



PUCPR Visiting Notable Researchers Fellowship Program

Call for Strategic International Collaboration with Notable Researchers

Smart and Sustainable Cities Initiative

1. PURPOSE

The Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná (PUCPR) announces the Visiting Notable Researchers Collaboration Program – Smart and Sustainable Cities Initiative, aiming to foster strategic international collaborations with internationally recognized researchers whose expertise can significantly enhance PUCPR's research excellence and global visibility.

The Program seeks to support collaborative initiatives capable of strengthening:

- international research partnerships;
- external fundraising capacity;
- scientific excellence;
- innovation and technology transfer;
- institutional reputation;
- global academic rankings;
- graduate education;
- long-term research networks in Smart and Sustainable Cities.

The Program aligns with PUCPR's institutional strategy for internationalization and scientific excellence while contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDGs 7, 9, 11, 13 and 17.

2. AVAILABLE FUNDING

Each selected researcher may receive financial support for the implementation of the proposed collaboration, subject to budget availability and approval by PUCPR.

Financial support under this Program is intended to be flexible and tailored to the specific characteristics, objectives, and expected impact of each approved collaboration. Collaborative activities may be carried out in person at PUCPR, remotely, or through a hybrid format combining both modalities. Support may include one or more of the following:

- a Research Fellowship of up to R\$14,200, corresponding to the maximum support available under the Program, may be paid in two installments, subject to the applicable PUCPR regulations;
- travel support, including round-trip economy-class airfare between the researcher's home institution and Curitiba, Brazil;
- health insurance, where applicable;

For collaborations conducted primarily through remote participation, the Research Fellowship may be reduced by up to 50%, depending on the proposed work plan, the expected level of on-site engagement, and the scope of the proposed activities.

The type, amount, and duration of financial support shall be determined by PUCPR according to the characteristics of each approved proposal, its expected strategic impact and institutional priorities.



The Program does not establish a fixed workload, working hours, or mandatory physical presence at PUCPR. The format and schedule of the collaboration shall be defined in the approved proposal, according to its academic objectives.

3. DEFINITION OF A NOTABLE RESEARCHER

For the purposes of this Call, a Notable Researcher is an internationally recognized scientist who demonstrates outstanding academic leadership through one or more of the following:

- Highly Cited Researcher (Clarivate);
- Stanford/Elsevier World's Top 2% Scientists;
- Member of a National Academy of Sciences or Engineering;
- ERC Grant recipient or equivalent prestigious international funding;
- Editor-in-Chief or Associated Editor of a Q1 international journal;
- Internationally recognized research leader;
- Principal Investigator of major international collaborative projects;
- Recipient of internationally recognized scientific awards;
- Holder of an academic position equivalent to Distinguished Professor.

Researchers who do not strictly satisfy these criteria may be considered upon justification demonstrating exceptional scientific relevance.

4. PRIORITY RESEARCH THEMES

Projects should contribute to one or more of the following areas:

- Smart Cities
- Sustainable Cities
- Energy Transition
- Climate Change
- Urban Resilience
- Energy Efficiency
- Digital Twins
- Artificial Intelligence
- Water-Energy Nexus
- Green Infrastructure
- Climate Adaptation
- Climate Mitigation
- Urban Innovation

5. EXPECTED ACTIVITIES

Supported activities may include:

- joint research planning;
- development of international proposals;
- preparation of collaborative scientific papers;
- organization of workshops and seminars;
- graduate lectures;
- doctoral schools;

- academic collaboration in the development and mentoring of graduate student research activities;
- strategic meetings with international partners;
- preparation of cooperation agreements;
- roadmap development for international research centers.

6. PROJECT PROPOSAL

Applications shall include:

- Project Summary (maximum two pages);
- Description of the proposed collaboration;
- Curriculum Vitae of the Notable Researcher;
- Work Plan (covering a period of up to three (3) months);
- Expected outcomes and deliverables;
- Strategic Partnership Plan (covering a period of up to five (5) years) (*optional*).

The optional Strategic Partnership Plan should outline the long-term vision for the collaboration, including opportunities for joint research projects, international funding applications, student and faculty mobility, co-supervision of graduate students, scientific publications, innovation initiatives, and other activities that may strengthen the long-term partnership between the Notable Researcher and PUCPR.

The Strategic Partnership Plan is prospective in nature and does not create any obligation of future employment, service provision, or contractual commitment between the researcher and PUCPR.

7. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Projects should contribute to several of the following institutional objectives:

- strengthening international research networks;
- increasing international scientific collaboration;
- attracting external funding;
- promoting interdisciplinary research;
- enhancing innovation and entrepreneurship;
- improving institutional visibility;
- strengthening PUCPR's participation in global research initiatives;
- supporting graduate education excellence;
- reinforcing PUCPR's international reputation.

8. EXPECTED STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

Each proposal shall demonstrate potential to achieve at least three of the following outcomes:

- submission of international collaborative papers;
- submission of a national or international funding proposal;
- establishment of a formal international partnership;
- organization of an international workshop or doctoral school;
- creation of student mobility opportunities;
- development of innovation or technology transfer initiatives;
- preparation of a long-term international collaboration roadmap;



- establishment of cotutelle agreements;
- participation in international research consortia;
- development of institutional initiatives contributing to international rankings.

9. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Criterion	Weight
Scientific excellence of the Notable Researcher	20
Quality of the proposed collaboration	20
Potential for internationalization	20
Potential for external fundraising	15
Expected institutional impact and contribution to global rankings	15
Sustainability of the collaboration beyond the project period	10

10. INSTITUTIONAL IMPACT

Applicants shall explicitly indicate how the proposed collaboration is expected to contribute to one or more institutional performance indicators, including:

- international co-authored publications;
- highly cited publications;
- international grants;
- innovation projects;
- technology transfer;
- doctoral education;
- international mobility;
- strategic partnerships;
- institutional reputation;
- university rankings (THE, QS, Shanghai or similar).

11. FINAL REPORT

Within sixty days after completion of the project, the Notable Researcher shall submit a Final Report describing the activities performed, outcomes achieved, publications, proposals submitted, partnerships established, and potential continuation of the collaboration.

12. ELIGIBILITY

Applications shall be submitted by the Notable Researcher by email to strictosensu@pucpr.br.

Each proposal must identify a PUCPR faculty member who will serve as the **Institutional Host** and collaborate in the implementation of the proposed activities. The Institutional Host will provide institutional support throughout the project and assist in integrating the researcher into PUCPR's research ecosystem.



13. IMPORTANT DATES

Activity	Date
Call announcement	August 10, 2026
Proposal submission deadline	August 28, 2026
Evaluation period	September 1-3, 2026
Results announcement	September 3, 2026
Awardee acceptance	September 3-8, 2026
Project implementation	September–November, 2026

14. PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The **PUCPR Visiting Notable Researchers Program** recognizes that scientific excellence extends beyond individual productivity. The Program is designed to catalyze long-term international collaborations capable of enhancing PUCPR's research ecosystem, attracting competitive funding, fostering innovation, strengthening graduate education, and increasing the University's global visibility.

Accordingly, supported projects are expected to generate sustainable institutional impact by establishing enduring international partnerships that contribute to PUCPR's strategic positioning as a leading research university in Smart and Sustainable Cities.

15. ABOUT PUCPR

Established in 1959, PUCPR is a private, non-profit Catholic university located in Curitiba, the capital of the State of Paraná, in Southern Brazil. The University has more than 20,000 students enrolled in over 60 undergraduate and 17 graduate programs across a wide range of academic fields.

For more information, please visit:

[PUCPR – International](#)

<https://www.lens.org/lens/report/view/Pontificia-Universidade-Catolica-do-Parana/22239/page/22238>

16. LEGAL NATURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP

Participation in this Program does not create any employment, statutory, service, agency, partnership, or other labor relationship between PUCPR and the Notable Researcher. Activities carried out under this Program are exclusively academic and collaborative in nature.

The Notable Researcher shall maintain full academic and scientific autonomy regarding the methods adopted, the organization of their activities and schedule, and the execution of the proposed research activities. The researcher shall not be subject to working-hour control, attendance requirements, exclusivity, or hierarchical supervision by PUCPR.

The Institutional Host's role shall be limited to facilitating and promoting academic interaction between the Notable Researcher and PUCPR's research groups, faculty members, students, and institutional partners.



17. IMMIGRATION AND LEGAL DOCUMENTATION

The Notable Researcher shall be responsible for complying with all applicable Brazilian immigration and legal requirements regarding entry into, stay in, and participation in activities in Brazil. PUCPR may provide reasonable institutional guidance regarding the documentation and procedures applicable to the researcher's participation in the Program.

18. COMPLIANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES

The Notable Researcher shall comply with applicable Brazilian legislation and PUCPR's institutional policies, including, where applicable, the Brazilian General Data Protection Law (Lei Geral de Proteção de Dados – LGPD), the Grupo Marista Code of Conduct, research ethics requirements, and other institutional regulations applicable to the activities performed under the Program.