OX-BER Research Partnership: Call for Proposals

Within their new partnership, the University of Oxford and Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin, and the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin are seeking to strengthen already existing links as well as to stimulate new research collaborations between the four Berlin partners and all four Oxford University academic divisions.

In the form of Seed Grants, the **OX-BER Research Partnership** intends to support new and innovative research projects in their efforts to generate third-party funding. The involvement of partners from both Oxford and in Berlin is required in such joint research ventures, with the aim of creating additional areas of joint activity between faculty members. Applicants are required to meet any national requirements for funding and follow the general regulations of their respective institution.

Eligibility

The Call for Proposals is open to any full-time faculty member from the partner institutions, in all disciplines[1]. Initiatives can also include postdoctoral researchers, but the principal investigator has to be a full-time faculty member. Projects must be presented jointly by at least one faculty member from one of the Berlin partners and one faculty member from one of Oxford's academic divisions and may include participation from other Berlin partner institutions. Additional external partners are very welcome, but cannot be funded.

As the aim of the **OX-BER Research Partnership** is to stimulate innovative research and to foster new co-operation, continuation of already concluded or ongoing projects and established research partnerships will not be eligible for Seed Grant funding.

Seed Grants, generally of 10 000 - 30 000€, will be awarded to new and promising research projects, at the discretion of the partnership's Oversight Committee. The Oversight Committee will aim to fund a range of different sized projects. The proposals should detail how the research collaborations will aim to generate third-party funding and will continue after the funding period covered by the Seed Grant. Seed grant funding will be available from 1 January 2019, and is scheduled to last for up to 18 months.

Proposals for funding may include

- Workshops
- Mobility for initial research
- Travel awards
- Employment of research assistants to prepare more substantive grant proposals
- Graduate student /post doctoral exchange
- Faculty mobility (for example contributions to the costs of sabbaticals in either Oxford or Berlin)

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[1] Oxford applicants should normally be a current salaried employee of the collegiate university holding an academic post (Professor or Associate Professor), or a research fellowship awarded competitively and intended to enable the holder to establish an independent research career

Evaluation Process

All proposals will be peer-reviewed. The cooperation's Joint Committee will make the final funding decision. The Joint Committee consists of the Oversight Committee and one senior academic per institution.

This evaluation will take into account the quality, feasibility, and potential of the project, competence and expertise of the team of faculty members involved, cost-effectiveness of the budgetary plan, clear plans to obtain external funding in the future and prospects for sustainability beyond the original term of the Seed Grant. It will also focus on effective communication and cooperation between the faculty in each location and added value of the collaboration, and the mobility of researchers between Berlin and Oxford.

Requirements of Recipients

- Project timeline: All expenses and activities should be incurred within eighteen months from the date of the first expenses, latest by the end of 2020.
- Progress reports: Recipients must report briefly after six months from the start of the award on the activities to which the grant is being applied and on any progress towards obtaining further external support for the project.
- Acknowledgement: Recipients are expected to acknowledge the support of the **OX-BER Research 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 Lead Applicants' institutions.

Submission Documents

- The completed Seed Grant application form, including:
    ▪ The financial budget, with amounts specified by category. Budgets cannot support hiring of administrative staff (although employment of research assistants to help prepare grant applications is permitted).
- A narrative project description of no more than 3 pages, including:
    ▪ An overview description of the field of study and general intellectual 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 and functions.
    ▪ A description of the funding contributions from sponsoring units and a detailed plan for the project's long-term third-party-funding situation beyond the funding obtained through the Seed Grant. Please indicate additional financial support from sponsoring units or external grants.
    ▪ A discussion of any additional resources (office or laboratory space, library access etc.) required for the project and of their availability.

-   List of involved academics, in addition to Lead Applicants/Principal Investigators
-   Letter of Approval of the relevant deans/heads of department
-   Short CVs of the Lead Applicants (max. 2 pages, no bibliographies)

Submission and Contact Information

With any questions regarding the application process and format, please contact either:

Anna Cramme (anna.cramme@charite.de), Oxford-Berlin Cooperation Coordinator (Berlin) or

Alasdair MacDonald (alasdair.macdonald@admin.ox.ac.uk), University of Oxford

All proposals must be submitted in English and in PDF format to the aforementioned contacts by October 31, 2018.