

**CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS
2006**

**GENEVA INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC NETWORK
(GIAN)**

**RESEAU UNIVERSITAIRE INTERNATIONAL DE GENEVE
(RUIG)**

Geneva, 17 November 2005

Introduction

The Geneva International Academic Network (GIAN) is a Foundation created by the public institutions of higher education in Geneva: the University of Geneva (Unige), the Graduate Institute of International Studies (GIIS), and the Graduate Institute of Development Studies (GIDS), in collaboration with various international organisations, notably the United Nations Office in Geneva and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The signatories of the GIAN statutes intend, through the creation of the Network, to advance the role of Geneva and Switzerland in the service of peace and justice. The GIAN benefits from the support of the Swiss Confederation and the Republic and Canton of Geneva.

One of the GIAN's primary objectives is to promote research and academic activities that combine the talents available within international organisations and the academic community in Geneva. The GIAN also welcomes the participation of other academic institutions in Switzerland and abroad, as well as that of other international organisations, NGOs and the private sector. Providing financial assistance to practical and action-oriented activities in the area of international relations, particularly those containing a strong research component, is a specific characteristic of this young academic network.

The GIAN fits into the framework of Swiss institutions of higher education and their cooperation with international organisations. Motivated by the "Spirit of Geneva", the GIAN seeks to serve Switzerland's vocation as a centre of international cooperation and responds to the idea of a network as presented by the Swiss Parliament and Federal Council in the "Message Concerning the Promotion of Teaching, Research and Technology for the Period 2000-2003".¹

The GIAN has two principal instruments for the funding of academic activities: 1) the annual tendering procedure ("Call for Project Proposals") concerns principally research projects; 2) the "Small Grants" programme provides a maximum of SFr 50,000 for a variety of research and training endeavours.²

In order to be accepted, projects submitted to the GIAN must satisfy the criteria of high academic standards, practical application and financial viability. Each project will, in principle, be overseen by one of the Network's three founding academic institutions or another institution that will guarantee its academic quality. Each project must be undertaken in partnership with an international organisation.

¹ The GIAN encourages greater efficiency in the research undertaken by institutions of higher education and an opening-up of certain academic disciplines by promoting collaboration among academic institutions and international organisations, both governmental and non-governmental, and other private entities that are active on the interregional or international level. As a result of the "credit" system that is now applied in all of the public institutions of higher education in Geneva, the GIAN could allow for the creation of new academic programmes sanctioned by a degree from one of the Network's founding institutions.

² For further information see the document *Procedure Relative to the "Small Grants" Programme* (www.ruigian.org). Requests for a "Small Grant" may be presented at any time.

The GIAN's Structure

The GIAN is a Foundation placed under the auspices of the Swiss Federal Department of Home Affairs (Swiss Science Agency). The decision-making body, the Foundation Board, is assisted by a Bureau and by a Scientific Committee. The Scientific Committee, composed of seven members, evaluates the academic quality of projects submitted to the GIAN and presents its recommendations to the Foundation Board. The Executive Secretary oversees the GIAN's day-to-day operations.

The Annual Tendering Procedure ("Call for Project Proposals")

The GIAN invites interested parties to submit project proposals that include a strong research component in the framework of its annual tendering procedure. A minimum funding package of CHF 1.8 million will be available in 2006 for projects approved within this programme. A maximum of CHF 300,000 is allotted per project. Funding is conditional upon the project team demonstrating its ability to guarantee substantial participation in the overall cost of the project.

The deadline for submission of project proposals in 2006 is 26 April. The project team will be informed of the Foundation Board's decision in June. A portion of the funding could be made available by early September.

Criteria for the Selection of Projects

GIAN support may be requested for research projects (and post-graduate studies or training programmes with a strong research component) that adhere to the following criteria:

- 1) Be international in nature and fall within the purview of at least one, or more, of the following thematic areas:
 - Sustainable development;
 - Social equity;
 - Globalisation and international trade;
 - Intercultural relations and dialogue;
 - Humanitarian law and human rights.

Within these areas, the GIAN encourages projects concerning conflicts and security, environmental issues and humanitarian action.

- 2) Involve a real partnership between the academic world and at least one international organisation, formalised through letters of engagement by each party. Financial and/or in-kind participation by each party is expected.
- 3) Be action-oriented and interdisciplinary in nature. The GIAN welcomes projects that concern the social sciences as well as the natural sciences and engineering sciences.

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- 4) Projects approved in the framework of the 2006 tendering procedure must be completed within one year, (and must in all cases be completed before 31 December 2007).

The GIAN Foundation Board places emphasis on action-oriented projects and the practical application of knowledge. Projects accepted by the GIAN should not be exclusively academic in nature but should also include a practical component that focuses on real problems for which society expects solutions in the short- or medium-term. The Foundation Board favours innovative proposals and those that create new synergies and networks.

Each project team must include one or several representatives of at least one of the GIAN's founding institutions (University of Geneva, GIIS or GIDS) and of at least one international organisation with a representative in Geneva that has approved participation in the project. The GIAN encourages in particular projects that associate two or three of its founding academic institutions. The aforementioned "representatives" of academic institutions must be members of the faculty or other close collaborators with at least a half-time contract with the institution. Participation by other partners, the private sector or NGOs, for example, is desirable. Partnerships with other institutions of higher education, either Swiss or foreign, are encouraged.

A coordinator or main partner (representative of an academic institution or international organisation) of an ongoing GIAN project cannot submit a new project proposal as coordinator or main partner. This does not mean that he/she cannot be involved in another GIAN project in another capacity.

The GIAN applies the principle of co-financing. Each team must demonstrate its ability to provide a substantial contribution to the project, either in the form of funds provided by another donor or as a contribution in-kind. The team must demonstrate that it has the infrastructure and material means available for the execution of the project.

As a general rule, the GIAN does not fund infrastructure, equipment (computers or otherwise), operating expenses for an existing structure, salaries other than those of assistants, and centres or institutions that will require long-term support. It is expected that partner academic institutions and international organisations will supply infrastructure and a considerable percentage of staff time under co-financing arrangements.

In order to avoid unnecessary pressure on the GIAN's administrative structure, each project is placed under the academic responsibility of a "project coordinator". Administrative arrangements regarding the project team are handled in accordance with the rules of one of the three founding academic institutions. This pragmatic system centralises responsibility for the project and simplifies its administration. For additional information concerning the rules overseeing GIAN subsidies, please refer to the *Regulations Concerning the Rights and Duties of Recipients of GIAN Subsidies*.

Conferences and publications may accompany the research phase or may be part of the project's completion. The results of research are diffused internationally through the network of contacts constituted with the assistance of the GIAN's founding members and international

organisations in Geneva. Appropriate acknowledgement of the GIAN's support must be indicated on all documents relative to the project.

Procedure for Participating in the Call for Project Proposals 2006

The project coordinator must submit to the GIAN, in electronic form and also hard copy, a project summary of 5-15 pages in English or French plus annexes. The submission, post-marked by 26 April 2006, must include the following elements:

- The GIAN cover sheet (or equivalent information);
- A brief summary of the project (1 page maximum);
- A brief overview of the field of research including an exposé of the topic to be treated, emphasising the originality and the urgency of the problems to be examined;
- A summary of the research methods to be employed;
- A summary of the partnership envisaged between the academic world and international organisations with a list of members of the project team and brief information on each of the team members;
- A bibliography of essential works that the project team will refer to in its research;
- An estimation of the results expected and their future utilisation;
- A time-table indicating the major stages of the research process;
- A budget estimate and detailed information concerning the utilisation of GIAN funding and additional funds or in-kind contributions provided by other sources (see example of budget on GIAN web site);
- Information concerning the infrastructure and other means necessary for the implementation of the project (to be considered as in-kind contributions);
- Letters of engagement from the team members and different participating institutions indicating their contribution to the project (time commitment, financial and/or in-kind contributions, etc.). An electronic version of these letters is helpful but is not required.

Calendar for 2006

Wednesday 26 April:	Deadline for submission of project proposals.
Before end of June:	Notification of the GIAN's final decision.
Early September:	Release of part of funds.

Annexes

Cover sheet for the submission of project briefs;
List of members of the GIAN's organs;
Regulations Concerning the Rights and Duties of Recipients of GIAN Subsidies;
Example of budget presentation.

Contact

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