the confirmation email, contact us at hevolutiongrants@afar.org

7. Q: Who is a signing official or an AOR?

A: A signing official (SO), or an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) is a designated representative of your institution who has institutional authority to legally bind the institution in grant-administration matters by providing signature approval on grant application submissions. The SO monitors grant related activities within the organization and is responsible for the confirmation that all materials submitted by the University and on behalf of the PI are true, complete, accurate, being the original work of the PI, and having not been used by other individuals in the preparation and submission of a similar grant application. Also, the SO/AOR oversees the allocation of funds on the institution's account/s, administration, and timely distribution of funds as needed to realize the proposed project.

8. Q: Why is it important to provide contact information to the signing officials (or AOR) at my university?

A: Hevolution will communicate with the signing officials at universities and other institutions regarding the institutional approvals (IACUC, IRB, or equivalent) as well as the distribution of funds to the institution's account. Please note that funds cannot be transferred to private bank accounts but only to the accounts of the institution.

9. Q: Who is an Independent Investigator?

A: Independent investigators are faculty (or equivalent) at their respective institution with their own research program, laboratory space, and the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research, as described in the institutional letter signed by the department chair or the AOR.

10. Q: Can there be more than one PI applying?

A: Yes, the application can include multiple Principal Investigators (MPIs), and Co-Investigators (Co-Is) who need to adhere to the eligibility criteria. In addition, the project can include collaborators which are exempt from the geographical location requirements. If selected for funding, the primary institution will be awarded the grant, ensuring significant portions of the project are conducted there. However, the submission of only one application per contact PI is allowed.

11. Q: If there is more than one PI involved in the project, is this considered a Multiple PI (MPI) application?

A: A Multiple PI (MPI) application is needed when the proposed research project needs two experts to answer the posed question. In this case, a MPI plan needs to be developed, detailing each PIs responsibilities and designating the MPI leadership, outlining the roles and responsibilities of each PI. This MPI plan needs to be submitted with the application. The contact PI is responsible for the design, conduct, and direction of the entire MPI project.

12. Q: Who is an Early-Stage Investigator?

A: An Early-Stage Investigator is a Principal Investigator (PI) who has completed her/his terminal research degree or post-graduate clinical training (whichever is later) within the past 12 years and has not yet received a substantial independent research award (such as an NIH R01 or equivalent).

13. Q: How is a collaborator defined?

A: A collaborator is a scientist who is involved in the proposed project and complements the PI's expertise. The PI and collaborator are involved in mutually beneficial research, work cooperatively to accomplish objectives, and realize the project. While Co-PIs in an MPIs share expertise and lead the project, collaborators provide complementary expertise but are not involved in project leadership.

14. Q: Are collaborative projects allowed and how are they handled?

A: While encouraging collaboration, especially with international institutions, the primary work must be conducted within the applicant's Latin American institution. This ensures that the project's main objectives and work align with HF-GLA's mission and eligibility criteria.

15. Q: Do I need to include Human Subjects Research (IRB)/Animal Use Committee (AICUC) approval with my application?

A: Not with the submission of your application, but you will need to provide that information prior to the start date of the award.

16. Q: What are the selection criteria for the applications?

A: The HF-GLA program supports investigators in Latin America conducting research in Aging Biology or Geroscience (advances in basic research from the laboratory towards the clinic). Geroscience projects will be prioritized. The selection criteria used to evaluate the application are the following:

- Quality of the proposed research.
- Alignment of the research topic with [Hevolution's mission and goals](#)
- Innovation and creativity of the approach.
- Qualifications and track record of the applicant.
- Excellence of the research environment; including the availability of all tools and platforms needed to perform the work proposed.

17. Q: I have a project that deals with dementia in human subjects, does it qualify for this call?

A: No, HF-GLA does not fund projects that strictly focus on clinical questions without including comprehensive research on the underlying biology of aging. Other non-responsive criteria are the following, as stated in the RFA guidelines:

- Projects that deal strictly with clinical topics such as the diagnosis and/or treatment of disease and health outcomes.
- Projects that focus on the behavioural or social determinants of aging, without addressing the underlying biology.
- Projects that include clinical trials.
- Investigators who are conducting research at a for-profit institution.

18. Q: Is there a limit on the number of projects that can be submitted?

A: Each applicant can submit only one project to the HF-GLA grant program as PI or MPI. However, an applicant can also be a collaborator in other projects

19. Q: Can I apply if I already submitted a similar proposal to another foundation?

A: Yes, you can apply for the award while other applications are pending review. However, once another institution made a positive funding decision, the applicant is required to immediately withdraw the application from Hevolution Foundation.

20. Q: When is the start date of the award?

A: We expect awards to start in early 2025.

21. Q: Can the award for the entire period of 4 years be paid out at once? How is research progress assessed?

A: No, the award will be given out on an annual basis, funding for following year/s will depend on research progress as assessed in the annual progress report and on individual basis. Hevolution will assess the progress based on the timeline submitted by the recipient. The timeline is a part of the Narrative/Experimental Approach and should be realistic in nature, not overambitious, and summarize what specific aim should be completed when to realize the proposed project in a timely manner.

Eligibility

22. Q: Who is eligible to apply for HF-GLA?

A: Independent academic investigators based in Latin America, with their own research space and resources, can apply. Projects must focus on the basic biology of aging or geroscience. Please review the RFA for the full list of eligibility criteria. A letter provided by the respective institution confirming the “Affiliation of an independent researcher” will be required.

23. Q: What countries are eligible for this program?

A: This initiative is open to investigators from countries in Latin America. Independent investigators from the following countries are eligible to apply to this program:

1. Argentina
2. Bolivia
3. Brazil
4. Chile
5. Colombia
6. Costa Rica
7. Cuba
8. Dominican Republic
9. Ecuador
10. El Salvador
11. Guatemala
12. Honduras
13. Mexico
14. Nicaragua
15. Panama
16. Paraguay
17. Peru
18. Uruguay
19. Venezuela

24. Q: Can I apply if my project focuses on age-related diseases?

A: Projects solely focusing on age-related diseases are not eligible. We encourage the submission of projects that study how any of the hallmarks of aging contribute or are permissive to the development of age-related diseases ranging from osteoporosis and sarcopenia to diabetes and neurodegeneration. Thus, the proposal must clearly focus on the underlying biology of aging that leads to the disease to be considered.

25. Q: My project focuses on age-related diseases; does it qualify for this call?

A: This program will only consider disease-specific research if the project focuses on understanding how basic aging processes may lead to disease outcomes, or how addressing the basic biology of aging might delay the onset or improve the prognosis or treatment of an age-related disease. For example, if your research is focused on determining how Ab mutations influence Alzheimer’s onset and prognosis, that is disease-specific research. However, if your research is focused on understanding how the loss of proteostasis with aging affects the toxic formation of Ab in Alzheimer’s onset and prognosis, then this is “aging-focused” research. If you are uncertain, please contact us at hevolutiongrants@afar.org prior to submitting your application.

26. Q: What is the difference between Aging Biology and Geroscience?

A: Aging Biology includes basic research on the hallmarks/pillars of aging, as well as topics such as fibrosis, organelle dysfunction, the microbiome, and other areas identified as drivers of the aging process. Geroscience research or translational research can be defined as a systematic effort to convert basic research knowledge into practical applications to improve human health and well-being, i.e., if a project has a clearly articulated pathway towards clinical relevance to the health and well-being of older adults then it is Geroscience research because it aims at applying those basic biology principles towards a translational goal. These may include work on pre-clinical animal models (mice or other mammals), as well as proof of concept or small-scale studies in human cells and tissues. Work on human subjects must be limited to observational studies where no interventions are involved.

Budget

27. Q: How is Effort defined?

A: Effort is defined here as the percentage (%) of available work time committed towards the proposed research project. The effort should be a reasonable estimate of time needed to achieve the proposed goals.

28. Q: How do I determine the maximum allowable budget?

A: Each award can provide up to \$ 200k (Direct Cost) over four years and up to \$ 50k/year depending on the country/region and alignment with project's scope. Thus, the budget requested should be commensurate with regional levels of government funding for research projects (see table below). The decision will be at the discretion of the Hevolution Foundation and will not be appealable. The table below serves as a general reference.

Direct budget (in US Dollars):

Region	Direct Cost
Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Uruguay	\$ 50k/year
Other Latin American countries	\$ 30k/year

Hevolution Foundation makes the final funding decisions, these are non-appealable.

29. Q: Can the budget include postdoctoral students and graduate students under personnel?

A: Yes, we cover salary (including fringe if applicable) for postdocs and graduate students, but not tuition. The budget requested should be based on reasonable, allocable costs and it needs to be commensurate with regional standards. Please see the RFA for more information.

30. Q: Can I include fringe benefits with the salary under personnel costs?

A: Yes, fringe benefits can be included in the budget under personnel costs, but the budget requested should be based on reasonable, allocable costs, and it needs to be commensurate with regional standards.

31. Q: Does HF-GLA provide indirect costs or Facility and Administrative (F&A) costs?

A: Yes, indirect costs (or F&A) of up to 8% of the total direct costs, excluding subawards and equipment. The indirect cost is in addition to the direct cost. Therefore, the total allowable

award equals direct costs (personnel, supplies, equipment, travel, and subaward) plus indirect cost (8% of direct cost excluding subaward and equipment).

For example,

<i>Total personnel cost</i>	<i>\$ 25,000</i>
<i>Total supplies</i>	<i>\$ 15,000</i>
<i>Total equipment</i>	<i>\$ 3,000</i>
<i>Total travel</i>	<i>\$ 2,000</i>
<i>Total subaward</i>	<i>\$ 5,000</i>
Maximum allowed indirect costs.	
<i>8% on personnel, supplies and travel (excluding subaward and equipment)</i>	<i>\$ 3,360 (8% of \$ 42,000)</i>
<i>Total funds allowed to be requested</i>	<i>\$ 53,360</i>

For any further questions please contact hevolutiongrants@afar.org.