Strategic Partnership Funding Call Flexible Funds 2026

International Department / Unit for International Science Collaborations

2026

HUMBOLDT-
UNIVERSITÄT
ZU BERLIN

Strategic Partnership Funding Call
Flexible Funds 2026

As one of Germany's leading research universities, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HUB) stands at the forefront of academic excellence, engaging in dialogue with institutions worldwide. In our continued commitment to expanding research, teaching and staff engagement, we are excited to announce the availability of flexible grants aimed at initiating or enhancing collaborations with members of our following strategic and global partner universities:

Strategic partners

- Princeton University (PU)
- Universidade de São Paulo (USP)
- University of Zurich (UZH)
- University of Oxford
- New York University (NYU)

Global partners

- Australian National University (ANU)
- University of Toronto (UofT)
- King's College London (KCL)
- Paris Sciences et Lettres (PSL)*
- Peking University (PKU)

We invite proposals for collaborative projects encompassing diverse formats, such as the preparation of joint publications, joint teaching activities including "COIL" (Collaborative Online International Learning), organization of workshops or exhibitions, staff exchange, and beyond. Please note that funding is not available for conference attendance as a stand-alone activity.

These grants (provided by HUB) support activities to be conducted in 2026, with a special emphasis on proposals demonstrating potential for lasting impact and heightened visibility for Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and its strategic partnerships.[1]

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Tandems consisting of one professor, postdoctoral researcher (with an employment contract of at least 2 years at the time of application), or administrative (non-academic) staff member from both Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HUB) and one of the above partner institutions are eligible to apply. Applications must be submitted jointly by partners from both universities. For research projects, please note that applicants and grantees must hold at least a postdoctoral qualification.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants should utilize the provided application form and briefly describe their project, addressing aspects such as project description, budget, joint activities, and the pursued goal. Please note that funding is not available for student mobility and conference attendance as a stand-alone activity. Preference will be given to projects for which no other sources of funding are available.

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1 A call for collaborative projects with University of Zürich, offering grants of up to 60,000 CHF, will be released. Kindly refer to the UZH global strategy website and HU's International Office Newsletter for further information.

Funding Procedures:

- **Selection Procedure:** Proposals will undergo evaluation and selection by the International Office at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin based on specific selection criteria (please see below for details).
- **Grant Amount:** Each partner may receive a grant up to € 2,500 (global partners) / € 5,000 (strategic partners) depending on the scale and scope of the proposed initiative.[2]
- **Funding Transfer:** Upon completion of the selection procedure, the allocated funds will be transferred to the cost center ("Kostenstelle") of the HU department responsible for the project. The approved funds are designated as "Haushaltsmittel" ("Grundhaushalt/S-Konten").

SELECTION CRITERIA

- **Range of Initiatives and Disciplines:** Proposals will be assessed based on their capacity to broaden the disciplinary spectrum within each partnership, with the goal of nurturing initiatives from diverse academic fields, faculties, and administrative units.
- **Encouraging new collaborations:** Existing and new projects are eligible, with preference for new initiatives in the case of similar quality applications.
- **Sustainability of the Initiative:** The sustainability of proposed initiatives will be assessed, with preference given to projects that demonstrate a clear plan for continuation beyond the funding period.
- **Diversity and Inclusion:** We value diversity and inclusion in all aspects of collaboration. Proposals that incorporate diverse perspectives, promote gender equality, and support underrepresented groups will be highly regarded.
- **Outreach:** Preference will be given to projects that include public outreach activities, e.g., lectures as part of the *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften* or *Berlin Science Week*.

TIMELINE AND NEXT STEPS

- Applications for this call are accepted until **January 16, 2026.**
- You will receive feedback with the communication of results via email no later than 4 weeks after the deadline.
- Projects may start immediately after communication of (positive) results and allocation of funds to your administrative unit. All funds need to be utilized by the **end of November 2026**.
- Upon conclusion of the collaborative activities, a brief informal report must be submitted. A corresponding form for this report will be provided by the HUB International Office.

SUBMISSION/CONTACT

Please submit the application form / CVs and questions regarding this call to Dr Susanne Beer (Head International Science Collaborations, *susanne.beer@hu-berlin.de*)

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2 Please note that only "Sachmittel" (including potential "Honorarzahlungen") are eligible for funding. Travel and accommodation costs are to be calculated in accordance with the Federal Travel Expenses Act ("Bundesreisekostengesetz"). Please refer to the general information on applying for a business trip ("Dienstreiseantrag"), purchasing tickets, domestic daily and overnight allowances, car use, as well as the reimbursement of travel expenses. If you need advice, support, or have any questions regarding your business travel application, please feel free to contact the Travel Management team at Humboldt University.