

Call for Proposals 2026

Freie Universität Berlin & The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Joint Seed Funding for Research and Teaching Initiatives

I. Introduction

To facilitate cooperation in teaching and research within the framework of our strategic partnership, Freie Universität Berlin (FUB) and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJI) have initiated a **joint seed funding** scheme. This framework enables FUB and HUJI staff in research and teaching to:

- identify complementary strengths
- take advantage of synergies between the institutions
- promote the development of joint research projects
- generate possibilities for joint teaching projects that incorporate digital and/or blended formats

II. Project Information

Activities under the joint seed funding scheme may include, but are not limited to:

Research projects:

- Intensive research workshops
- Short-term research stays
- Short, intensive graduate seminars
- Preparation of joint research proposals
- Joint doctoral supervision
- Preparation of joint publications

Teaching projects:

- Intensive, short-term joint courses
- Long-term joint courses (1-2 semesters)
- Joint online lecture series
- Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) and blended formats

All **teaching formats** should include joint digital activities, i.e., lecture recordings, live sessions via web conference, use of online tools like wikis, blogs, etc. These can include blended mobility as a combination of digital and on-site teaching, i.e., workshop either at FUB or HUJI for course participants and/or PIs.

When developing the concept, content, or teaching materials for online lectures or joint courses, they should be conceived on a “fifty-fifty-basis” by FUB faculty and HUJI faculty. Individual lectures may be prepared and produced (filmed, etc.) with the support of the local e-learning units at FUB and HUJI.

The submission of projects that combine research and teaching is welcome!

III. General Information

Academic Fields: The call for collaborative project proposals is open to HUJI and FUB academics in all fields. Applications can focus on one discipline or take an interdisciplinary approach.

Eligibility: Applications for all projects have to be **submitted jointly** by tenured or tenure track faculty at HUJI and (Junior) Professors, Research Group Leaders or equivalent at FUB.

Teaching projects should be conducted by tandems of one HUJI and one FUB lecturer. Please note that teaching projects also require endorsement letters from the faculty / department (dean or administrative head) from both HUJI and FUB. All teaching staff should receive full teaching load at their institutions.

Previous grant recipients are not encouraged to apply.

Deadline: January 29, 2026.

Results will be published between March and April 2026.

Funding: The joint funding scheme aims at supporting the first steps to initiate joint research or teaching projects. Joint courses can be supported with **up to 5,000 €**, and research projects as well as initiatives combining research and teaching can apply for up to **8,000 €**.

Applications can include a budget for mobility costs in **both research and teaching projects**, but the amount should not constitute the majority of the budget. A detailed budget should be provided as part of the electronic application form.

Duration: One year – all project activities must be implemented **between April 2026 and July 2027**.

Approved projects will be required to submit a final academic report.

Participants: Apart from the main applicants, additional participants in research projects are encouraged. Proposals should ideally include junior faculty and/or doctoral researchers. Personnel from Germany's non-university research institutions may participate if they cover all related costs.

Courses developed through this joint funding will be open to registered students at FUB and HUJI.

Location: Please note that joint events and visits to HUJI by FUB staff are contingent on the security situation and the respective travel advisories of the German Foreign Office.

IV. Application Procedure

Please download and complete the electronic application form provided on the FUB website:

www.fu-berlin.de/en/international/faculty-staff/project-funding/joint-funding-fub-huji

and submit your application simultaneously to FUB and HUJI:

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The application should address the following points:

- The motivation for proposing a joint activity.
- How both partners will profit in the long term from cooperation and what synergies could emerge, e.g., in the form of future projects.
- Planned proposals for further third-party funding applications, if applicable.
- Planned joint publications and joint supervision of doctoral researchers, if applicable.
- For teaching initiatives:
 - The working title, description, and tentative syllabus of teaching formats.
 - Endorsement letters from the respective FUB/HUJI department/faculty for teaching formats.

V. Selection Criteria

Joint seed funding will be provided on a competitive basis. Projects will be selected by a joint FUB-HUJI committee, giving particular attention to the following criteria:

- A clearly formulated plan and goals of the activity and information on envisaged synergies.
- Level of synergy between lecturers, students, and institutions as well as contribution of teaching formats to curricula of both partners.
- Excellent quality and sustainability of the digital/blended teaching and mobility format.
- Compatibility with the FUB/HUJI research profiles (interdisciplinary nature, excellence of project leaders, scope of the fields/labs represented in the proposed activity).
- Information on how the cooperation will be sustained beyond the initial seed funding phase.
- Information on future joint projects including timeframe, further funding options or planned grant proposals (if applicable), planning for joint publications and/or joint supervision of doctoral researchers, plans for continuation of teaching formats.

For further information: Please contact the above-mentioned staff.

For information and support regarding concept development and implementation of teaching formats, please contact the respective service units for e-learning at both universities:

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

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