

2018 Research Grant Call for Research Projects

Guidelines

The International Nut and Dried Fruit Council Foundation (INC) promotes clinical, epidemiological, basic and/or strategic research that may contribute to enhance the understanding of the health effects of nuts and dried fruits.

The INC calls for research projects from researchers from public and private institutions, as well as not-for-profit organizations.

Since the INC represents 17 nuts and dried fruits (namely almonds, apricot kernels, Amazonia (Brazil) nuts, cashews, hazelnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios, walnuts, peanuts, dates, dried apricots, dried cranberries, dried figs, dried grapes and prunes), INC will only accept research projects with at least 3 nuts OR 3 dried fruits.

INC will not accept scientific studies that mix nuts and dried fruits.

Research proposals can include 3 or more of the above mentioned nuts and dried fruits. However, projects that compare nuts or dried fruits among themselves will not be accepted.

Up to 300,000 EUR is available for this grant. This call is for both co-funded and non co-funded projects.

Research priorities:

1. Nuts or dried fruits and cognitive function.
2. Nuts or dried fruits and body weight and adipose tissue distribution.
3. Combination of nuts or dried fruits and blood pressure, clotting factors and inflammatory markers.
4. Combination of nuts or dried fruits and glycemic load and/or diabetes.

5. Nuts or dried fruits in exercise performance.
6. Nuts or dried fruits and intestinal microbiota.
7. Nuts or dried fruits and metabolomics.
8. Nuts or dried fruits as part of a healthy diet.
9. Intervention trials on relevant clinical end points.
10. Meta-analysis of clinical trials.

Other priorities:

- New research against existing studies
- Multi-institutional, cooperative projects
- Co-funded projects
- Clinical trials

Furthermore, cooperation with industry-related partners will be scored favorably.

All project proposals must be submitted using the [Application Form](#).

Applications due by: January 31, 2018.

Please send your application as one single PDF e-mail attachment before January 31, 2018, to maria.pascual@nutfruit.org. We need an electronic copy only. Please do not send paper copies.

1. INC International Nut and Dried Fruit Council Foundation

The International Nut and Dried Fruit Council Foundation (INC) is a not-for-profit organization representing more than 700 nut and dried fruit sector companies from over 70 countries. INC is the leading international organization regarding nuts and dried fruits, health, nutrition, statistics, food safety, international standards and regulations. Its mission is to stimulate and facilitate sustainable growth in the global Nut and Dried Fruit Industry.

2. INC World Forum for Nutrition Research and Dissemination

The INC World Forum for Nutrition Research and Dissemination (the Forum) is the international umbrella for scientific research related to health and nutrition for nuts and dried fruits. The Forum promotes scientific research, defines research priorities, and promotes calls for research and dissemination of scientific findings worldwide. The Forum evaluates project proposals and scientific award nominees according to the objectives of the Forum, and promotes the production and dissemination of knowledge in accordance with its mission.

3. Call for Research Projects 2018

The objective of this grant is to fund clinical, epidemiological, basic and/or strategic research that may contribute to enhance the understanding of the health effects of nuts and dried fruits.

The INC calls for research projects from researchers from public and private institutions, as well as not-for-profit organizations.

Since the INC represents 17 nuts and dried fruits (namely almonds, apricot kernels, Amazonia (Brazil) nuts, cashews, hazelnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios, walnuts, peanuts, dates, dried apricots, dried cranberries, dried figs, dried grapes and prunes), INC will only accept research projects with at least 3 nuts OR 3 dried fruits.

INC will not accept scientific studies that mix nuts and dried fruits.

Research proposals can include 3 or more of the above mentioned nuts and dried fruits. However, projects that compare nuts or dried fruits among themselves will not be accepted.

3.1. Research Topics

2018 Research priorities:

1. Nuts or dried fruits and cognitive function.
2. Nuts or dried fruits and body weight and adipose tissue distribution.
3. Combination of nuts or dried fruits and blood pressure, clotting factors and inflammatory markers.
4. Combination of nuts or dried fruits and glycemic load and/or diabetes.
5. Nuts or dried fruits in exercise performance.
6. Nuts or dried fruits and intestinal microbiota.
7. Nuts or dried fruits and metabolomics.
8. Nuts or dried fruits as part of a healthy diet.
9. Intervention trials on relevant clinical end points.
10. Meta-analysis of clinical trials.

Other priorities:

- New research against existing studies
- Multi-institutional, cooperative projects
- Co-funded projects
- Clinical trials

Furthermore, cooperation with industry-related partners will be scored favorably.

3.2. Grant Conditions and Financing

Up to 300,000 EUR is available for this grant. This call is for both co-funded and non co-funded projects. Co-funded projects will be scored more favorably.

INC will not cover salaries paid by the institutions of origin (or any co-applicant institution where the project or parts of the project will take place) to current employees. INC will only cover salaries of new jobs (hiring somebody for the project) and postdocs.

In the case of co-funded projects, the applicant is responsible for obtaining additional funding. Subsidizers may include public or private sector research organizations, as well as business and other partner organizations whenever these bring distinctive contributions to the research project. Salaries paid by the institution of origin are not considered co-funding. Subsidizers have to complete the Statement in the Application Form. The project cannot start until the subsidizers have been secured. Applicants will have up to 12 months to deliver the list of subsidizers. If the applicant has been unable to secure external co-funding within one year, the INC will no longer reserve funding for the project.

The Evaluating Committee of the Forum will peer-review and prioritize the applications. However, the final funding decision will be made by the INC Executive Committee.

If the application is successful, an agreement will be drawn up between the INC and the applicant. The information provided in the application form will provide the basis for the agreement. If the information is incorrect or significant elements are no longer applicable when the agreement is due for signature, the INC reserves the right to revise its decisions about amounts and/or recipients.

Payments will be made according to the following plan:

- 1st Payment: 50% is to be paid by the INC when the agreement is signed.
- 2nd Payment: 50% is to be paid by the INC when the Final Report is received.

The award is in Euros and all documents and payments will be in Euros. INC will not pay in any other currency under any circumstances and regardless of the exchange rate.

INC will not supply the foods to be tested, and applicants should not take for granted that INC members or industry partners will provide food samples for the study for free. If the project requires the acquisition of food samples, the cost should be included in the budget.

3.3. Who can apply?

INC welcomes applications from researchers from public and private institutions, as well as not-for-profit organizations. When applying, please make sure that all participating research institutions have approved the submission of the application -affirmative written consent will be necessary.

INC will only accept one project per researcher and institution.

3.4. Reservations

A positive evaluation by the Forum does not automatically imply funding. The final funding decision will be made by the INC Executive Committee.

3.5. Application Form

All projects must be submitted using the [Application Form](#). Applicants are requested to send their application as one single PDF attachment by January 31, 2018, to maria.pascual@nutfruit.org.

3.6. Evaluation

Applications submitted to the INC for grants are evaluated for scientific and technical merit through the peer-review system of the Evaluating Committee of the Forum.

The Evaluating Committee will peer-review and prioritize the applications according to scientific criteria, regardless of the nuts/fruits involved. The final funding decision will be made by the INC Executive Committee.

3.7. Duties and Responsibilities

3.7.1. Research Ethics

Grantee institutions must safeguard the rights and welfare of individuals who participate as subjects in research activities as specified in national authorities. If the proposed research involves the use of human subjects (either directly or through patient records), human tissue or animals, funding is contingent upon national regulation. All grant recipients are required to obtain ethics approval from the appropriate institutional board and institutional animal care committee.

Should the application result in an award, no payments will be transferred until the appropriate ethics approval has been granted and a copy received in the INC Office.

3.7.2. Reporting

Grant holders are required to provide Progress Reports every 6 months and a Final Report to the INC.

Progress Reports require the Principal Investigator to report on measurable outcomes including papers and patents. Reports must provide information on relevance, productivity and quality of the research. The Principal Investigator will be required to use INC Report templates.

The Final Report will be required within 1 month of the conclusion of the project in case the duration of the project is less than 24 months, or 3 months in case the project lasts 24 months. The report should address the outcomes achieved in seeking the project objectives, potential impact of the project findings and how the funds were spent. The Principal Investigator will be required to justify and prove the expenses.

3.7.3. Responsibility of the Grantee

The applicant will be responsible for the project management.

Neither the INC nor the Forum assume responsibility for the conduct of the activities of the grant recipients, applicants or co-applicants, as they are under

the direction and control of the grantee institution and subject to the institution's medical and scientific policies.

3.7.4. Mandatory Reference

It is mandatory to mention INC support in all scientific publications, as well as in presentations, posters, brochures, books, printed materials, press releases and online communications regarding the research project. The approval from both parties is required before printing. Grantees must use the phrase "supported by the INC International Nut and Dried Fruit Council" if the project is receiving or has received INC funding.

The INC logo should appear in all forms of publication such as presentations, posters, conferences and brochures.

3.7.5. Communication Plan

Once the project is completed, investigators are required to promptly prepare and submit manuscript(s) for publication in a scientific journal and notify INC. Preparation, content, editing and submission for publication of significant research findings are the responsibility of the investigators.

In addition, researchers should be willing to participate in a communication program (including press releases) aimed at disseminating the study results through traditional and social media.

A plan for communication of the outcomes of the study must be included in the Application Form.

3.8. Announcement of Grant Recipient

The grant announcement can be expected after the XXXVII World Nut and Dried Fruit Congress, Sevilla, Spain, May 21-23, 2018.