



Call for Proposals 2018

Freie Universität Berlin – Saint Petersburg State University

Joint Seed Money Funding Scheme

With the goal of facilitating cooperation in the framework of a strategic partnership, Freie Universität Berlin (FUB) and Saint Petersburg State University (SPSU) have established a joint seed money funding scheme. The funding shall enable FUB and SPSU faculty and researchers to identify complementary strengths, facilitate the use of synergies, increase joint research, high level publications, academic mobility, and promote the development of outstanding future research projects.

The joint funding scheme with an annual budget of € 40.000 (equivalent in roubles, respectively) aims at supporting the first steps of research collaboration. The following formats are possible:

- Intensive research workshops
- Short term research stays (for young as well as established researchers)
- Research-oriented teaching / short intensive graduate seminars
- Mobility for the preparation of joint research proposals

The supported activities should have a clearly defined focus and serve as a catalyst for the development of new joint projects. The activities can take place in Berlin or in Saint Petersburg; participants should include both senior and junior faculty/researchers of FUB and SPSU. Maximum funding per proposal is € 10.000 (equivalent in roubles respectively).

The motivation for holding the activity should be clearly explained, including how the involved FUB and SPSU institutes or departments can profit long term from this cooperation and what synergies can arise. Inclusion of German non-university research institutions such as Max Planck Institutes, Helmholtz Centers, and others as well as Russian institutions, is encouraged, however, the additional costs must be covered by these partners themselves. The funding scheme is not limited to a specific academic field, the activities can be either focused on one discipline or be of interdisciplinary character.

Proposals must be jointly submitted by faculty of Freie Universität Berlin and Saint Petersburg State University, indicating a project leader each of FUB and of SPSU.

Selection Criteria

Seed money funding for joint activities will be provided on a competitive basis. Projects will be selected by committees at FUB and SPSU, who will rate and combine ratings to a joint decision, giving particular attention to the following criteria:

- Clearly formulated plan and goals of the activity
- Information on envisaged synergies between FUB and SPSU
- Level of concreteness of future joint research, incl. timeframe and information on funding programs and steps for developing a joint proposal
- Compatibility with the FUB/SPSU research profiles (interdisciplinary nature, excellence of project leaders, scope of the fields/labs represented in the proposed activity)
- Information on how the cooperation can be sustained beyond the initial seed money funding phase

Submission and Deadlines

Proposals for the FUB-SPSU seed money funding scheme should be submitted by the project leaders of FUB and SPSU in English. They should not exceed 4 pages and have the following information attached:

- Timeframe/Date for the proposed activity
- Detailed budget calculation
- Information on project leaders on both sides and list of other FUB/SPSU participants
- Please note: PIs from FUB should also provide an endorsement statement of their faculty/department

Joint proposals can be submitted until **June 1, 2018**.

The proposed activities should be conducted between **August 15 and December 15, 2018**.

Researchers submit their joint proposal simultaneously in Berlin and in Saint Petersburg. Proposals should be sent electronically to the following addresses:

At Freie Universität Berlin:

Center for International Cooperation

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For further information please contact the above listed staff.