JOINT CALL

CALL FOR MAX PLANCK TANDEM GROUPS IN UNIVERSIDAD DE LOS ANDES

2026

Vice President for Research and Creation | Universidad de los Andes
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Background

Notice: This version incorporates clarifications to the Terms of Reference. These clarifications do not affect the original conditions established in the Terms of Reference, which remain unchanged.

Universidad de los Andes (Uniandes) and the Max Planck Society (MPG) announce this international call to integrate three (3) Tandem Groups to be working for a period of up to three (3) years. This is part of the Cooperation Agreement signed between Universidad de los Andes and the MPG for the establishment of tandem groups, associated with Max Planck Institutes.

Young researchers with highly qualified postdoctoral experience are invited to submit research proposals, with the goal of establishing Tandem Groups at Uniandes, in close collaboration with researchers at one of the 85 Max Planck Institutes (MPG). Candidates must be beginning their scientific career, have at least three years of postdoctoral experience and the motivation to develop and lead an internationally competitive research program.

The teams should strengthen individual collaborative ties between the research group leader and the MPG, to ensure the continuity of scientific collaboration and research activities for mutual benefit. The main objective of the call is to promote research collaborations on topics corresponding to the areas mentioned in section 5 below, with Max Planck Institutes, following the highest quality standards that significantly contribute to increasing the international circulation of the best minds, with the idea to support early career scientists engaged in independent, interdisciplinary and high impact activities.

The conditions of the call are specified below.

1. Objectives

1.1. To select up to three (3) researchers who are motivated and willing to lead a Tandem Group, which will be financed by the participating institutions, in accordance with the provisions of the aforementioned cooperation agreement.

1.2. To help establish new Tandem Groups at Universidad de los Andes that are led by outstanding young researchers who are full-time faculty members with postdoctoral experience, in close collaboration with directors or principal investigators from Max Planck Institutes, whether through newly established or previously existing collaborations.

1.3. To strengthen the development of early-career faculty at Universidad de los Andes by allowing for the articulation of this call with existing institutional support mechanisms, such as the "Fondo de Apoyo a Profesores Asistentes (FAPA)", where applicable, thereby contributing to the consolidation and growth of emerging research lines and facilitating the attraction of external funding.

2. Duration of the Tandem Groups

The Tandem Groups will be established for up to three (3) years with the possibility of extending this period by up to one (1) additional year, after a successful evaluation). The purpose of this extra period is to facilitate the permanent articulation of the leader and his/her group with the investigative work of Universidad de los Andes, as well as the continuity of their research activities at the institution.

3. Requirements for application

From the Universidad de los Andes side, proposals must be submitted through the institutional platform *Platypus*, within the *Internal and Joint Calls* module, in accordance with the conditions specified in Sections 7, 8, and 9. In addition, proposals must be sent to the Representation for Latin America of the Max Planck Society at *latam@gv.mpg.de*.

4. Eligibility

4.1. Vacancies for a Tandem Group are only available for applicants with a PhD or equivalent degree. Eligible candidates must be at an early stage of a successful scientific career[1], with at least three (3) years of postdoctoral experience or equivalent research experience[2] in internationally competitive research groups, as well as motivated to develop and carry out an internationally competitive research program.

4.2. Candidates must submit a letter of support on the MPG letterhead and signed by an authorized director of the respective Max Planck Institute, in which the director or

[1] For the purposes of this call, the term *early stage of a successful scientific career* is considered to include **Assistant Professors** at Universidad de los Andes.
[2] For the purposes of this call, *equivalent research experience* includes experience acquired in an academic position, such as **Assistant Professor**, involving the development of an independent research agenda.

researcher expresses both an interest in cooperating and in supporting the research group, detailing past, present and future collaboration activities with the Institute, as well as the commitment to support research resources.

4.3. Candidates must submit a letter of institutional support from their Faculty at Universidad de los Andes, confirming the Faculty's awareness of, and support for, the candidate's participation in the call and the proposed Tandem Group.

5. Research areas

This call is open to proposals from all research fields that demonstrate strong potential for collaboration between Max Planck Institutes and researchers from Universidad de los Andes.

6. Schedule

Phase	Activity	Dates
Call opening	Call opening	May 25th, 2026
Deadline	Deadline for submission of proposals including letter of support from a Max Planck Institute and aval facultad	August 24th, 2026
Internal pre-evaluation	Internal evaluation coordinated by an evaluation committee appointed by Universidad de los Andes.	August-Sept, 2026
External pre-evaluation	External pre-evaluation coordinated by the Max Planck Unit for Cooperation with LATAM	August-Sept, 2026
Selection Committee	Final selection by an Ad Hoc Selection Committee convened by Universidad de los Andes, with observer participation from the Max Planck Society.	5- 16 Oct, 2026
Announcement selected proposal	Publication and notification of selected proposal	19 – 23 Oct, 2026

7. Characteristics of the proposals

7.1. The proposal must be presented in English in a PDF file and should include the following documents:

a) Cover
b) Curriculum vitae includes a list of scientific publications and a description of scientific achievements (maximum 3 pages).
c) Three selected publications (full texts).
d) Research plan for the group (maximum 10 pages).
e) Draft budget for the 3 years.[3]
f) Names and contact details of 6 potential international reviewers, 2 of which can be from Germany.
g) Two letters of recommendation.

7.2. Letter of support mentioned in section 4.2 of the "Eligibility" section and the Annex II.

7.3. A letter of support from the applicant's Faculty at Universidad de los Andes, as described in Section 4.3 of the *Eligibility* section.

8. Submission of the proposal

8.1. The proposal must be submitted according to the schedule.

8.2. Proposals will not be accepted after the deadline, as well as appendices or explanations, unless the organizing institutions explicitly and formally request them.

8.3. Applications will only be accepted in a single PDF file, containing all the documents in the order indicated.

9. Presentation procedure, review and selection

9.1. Candidates must submit their applications through the Universidad de los Andes' institutional platform *Platypus*, within the *Internal and Joint Calls* module. In addition, applications must be sent by email to the Representation for Latin America of the Max Planck

[3] Applicants should explicitly include and, whenever feasible, assign a monetary value to the **in-kind contributions** provided by the Max Planck Institute (MPI), such as access to research infrastructure, equipment, facilities, specialized training, technical support, or other non-monetary resources.

Society at **latam@gv.mpg.de**, with the subject line **"Call for Uniandes–Max Planck Tandem Groups 2026"**. Only proposals received within the deadline established in the schedule will be processed.

9.2. Proposals will be reviewed considering the eligibility requirements described in Section 4, including the applicant's status as a full-time faculty member at Universidad de los Andes. Proposals that do not comply with the terms of this call will not qualify for evaluation.

9.3. Proposals will be assessed by the international reviewers whose names are to be suggested by the applicants in their proposals. The identity of the reviewers ultimately selected will be kept confidential.

9.4. The accepted proposals will be reviewed by an ad hoc committee of Universidad de los Andes (and Max Planck Society representatives). The evaluation process will consider primarily the principal researcher. The criteria to be applied are:

a) The applicant must be a researcher with a notable scientific production regarding his/her career level and will be evaluated according to his/her CV summary.

b) The candidate must be qualified to independently coordinate a research project, as well as to establish and direct a research group

9.5. The criteria for the selection of proposals will be the following:

a) Definition of objectives
b) Originality and importance of the contributions foreseen for the respective research field.
c) Innovative scientific reasoning and chosen methods.
d) Coherent articulation between the proposal and the requested resources according to the desired scientific or technological contribution.
e) Including, where applicable, the articulation of the proposal with internal support mechanisms such as the Fondo de Apoyo a Profesores Asistentes (FAPA).

10. Publication and notification of the selected proposals

The final results will be jointly notified by the Representation for Latin America of the Max Planck Society and UniAndes through direct communication to the candidates.

Likewise, the final results will be published on the following webpages: Convocatorias Internas y Conjuntas

11. Project contract

The selected proposals will be linked within the framework of the administration contract signed between Universidad de los Andes and the Max Planck Society, in accordance with the provisions of the corresponding cooperation agreement

12. Financing

12.1. The Tandem Groups are financed and supported in Colombia by Universidad de los Andes, in accordance with the provisions of the reference cooperation agreement. Each group will have funds for a period of up to three (3) years and a value of up to 20.000 USD for each year of financing.

12.2. Activities related to cooperation between the parties will include, but are not limited to:

a) Exchange of scientists.

b) Joint scientific investigations.
c) Exchange of doctoral and post-doctoral students.
d) Joint seminars and workshops.
e) At least one trip per year from the group leader to the associated MPG, to present the results of the cooperation activities.

12.3. The funding provided under this call is intended to support the research activities and operational functioning of the Tandem Groups.

Eligible expenses may include, but are not limited to, the following cost categories, in accordance with Universidad de los Andes internal regulations:

- **Personnel costs for project-related activities**, excluding salaries or bonuses for faculty members and postdoctoral researchers.
- **Travel and mobility expenses** directly related to the execution of the project and cooperation activities.
- **Materials and consumables** required for the development of the research activities.

- **Participation in academic events**, including registration, travel, and accommodation costs for presenting project results at national or international conferences. Funding under this category may not exceed **15% of the total budget requested** and will apply only to the person presenting the work, duly supported by an acceptance letter.
- **Technical services**, understood as contracted services to carry out specific tasks within the project that do not generate authorship rights, such as laboratory analyses, tests, surveys, or similar activities. This category may also include consulting services related to intellectual property or the design of business or exploitation plans.
- **Equipment**, including the acquisition of equipment required for the execution of the project. Equipment acquired will be the property of Universidad de los Andes. The responsible academic unit must be clearly identified. Any infrastructure adaptations required for the installation of equipment must be previously approved by the Campus Management Office, and sustainability plans must be considered where applicable.
- **Publications and dissemination**, including publication costs for research outputs produced in co-authorship under the funded projects, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *"La investigación en Uniandes"*. This category may also cover services aimed at the dissemination of results to both specialized and non-specialized audiences.

13. Benefits granted by the Max Planck Institute

The Max Planck Institute interested in cooperating, will provide the following benefits to the respective Tandem Group – depending on the decision of the MPI:

a) Access to scientific infrastructure, special laboratories and equipment of the associated MPIs in Germany.

b) Scientific advice and support from the corresponding MPI.

c) Justified travel expenses for each Tandem Group leader or other members of the Tandem Group associated with the MPG in Germany, in accordance with the travel policies of the MPG.

14. Benefits granted by Universidad de los Andes

14.1. Universidad de los Andes, through the Vice Presidency for Research and Creation (VIC), will provide financial support aimed at contributing to the operational functioning and research activities of the Tandem Groups, in accordance with the scope and eligible uses of funds

established in this call.

14.2. Applicants who hold active support from the *Fondo de Apoyo a Profesores Asistentes* (FAPA) receive baseline institutional support from the Vice President for Research and Creation, in accordance with the program's regulations. For these applicants, funding awarded through the *Uniandes–Max Planck Tandem Research Groups Call* may be used to **complement the existing FAPA resources**, allowing the total institutional support to **reach, but not exceed, the maximum funding amount established under this call**. This combination of resources is intended to accelerate the consolidation, internationalization, and growth of the research group.

15. Confidentiality, publications and intellectual property

Universidad de los Andes and the respective associated Max Planck Institute must formally establish a Cooperation Agreement for the Tandem group regarding financing, confidentiality, publication and intellectual property rights, among others, in compliance with the policies of each financing party.

The participant warrants that all intellectual property used in the framework of their participation in this call either belongs to them or that they have obtained the necessary authorization from the respective rights holder to use such intellectual property. The **ORGANIZERS** and the **PARTNERS** shall not be held liable for any potential infringement or violation of intellectual property rights arising from the materials used by the participant.

In the event that any of the **ORGANIZERS** or **PARTNERS** receive a judicial, extrajudicial, or administrative claim related to this matter, they may call upon the participant before the corresponding authority. In all cases, the organizers act in accordance with the principle of good faith.

The ownership of the economic copyright rights over the works generated within the funded projects shall be agreed upon by the parties upon completion of the project execution. Such agreement shall define the scope of ownership of each party, in accordance with their respective contributions, and shall be recorded in the project closing report, the settlement record, or the equivalent document.

16. Commitments of the selected Tandem Groups

The selected Tandem Groups commit to:

16.1. Submit a mid-term technical progress report halfway through the approved duration of the project, describing the progress of the research activities, the use of funds, and preliminary results.

16.2. Submit a final technical report at the end of the project period, summarizing the activities carried out, results achieved, products generated, and the overall impact of the Tandem Group.

16.3. Ensure appropriate acknowledgment of both Universidad de los Andes and the Max Planck Society in all outputs derived from the funded projects, clearly indicating the financial support provided by the Vice Presidency for Research and Creation (VIC) of Universidad de los Andes and the institutional collaboration with the corresponding Max Planck Institute.

Acknowledgments may include, but are not limited to, the following formulations:

"The authors would like to thank the Vice Presidency for Research and Creation at Universidad de los Andes for its financial support and the Max Planck Institute for its scientific collaboration."

"This work was supported by the Vice Presidency for Research and Creation at Universidad de los Andes and developed in collaboration with the Max Planck Institute."

"All authors acknowledge the financial support provided by the Vice Presidency for Research and Creation at Universidad de los Andes and the collaboration of the Max Planck Society."

For dissemination products and presentations at academic or outreach events, include the official logo of Universidad de los Andes in accordance with the University's institutional branding guidelines, together with the corresponding acknowledgment of funding and collaboration. Where applicable, acknowledgment of the Max Planck Society should also be included.

17. Coordination of the call

All questions related to this call should be directed to odp-vice@uniandes.edu.co and to latam@gv.mpg.de