



RMU Initiative Funding for Research

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Darmstadt/ Frankfurt am Main/ Mainz 2026 ff

Start-up funding for joint RMU projects

(no deadline)

Objective

Funding for coordinating and other preparatory activities of advanced proposals of large, strategically relevant collaborative research projects (such as DFG-funded Collaborative Research Centre, Research Training Group, Research Unit; EU, Federal Ministry of Education and Research [BMBF]), in which at least one RMU is involved as a host university and at least one other is significantly involved. The draft proposal should be submitted within one year.

Funding format

Funding can be requested for personnel and material resources that directly benefit the preparation and elaboration of collaborative research projects, such as funds to finance a coordination office, student assistants and/or joint workshops in order to reach (pre-) application maturity. A statement of reasons is required. The maximum funding amount totals EUR 50,000. For hospitality expenses, the guidelines of the respective university must be observed. Funding is decided by the RMU Vice Presidents responsible for research on a project-by project basis.

Modalities

- Funding is open to all topics.
- Applications accepted from established scientists as project PIs from at least two of the three RMU who are members of their respective university at the time of application.
- Joint, innovative research projects with a high potential for a successful (preliminary) application as a collaborative research project within one year are eligible for funding. LOEWE priority areas and projects that are limited to individual participants (such as ERC Synergy Grants) are not eligible for funding.
- Projects that have already received funding from other sources or projects that are about to be submitted are not eligible for funding.
- Applicants of funded projects are obliged to report to the Vice Presidents responsible for research at the respective RMU and the relevant departments.

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Funding criteria

- Scientific quality, degree of innovation as well as a plausible perspective for the submission of promising (pre-) proposals
- Academic credentials of the applicants
- Added value through funding from the RMU Initiative Funding for Research (funding line: Start-up funding)

Procedure

- The designated spokespersons can present their projects to the Vice Presidents responsible for research at the respective RMU throughout the year. We recommend that applicants consult in advance with the respective research departments.
- The eligibility of the project for funding within the framework of the RMU Initiative Funding for Research (funding line: Start-up funding) is reviewed under the responsibility of the Vice Presidents responsible for research at the respective RMU; if necessary, (external) experts will be consulted.
- In the event of a positive review, the Vice Presidents responsible for research at the respective RMU will request an application from the designated spokespersons.
- The Vice Presidents responsible for research at the respective RMU, supported by the relevant departments, will develop a coordinated funding concept adapted to the needs of the respective project. They will closely accompany the application projects.
- The funding decision is the responsibility of the RMU Vice Presidents responsible for research and is supported by, if necessary, external expertise.

Structure of the application (German or English)

Maximum length of 5 pages

General information

- Subject and objective of the project
- All applicants, including a central contact person at each university and one person with overall responsibility
- Participating PIs (faculty, university, participation, if applicable, in their own university's research priorities)

Description of the initiative

- Generally comprehensible summary of the project (half a page max.)
- Scientific question and research program, specific research approach and methodology
- Significance and innovation potential for science and, if applicable, application



- Evidence of existing expertise, if applicable, joint preliminary work based on relevant criteria
- Description of the added value through collaboration between different locations
- Outline of sustainability perspectives
- Competitive situation, nationally/internationally, differentiation from similar initiatives
- Preparation status of the application initiative. Concrete activities

Goals

- Objectives and planned activities during the funding period (research, collaboration, structures)
- Milestones during the requested funding period
- Outlook for possible follow-up activities

Planned measures

- Description of the measures to be financed from the requested funding
- The presentation should show how the planned measures will contribute to realizing the project for which funding has been requested.

Funds requested

- Tabular breakdown of requested funds by year, university and cost type

Further information:

www.rhein-main-universitaeten.de