

# Multi-Investigator Project (MIP)

## FAQs

### APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

In general, MIPs need to be led by a team of an Investigator and at least one Co-Investigator from the group of the four partner institutions (ETH Zurich, University of Basel, UKBB, Swiss TPH), as well as any number of Collaborators.

- Investigators and Co-Investigators are expected to be integral and essential contributors to the MIP research efforts and therefore will benefit from the MIP funding.
- The main distinction between Investigator and Co-Investigator is that the Investigator determines the leading institution and is therefore expected to take the project lead (e.g. reporting requirements). An individual researcher may only be listed as an Investigator / Co-Investigator on one MIP application.
- Collaborators are expected to provide a scientific contribution. Researchers may be listed as a Collaborator on more than one MIP if indicated.
- MIPs can include Collaborators from other research organizations outside of the BRCCH partner institutions, including Swiss and international institutions, hospitals and/or industry/startup partners. The BRCCH would cut and/or divide the collaborator's budget share if this seems necessary in comparison to the entire Investigator's budget.
- Please contact us if you are unsure whether a researcher qualifies as an Investigator/Co-Investigator or Collaborator ([contact@brccch.org](mailto:contact@brccch.org)).

### ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANTS

Definition of Investigator/Co-Investigator:

- Necessary to be affiliated (tenure or tenure-track) with ETH Zurich or the University of Basel (including hospitals and Swiss TPH) for the entire duration of the MIP project.
- If an Investigator / Co-Investigator is non-tenure, he/she is responsible for acquiring a letter of support from their institution to guarantee their salary and access to infrastructure for the entire duration of the MIP.
- An Investigator's home institution is the leading institution for the project.
- A researcher may be listed as an Investigator/Co-Investigator on only one MIP AND as a Collaborator on other MIPs.

Who qualifies as part of ETH Zurich?

- Any senior researcher from an ETHZ department qualifies as an Investigator/Co-Investigator (i.e. the individual holds an employment contract with ETHZ for the entire duration of the grant).
- Spin-off companies and members of other affiliated institutions (e.g. EMPA, Paul Scherrer Institute) cannot be an Investigator/Co-Investigator can be involved in the MIP as a Collaborator.

Who qualifies as part of the University of Basel?

- Any senior researcher from a department at UniBas, University Hospital of Basel, University Children's Hospital Basel, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (i.e. holds an employment contract with one of these institutions for the entire duration of the grant).
- Spin-off companies and members of other affiliated institutions (e.g. Friedrich Miescher Institute) cannot be listed as Investigator/Co-Investigator.

Definition of Collaborator:

- A collaborator contributes scientifically to the MIP
- Collaborators do not necessarily have to have a permanent contract with ETH Zurich or the University of Basel (including hospitals)
- Collaborators can be affiliated with institutions other than ETHZ or University of Basel, including Swiss and international institutions, hospitals and/or industry partners.
- A researcher may be listed as a Collaborator on multiple MIP applications.

What are the restrictions on international collaborators?

- The contributions of international collaborators will need to be essential for the overall success of the project (i.e. if one were to remove the collaboration in mind, the project would either be seriously weakened or not viable).
- BRCCH cannot transfer funding abroad. In a case where this would be justified based on the project's design, international collaborators will need to remit any justified charges to the assigned Investigator/Co-Investigators and its Swiss home institution (based on his/her local research costs).
- Funds only cover direct costs (e.g. no overhead costs) for international collaborators.

## RESEARCH PROJECT

Translational aspect/potential of projects

- MIPs are required to demonstrate either a direct translational aspect, or a path to potential translation and potential for adoption in medical practice, during the program's lifetime.

- Furthermore, during the evaluation process, special attention will be paid to the scalability and sustainability of the project for implementation in low- and middle-income countries.

Which research areas will be addressed in the 2019 MIPs Call?

- Each MIP must be aligned with one of the following three research areas:
  - Applied Health Care for Children
  - Intelligent Systems for Medical Decision Support
  - Translational Research from Cellular to Health Control
- Future calls are planned to include the fourth Research Area (Legal, Ethical, Economic, Health Systems and Capacity Building; Teaching and Training for Better Child Health). Hence, projects in the fourth Research Area will not be considered for the 2019 MIPs Call.

Project progress evaluation and budget assignment

- Progress of MIPs will be regularly monitored, and written annual reports will need to be submitted.
- Allocation of the second tranche of the total budget is contingent upon a successful mid-term review by external experts, who will assess progress towards set milestones.

Research areas of the BRCCH

- In order to successfully secure the formation of the BRCCH, throughout 2018 a joint effort was undertaken with members from UniBas and ETHZ contributing to a research “blueprint”, which identified all of the potential research programs that could lead to innovative and translational impact for childhood health. This blueprint was diverse and wide-ranging and thus it was meant to only be a starting template to catalyze the future activities of the BRCCH.
- The goal of the MIP program is to reshape and refocus the research blueprint into a practical scientific strategy, one which ensures a competitive process for the distribution of BRCCH funding based on scientific excellence, innovation and translational impact in child health.

ELSI (Ethical, Legal and Societal Implications)

- Projects that use human samples, patient data or animal models will require the necessary ethical and legal approvals by the responsible bodies as a prerequisite for the final allocation of funding. The BRCCH adheres to the respective regulations of the partner institutions.

# FINANCES

What is the period of funding?

- We envision each project being funded for 3-5 years. Please contact us if you are considering a project of shorter duration. Projects cannot be funded past 5 years.

How many projects will be funded?

- The number of projects funded during this first call for projects will depend on the quantity and quality of project proposals received.

MIP funding can only be allocated directly to Investigators or Co-Investigators. The technical details of allocation are currently under review at both involved higher education institutes. As soon as projects are approved, all successful applicants will be informed.

Eligible costs

- Direct costs such as, but not limited to, personnel salaries (according to SNF or institutional guidelines), consumables directly related to the research project, software and computing resources, costs for materials of enduring value where justified, field expenses, travel costs or third-party charges.
- MIP funding only covers the salary costs, if necessary, of collaborators that are working at one of the four partner institutions (UniBas, ETHZ, UKBB, Swiss TPH). Tenured collaborators at one of the four partner institutions cannot cover their salary via MIP funding.
- Collaborators cannot hire additional personnel via MIP funding.
- The MIP salary requests for eligible individuals working on the project will need to relate to full economic staff costs (i.e. salary, benefits, insurance contributions, employer's contributions, etc.).
- Direct costs
  - Itemized costs associated with the functioning of the MIP project
  - Computing and cloud computing costs are eligible, as well as costs for data acquisition or access to data. However, the costs must relate specifically to the MIP project and be essential for its progress. General expenses for servicing or maintaining infrastructure and equipment are not eligible.
- Personnel
  - PhD students, postdoctoral scientists, senior scientists, technicians, coordinators, etc. can be hired using MIP funding, but only through the Investigators/Co-Investigators.

### Ineligible costs

- Indirect costs such as, but not limited to, HR, overheads including space charges, administration and costs that would exist whether or not a MIP project occurs.
- Salaries of Investigators and Co-Investigators.
- Infrastructure.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Does the BRCCH provide any lab space or office space?

- No, BRCCH does not currently provide any lab or office space.

What are the metrics of success for a MIP?

- A variety and mixture of metrics will be used (e.g. impact in chosen field of translation; adaptation of tools, methods; papers: patents; spin-offs, etc.)

What are IP considerations for MIP results?

- BRCCH adheres to IP regulations of the four partner institutions.

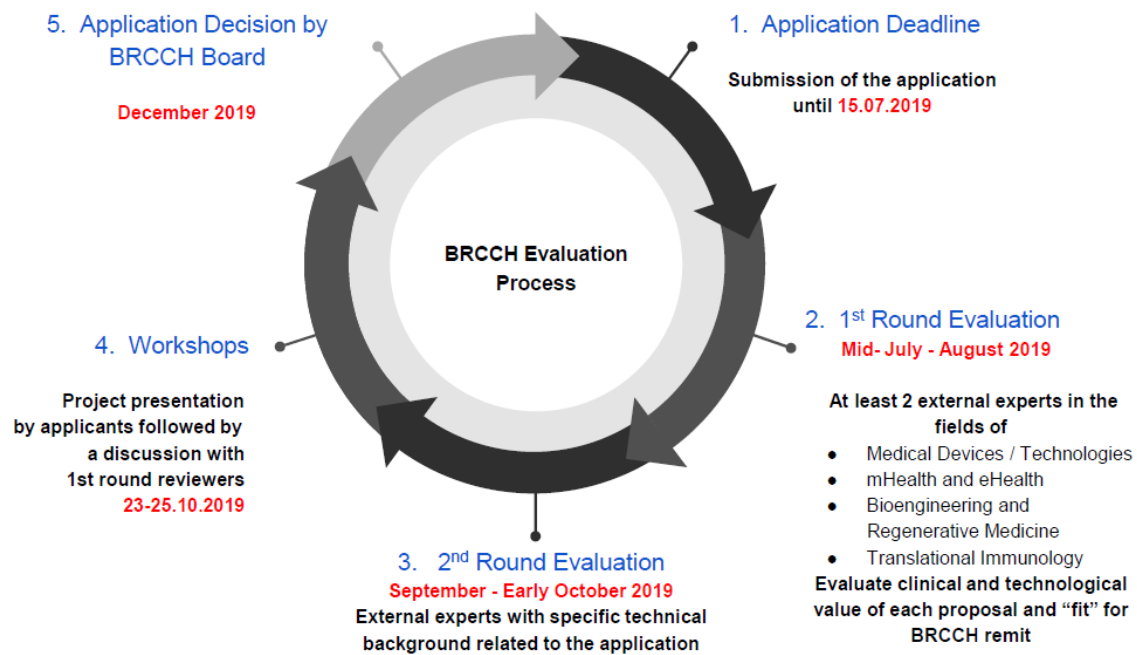
In what language should I write the MIP application.

- Applications are required to be submitted in English.

What if I have other questions for the MIP application?

- Please email [contact@brrch.org](mailto:contact@brrch.org)
- Or call us: 061 207 6200

# MIP EVALUATION PROCESS



**Figure 1. MIP Evaluation Process:** Each MIP application will undergo three sequential stages of evaluation: (i) First round evaluation by external reviewers who will assess the translational / clinical potential and technological value of each application, and the suitability of the project for the remit of the BRCCH. MIP applicants who will be short-listed by the expert panel following first-round evaluation will be invited to present their research projects at our MIP workshop on October 23rd - 25th. (ii) Second round evaluation by external reviewers which will involve an in-depth technical assessment of each project. (iii) Project presentation and discussion with experts of the first-round evaluation panel at the MIP workshop. Applications that are short-listed following the second-round evaluation and the workshop will be presented to the BRCCH board for the final decision on award funding.