



November 2020

Freie Universität Berlin (FUB) and the University of Zurich (UZH) formed a strategic partnership in 2017, which continues to serve as a strong bond between the two institutions. In order to further strengthen their shared goal of sustainable collaboration in research and teaching, they have drafted the following call for applications as part of a newly established funding program:

Collaborating across boundaries – Interdisciplinary Partnerships in Research and Education

The new funding program's budget amounts to 50.000 euros. Grants should be used to contribute to the building of interdisciplinary networks among researchers and to breaking down boundaries between academic disciplines in research and teaching.

Funding can be used for:

- Fact finding missions
- Workshops
- Research activities
- Work in preparation for seminars or other types of courses
- Preparations (including travel support) for joint proposals for external funding

Both universities are aware that the Covid-19 pandemic has made it difficult to work based on the usual modes of international and inter-institutional cooperation, especially when it comes to mobility. In light of these challenges, we strongly encourage proposals that explore new and creative ways of working together.

Funding is open to both new partnerships and preexisting ones. External parties can also be included as part of the proposed projects.

Eligible Expenses

Costs for travel and accommodations in accordance with the German Travel Expenses Act ([Bundesreisekostengesetz](#)); per diem allowances based on the individual university's standard practices (FUB rates for traveling members of FUB, and UZH rates for members of UZH); other potential hospitality expenditures (food costs, etc.); direct costs (materials, external services, digitalization costs); each project proposal can request up to 10,000 euros in funds.

In support of sustainability, we ask applicants to please limit or completely refrain from air travel between Berlin and Zurich and use other means of transportation if possible.

Selection Criteria

The funding program is open to researchers from all fields. Researchers must be at the postdoctoral level or higher to submit an application.



The funding is awarded on a competitive basis. A joint committee with members from UZH and FUB will select the successful projects. They will give special consideration to the following criteria:

- The planned activities are clearly interdisciplinary in nature.
- The proposal presents a cohesive and detailed plan.
- The proposed activities and projected results can be realistically carried out and make an important contribution to science/academia.
- The project utilizes synergies and contributes to ongoing research at both institutions.
- The proposed activities strive to create sustainable research partnerships and institutional links between UZH and FUB.
- The project opens up opportunities for follow-up events and activities.
- Potential follow-up activities could be of interest to external organizations in terms of future funding.
- The researchers involved have the expertise needed for the project and complement each other.

If external organizations or individuals are involved (whether affiliated with a university or not), funding will only be awarded to projects that distinctly present their work as belonging to researchers from FUB and UZH. Any costs that arise due to the participation of external partners should be covered by the external entities themselves, or the costs should be shared equally among all parties involved. In certain cases, in-kind contributions from external partners can serve as means of compensation. Such requests will be reviewed during the selection process and decided upon individually.

Submission and Deadlines

Project proposals should be jointly submitted by FUB and UZH faculty in English or German. Please submit your application with the following documents **by February 15, 2021**:

- 1) **Completed [application form](#), including:**
 - a. **Description of the proposed project/activity (3 – max. 4 pages)**
 - b. **Detailed budget plan**
- 2) **CVs and most important scientific achievements of the principal investigators (max. 2 pages)**
- 3) **Letters of endorsement of respective FUB and UZH head of department**

Researchers should submit their joint proposal simultaneously in Berlin and in Zurich. The application should be sent electronically to the following addresses:

To Freie Universität Berlin:

Center for International Cooperation
Hans-Martin Meis
Tel.: +49 (0)30 838 73942
Email: hans-martin.meis@fu-berlin.de
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To the University of Zurich:

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