

Climate change, ecosystems, and health: **Conéctate-A+** grants to support participation in conferences

Call for conference grant applications

v. 17 August 2022

1 Background

Conéctate A+ is a “Cluster of Cooperation (CLOC)” and research collaboration hub in the Tropical Andes and Central America region, supported by and part of the swissuniversities Development and Cooperation Network (SUDAC) programme. Conéctate A+ has a broad membership that builds on the SUDAC’s Consortia for Education and Research (COFER) and existing networks coordinated and led by the MRI, CONDESAN and the University of Zürich, as well as combining existing and new partnerships in this region. The research activities promoted in Conéctate A+ are thematically focused on climate change, ecosystems, and health in view of sustainable development within the framework of the United Nations Agenda 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Conéctate A+ aims to strengthen the capacities needed to achieve the SDGs in the tropical Andes and Central America region by providing a platform that promotes knowledge exchange, generates information, and fosters academic collaboration opportunities among Swiss universities and other key actors that play an active role in formulating and implementing innovative sustainable development strategies and policies in the tropical Andes and Central America region.

Conéctate A+ promotes interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research collaborations that actively integrate relevant knowledge across the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities, as well as local knowledge and from stakeholders outside of academia, thereby integrating local voices, needs, knowledge, and common interests in policy processes.

Conéctate A+ promotes collaborative and integrative research in the Tropical Andes and Central America region as well as strengthens links between the network partners in Switzerland and the Americas. To this end, **participating in scientific meetings and conferences are an integral part of professional development and fostering research collaborations and the exchange of ideas. In recognition of this important aspect to research, Conéctate A+ is launching a funding call to support researchers’ participation in conferences, especially targeting early career researchers.**

2 Grant Objective

The grant aims at supporting researchers, especially targeting early career researchers (ECRs), who are themselves Conéctate A+ members or have a primary affiliation in a Conéctate A+ member institution. The funding can be used to support travel and registration costs associated with attending in-person scientific conferences. Presentations and conferences need to be thematically linked to climate change, ecosystems and health in the Tropical Andes and Central America region.

3 Eligibility and selection criteria

To be eligible to receive support from Conéctate A+, **applicants** must:

- Be a Conéctate A+ network member or have a primary affiliation in a Conéctate A+ member institution¹
- Preferably be an early career researcher (ECRs)²
- Make an active contribution at the conference (e.g. proof of abstract submission and confirmation of acceptance for an oral/poster presentation, when available).
- Demonstrate how that the main topic(s) of the contribution are linked to the Conéctate A+ core thematic foci.

To be eligible to receive support from Conéctate A+, **the conference** must:

- Be thematically linked to climate change, ecosystems and/or health in the Tropical Andes and Central America region.
- Take place in the period between December 2022 - September 2023.

Conference travel within the region of the applicant's residency are considered for funding under this call. Transoceanic air travel is excluded from funding support. In the event of air travel needed within the region, the applicants need to designate part of their funds to compensate for CO2 emissions.

For a Conéctate A+ Conference Grant, all eligibility criteria specified here above must be met. Selection is solely based on the criteria mentioned in the application form, including the quality of the conference, the applicant's planned contribution and relevance of this input to the objectives of the Conéctate A+ network.

Selected applicants will be required to provide a short summary report after the conference, describing main outcomes, conclusions and new connections or knowledge acquired, as well as acknowledge and mention the support received from the Conéctate A+ Conference Grant as part of the conference presentation and related outputs.

¹ The list of founding or associate partners can be found in the CLOC website: <https://cloc.condesan.org/>

² PhD or postdoc with no more than 5 years since completion of the PhD

4 Financial support

Up to a maximum of 1000 USD can be claimed by the selected grantee for conference fees, travel costs, accommodation and meal expenses.

Remark: The Conéctate A+ Conference Grant does not necessarily cover all expenses related to participating in a given conference. The grant is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation and meal expenses of the selected grantee.

5 Application details and deadline

Please submit your application via [this online form](#).

Application deadline is 14 October 2022.

6 Timeline

- Call opens: **19 August 2022**
- Applications due: **14 October 2022**
- Grant award notification: **11 November 2022**

7 Inquiries

For inquiries contact the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) Coordination Office: Michele Egger: michele.egger@unibe.ch