



Providing a global voice for research staff and postdoctoral scholars

February 1st 2017

International Consortium of Research Staff Associations

www.icsa.org
C/O MaREI ERI,
Ringaskiddy,
Cork, Ireland

President Macri, Minister Peña, Minister Barañao and president Ceccatto,

The International Consortium of Research Staff Associations (ICoRSA) has been following with great concern the current crisis for permanent positions for young scientist and researchers in Argentina following the budget cuts to the Science spending.

ICoRSA welcomes the short term compromise to extend current CONICET Fellowships for a year. We hope that this added time will help all parties to find a longer term resolution for the young researchers that received positive evaluations last year and were not offered positions because of the cuts.

We urge the Argentinian government to take this opportunity not only to solve (resolve) the short term crisis but also to create a long term transparent scientific career path for researchers based in scientific excellence and unbiased international standards. Most governments focus too much in the training part of training scientists, nevertheless building a strong scientific culture needs to implement long term perspectives.

As stated by the Declaration of the 7th World Science Forum on The Enabling Power of Science, "Lack of a 'critical mass' in the knowledge based economy greatly affects the research and productive sectors in many regions of the world. Underinvestment in capacity building for research and innovation prevents science and technology to promote sustainable development."(World Science Forum 2015)

It is not surprising then that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, all rely on a strong regional and local scientific capacity to generate new ideas and tools to face the challenges our World now faces.

In times of crisis we strongly believe that only a long term clear policy for research careers can ensure that the human scientific capital is available to tackle such challenges. ICoRSA supports the call to better the career prospectives for young researchers and we trust that the Argentinian government will be proactive in creating such an environment to sustain the increased scientific mass needed for the benefit of the Argentinian people.

ICoRSA Board of Directors