



МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ И НАУКИ
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

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Dear Mr. Berdahl,

We are pleased to inform you of a new initiative focused on facilitation of collaboration between Russian institutions of higher education and the international education and research community. Upon instructions and on behalf of the Ministry of education and science of the Russian Federation we invite you to take part in the implementation of this initiative.

On April 9, 2010 the government of the Russian Federation adopted the resolution "On measures designed to attract leading scientists to Russian institutions of education" pursuant to which the RF government is to allocate funds to achieve this goal in the amount of 3 billion roubles in 2010, 5 billion roubles in 2011, and 4 billion roubles in 2012.

The funds will be made available on a competitive basis in the form of grants in the amount of up to 150 million roubles each (or approximately \$5 million at the current exchange rate). These grants will be used to support scientific research projects in 2010-2012 with the possibility to extend the projects for another year or two.

All grant-making decisions will be made by the recently established Grants Council of the Russian Federation government. The Grants Council has already determined the research areas eligible for support under this program: astronomy and astrophysics, nuclear power and nuclear technologies, biology, biotechnologies, information technologies and computing systems, space research

Mr. Robert M. Berdahl

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and technologies, mathematics, engineering, health sciences and technologies, mechanics and management processes, nanotechnologies, Earth sciences, material sciences and technologies, psychology, cognitive research, construction and architecture, physics, chemistry, ecology, economics, radio-electronics, international research, sociology, power production, energy efficiency and energy saving.

In addition, the Grants Council requires that the scientist invited by the university to organize a research team and direct a research project be physically present at the designated university for at least four months within a year (in total) starting 2011.

The grants will be made available not to the scientists but to the universities at which they will conduct their research activities. Universities, however, may not spend these funds without consent and authorization of the scientist whose project is being funded. The grant competitions are open which means that any Russian institution of higher education may participate as soon as its application is submitted jointly with a well-known and reputable scientist. The scientist's citizenship and country of residence does not matter. The amount of research projects implemented on the basis of one university is not limited, but the leading scientist may only participate in one project. The scientist may exercise a great deal of discretion selecting the topic of his research as long as it falls within the scope of the scientific areas specified by the Grants Council.


The terms and conditions of the research project are the subject of a special agreement executed by and between the scientist and the university that invites him. Pursuant to this agreement, the scientist is responsible for the outcome of the research activities that he organizes and directs, while the university is responsible for creating conditions required to facilitate said activities. Applicants may execute additional agreements with the organization at which the scientist works on a permanent basis to take into account the organization's research interests or design a joint project on the basis of the research in question.

The competition will be announced officially on June 25, 2010. It results will be determined in August 2010.

We encourage you to take part in this initiative by informing the members of your association about it and assisting them in the formation of joint research projects with Russian universities. We are ready to assist the members of your association in establishing contacts with Russian universities.

For additional information please visit the website of the Ministry of education and science of the Russian Federation at www.eng.mon.gov.ru or submit your enquiries by email to the following address: procenko@mon.gov.ru.

Yours sincerely,
Deputy Minister of Education and Science
of the Russian Federation

 S.N. Mazurenko