**AUHA - Seed funding for research partnerships**

[**www.auha.be/onderzoek**](http://www.auha.be/onderzoek)



**AUHA- seed funding for research partnerships 2024**

**PROCEDURE AND SELECTION**

1. **Objective**

The objective of the seed funding is to promote sustainable partnerships between Antwerp University Association (AUHA) researchers across all member institutions.

1. **What is the AUHA seed funding/writing funding?**

The objective of the AUHA seed funding is to create time and space for elaborating application files for external grant providers. It is a competitive call.

A total amount of €100,00 has been made available for this call. Four projects will be selected from all applications. Each project will receive €25,000.

1. **Deadlines**

The application file must be submitted to the AUHA no later than 12 a.m. midnight on 30 June 2024.

The selection will be made by 1 October 2024 at the latest. The project can be started as early as 1 November 2024.

The application to the external grant provider must be completed within two years after the starting date of the seed funding project.

1. **Modalities**

The modalities of the AUHA seed funding are as follows:

* Researchers from at least two AUHA member institutions must submit a joint application for seed funding.
* The funds must be used for writing a research proposal aimed at applying for external funds:
	+ The research proposal must fall within the scope of a call issued by an external grant provider. The proposal specifies the external grant provider.
	+ The external grant provider may be either national or international.
	+ The external grant must amount to at least €150,000 (total project budget).
	+ The application to the external grant provider must be completed within two years after the start of the seed funding project.
	+ The final application is to be submitted by the supervisor (or supervisors).
* The funds can be used for staffing or for acquiring expertise or support (e.g. laboratory research) or for other small investments.
* The expertise of the researchers must be complementary.
* The proposed outcomes should be of clear scientific value, in addition to being of benefit to societal and/or industrial stakeholders.

Application files must be completed in the template provided by the AUHA, including descriptions of the following:

* the existing expertise
* the existing partnership
* the project, including a clear statement of the research question
* the scientific value and the benefits to societal and/or industrial stakeholders
* the proposed partnership
* the use of the funds

A supervisor-spokesperson must be appointed to serve as the contact for the AUHA.

The selected projects will report to the AUHA every six months on the progression of the project.

1. **Allocation of funds**

Upon selection, 50% of the funds will be allocated to the supervisor-spokesperson. The remaining 50% will be allocated when an acceptable proposal is submitted to an external grant provider. The project partners must prepare a budget jointly. The supervisor-spokesperson must ensure that the funds are distributed amongst the partners as agreed.

1. **Selection procedure**

The applications that have been submitted will be ranked by a jury composed of representatives of the institutions. Composition of the jury:

* + Chair: AUHA Chair
	+ Secretary: AUHA director
	+ Vice-Rector for Research, University of Antwerp/Vice-Rector for Valorisation, University of Antwerp
	+ Research Directors of the AUHA universities of applied sciences and arts (KdG, AP, AMA)

The jury will compare the applications. With comparable quality, priority will be given to new, promising partnerships.

1. **Application file**

The application file will be made available on the AUHA website. It must be submitted electronically to the AUHA director no later than 12 a.m. midnight on 30 June 2024: isabelle.deridder@auha.be.

The application template will be made available in Dutch and in English.

1. **Overhead**

The AUHA governing body decided on June 27, 2024, that no overhead will be charged on the resources of the seed fund in the partner institutions.

**APPLICATION FORM**

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| **TITEL OF THE JOINT PROJECT:**  |

**PART I – PARTNERS**

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| **SUPERVISOR - SPOKESPERSON** |
| **First neme:** | **Surname:** | **Institution:** |
| **Research group:** | **Contact details:**  |
|  |
| **(CO-)SUPERVISOR(S)** |
| **First name:** | **Surname:** | **Institution:** |
| **Research group:** | **Contact details:**  |

**PART II – DESCRIPTION OF THE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

Description of the research activities of the participating researchers and research groups, as relevant to this project (300 words, maximum)

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**PART III – PROJECT PROPOSAL**

1. **Substantive**

Synthesis of the project proposal, including the substantive research question (900 words, maximum)

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Description of the scientific value and the benefits to societal and/or industrial stakeholders (500 words, maximum)

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1. **Description of the partnership**

Describe the proposed partnership (max 300 words)

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Describe the roles of the various institutions in the proposed partnership (max 300 words)

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How will the seed funding be used to as a means of realising sustainable partnership between the research groups? (max 300 words)

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1. **Timeline and funding**

How will the seed funding be applied (max 100 words)?

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To which external grant provider will the application be submitted, for which call and by which deadline? (max 100 words)

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