

Global Health Initiative

Call for Joint Research Proposals BUA-NUS Strategic Research Partnership

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| Call opens: | 15 October 2020 | Call closes: | 15 December 2020 |
| Earliest start of funding: | 1 February 2021 | Duration: | until 31 December 2021 |
| Award limitation per project: | From BUA: from 10.000 € up to 15.000 € From NUS: from 16.500 SGD up to 20.000 SGD | | |

Within their strategic research partnership, the National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Berlin University Alliance (BUA) constituted by Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin and the Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin are seeking to foster academic collaboration on **Global Health** as a research topic of common interest and strategic importance.

Global Health combines study, research and practice focusing on health-based developments and challenges rising from an increasingly globalized world. In comparison to international health usually focusing on infectious diseases, Global Health adds an interdisciplinary and global dimension. It deals with transnational social, economic, political and cultural influences of health. Global Health is thus a collaborative and interdisciplinary field, which includes aspects from natural and social sciences (e.g. anthropology, sociology, political science, economics, peace and conflict research, engineering) in order to understand the social connections contributing to improving health and achieving health equity worldwide.

Possible research focuses are:

- Health Innovation/Technology
- Outbreak Preparedness and Prediction
- Medicine
- Migration Studies
- Global Health Governance
- Mobility
- Gender studies
- Communication
- Ageing/Demographics
- Environmental/Climate Studies
- Food Science
- Engineering
- Sustainability studies

The Strategic Research Partnership between NUS and BUA intends to support new and innovative research projects on Global Health in their efforts to generate external funding for further development of (joint) research over the longer term.

In developing their proposal, applicants are actively encouraged to consider the use of digital formats instead of physical mobility, where possible as a mechanism of fostering productive planning and research activities. Applicants are expected to meet established national standards and requirements for funding, and to follow the general policies and guidelines of their respective institution.

General Eligibility Criteria

The Call for Joint Research Proposals is open to researchers from the NUS and all BUA partners, from any discipline. All consortia must include at least one faculty member from NUS as well as at least one BUA partner. Full-time faculty members of both institutions have to be involved and function as principal investigators. External partners (in Singapore, Germany or internationally) are very welcome to participate, but are not eligible for funding from this program.

Where appropriate, applicants are encouraged to seek gender and diversity dimension balance and to include early- and mid-career researchers within their proposals. Only joint research initiatives that are focusing on Global Health issues and involve partners from both Singapore and BUA will be considered.

Applications that do not meet these criteria will **not be eligible** for funding.

Funding purpose

The Strategic Research Partnership's aim is to stimulate innovative research and to foster new co-operation in the field of **Global Health** in all disciplines between the BUA members and NUS. This funding scheme intends to support 5-6 excellent flagship projects with a clear potential for further development. Each proposal should describe prospects for sustainability beyond the funding period (e.g. by generating third-party funding, integrating the projects into other topic-related research projects in Berlin and Singapore or establishing long-term cooperation with industry). Seed Grants are meant to facilitate the definition and development of such joint projects.

Continuation of already concluded or ongoing projects will not be eligible for Seed Grant funding.

Please note: In the context of its Grand Challenge Initiatives, the Berlin University Alliance will launch its "Main Call Global Health" in December 2020 in order to promote outstanding interdisciplinary Exploration Projects within the field of Global Health. The goal is to support an integrated research environment in Berlin by establishing long-term, sustainable research alliances. Berlin-based scholars planning to apply for an Exploration Project within the "Main Call Global Health" are highly encouraged to apply in the BUA-NUS funding scheme as well. The present call presents a funding opportunity for starting or supporting projects with international participation which may enhance the status of proposals for Exploration Projects within the Main Call Global Health

For additional information on the "Main Call Global Health" please contact: Dr. Julia Wolanski (grand-challenges@berlin-university-alliance.de).

Eligible costs

- Travel, accommodation and other associated costs for joint workshops and/or academic researcher exchanges in line with existing standards and regulations in all partner institutions;
- Digital activities such as online workshops, marketing and/or website to support joint activities, establishing, testing and applying digital products;
- Fellowships for doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows to conduct research at a partner institution;
- Costs associated with the preparation of joint grant proposals to respective national and international funding agencies, philanthropic sponsors or foundations;
- Material costs of the collaborative research (as contribution towards laboratory or field costs for participating academics);
- Costs associated with joint publications; and

In general, it is envisaged that a large part of the funding will cover mobility costs. However, PIs should be aware of further travel restrictions in 2021 and, therefore, consider alternative activities such as online workshops and meetings additionally.

Selection Criteria and Evaluation Process

The evaluation of the proposals will be based on an internal peer review process. The final funding decision is up to the collaboration's joint selection committee.

The evaluation will take into account

- Quality and innovativeness of the research project, competence and expertise of the team of faculty members involved;
- Feasibility of the project plan;
- Cost-effectiveness of the budget;
- Indications as to how to obtain external funding in the future and prospects for sustainability beyond the original term of the seed grant; and
- Effective communication and cooperation between the faculty in each location and added value of the collaboration in terms of building research capacity in Berlin and Singapore; and
- Prospect of developing the project towards an "Exploration Project" in the context of BUA's "Main Call Global Health" (see above)

Requirements of Recipients

- **Project timeline:** Seed grant funding will be available from February 1, 2021 and is allocated to last until December 31, 2021. All expenses and activities should be incurred within the funding period.
- **Progress reports:** NUS and BUA recipients must report briefly after six months from the start of the award on the activities to which the grant is being applied, and annually thereafter until project completion.
- **Acknowledgement:** Recipients are expected to acknowledge the support of the NUS-BUA Partnership in any publications or presentations, which should be listed in the progress reports.
- **Payment of the grant:** The payment and post-award financial management will be administered through the respective institution of any lead applicant.

Submission Documents

The completed application must include:

- The financial budget, with amounts specified by category;
- Short CVs of the lead applicants (max. 2 pages, no bibliographies) and a list of involved academics;
- Letter of approval by the relevant Deans
- Letters of commitment for any additional financial support from sponsoring Faculty/units
- A narrative project description of no more than 3 pages, including:
 - An overview description of the field of study and general context of the project suitable for a non-specialist audience; please specifically address the aspects that make the project innovative and promising in a long-term perspective;
 - A lay-out of the proposed project and its specific objectives as well as its operation, timelines, and functions;
 - A plan for the ongoing collaboration including a detailed plan for the project's long-term third-party funding situation beyond the funding obtained through the award.

Key dates for 2020

- Application opens: 15 Oct
- Application deadline: 15 Dec
- Outcome notification: end of Jan 2020
- Funding Activity: February - December 2021

Submission and Contact Information

A single, jointly prepared application must be submitted in English through the application portal (<https://portal.bihealth.de/portal/>) to the BUA, by 2 pm on 15 December 2020 (Berlin local time).

BUA submission and contact details:

Aleksandra Laski

Strategic Partnership Manager

Berlin University Alliance

aleksandra.laski@berlin-university-alliance.de

+49 (0) 30 2093 20084

For NUS applicants please direct any additional questions to:

Chan Ching Ting (dprcct@nus.edu.sg)

Office of the Deputy President (Research & Technology)

National University of Singapore