AUHA - Seed funding

*www.auha.be/onderzoek*

AUHA – Seed funding for research partnerships 2025

# PROCEDURE AND SELECTION

## Objective

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

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

Addition to this call: Through the VLIRUOS Global Minds programme, UAntwerp is making funds available from the AUHA seed funding for up to two proposals (max. €25,000) involving at least one partner institution from the Global South (see specific modalities further on in the call).

## Deadlines

The application file must be submitted to the AUHA no later than 12 midnight on 30 June 2025.

The selection will be made by 1 October 2025 at the latest. The project will start on 1 November 2025.

## 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.
* A seed funding application from researchers from at least two AUHA institutions and at least one institution in the Global South[[1]](#footnote-1)[[2]](#footnote-2) is also eligible for VLIRUOS Global Minds funding for this call.
* 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 requested (external) grants amount to a minimum of EUR 125,000 (total project budget).
  + The application to the (external) grant provider must be completed within two years after the starting date of the seed funding project. If funding was granted through the VLIRUOS Global Minds programme, the application to the (external) grant provider must be made no later than 31 August 2027.
  + 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. If funding was granted through the VLIRUOS Global Minds programme, the supervisor undertakes (or supervisors undertake) to follow VLIRUOS’s Financial Framework.[[3]](#footnote-3)
* 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
* if applicable: added value of mutual cooperation with the Global South

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

* The supervisor's appointment should be long-term.
* Supervisor and co-supervisor can only be involved in one project application in 2025.
* Supervisor and co-supervisor awarded a project in 2024 cannot apply in 2025.

The selected projects will report on the progression of the project to the AUHA every six months. A final report is also required, based on a questionnaire. The reporting of the projects funded through Global Minds must comply with the criteria and standards set by VLIRUOS. The promoters will be informed about this in due time.

## 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 jointly prepare a budget. The supervisor-spokesperson must ensure that the funds are distributed amongst the partners as agreed.

For projects funded by Global Minds, the full project budget of 25,000 euros must be spent before 31 August 2027 and reported as activity-related expenses.

Double funding is prohibited at all times.

## 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 Research & Impact, UAntwerp
  + Vice-rector Valorisation & Sustainability, UAntwerp
  + Director Research & Academy, KdG
  + Director Research & Services, AP
  + Head of Research, AMA
  + Academic Supervisor Global Minds UAntwerp (for GM projects only)

The jury will compare the applications. In case of comparable quality, priority will be given to new, promising partnerships. The partnership may be existing or new, but it should be made clear how the seed funding will function as a means of realising a sustainable partnership between the research groups. The scoring grid to be used by the jury will be annexed to the description of the procedure.

After exhausting the AUHA seed funding, high-quality files that meet the conditions described above are eligible for Global Minds funding.

## 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 midnight on 30 June 2025: [isabelle.deridder@auha.be](mailto:isabelle.deridder@auha.be).

The application form will be made available in Dutch and in English. Applicants must submit the application file in either of these two languages.

## Overhead

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

# APPLICATION FILE

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

## PART I – PARTNERS

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

**If applicable:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Organisation in the Global South** | | | |
| **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 (max 300 words)

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## PART III – PROJECT PROPOSAL

1. **Substantive**

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

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

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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 as a means of realising a sustainable partnership between the research groups? (max 300 words)

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1. **Description of the partnership: Global South**

**ONLY for project applications aimed at cooperation with a partner from the Global South:**

With which partner/organisation (based in which country) is cooperation taking place? (max 100 words)

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What is the potential **added value of the research** for theGlobal South? (max 200 words)

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What **added value is given to the research** by involving researchers in the country where the research takes place? (max 200 words)

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What is the potential added value of the results of this research **for researchers** in the Global South? (max 200 words)

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In what way does the research design take into account **power imbalances** between different stakeholders in the research? (max 200 words)

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1. This partner will not be included in the formal agreement (i.e. no direct flow of funds to the Global South partner). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The partner institution is an officially recognised higher education institution or research organisation based in one of the following countries:

   Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

   Asia: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Vietnam

   Latin America: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Haiti, Nicaragua, Peru, Suriname [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Only activity-related costs are eligible for funding and must be reported accordingly. For personnel resources: no personnel costs for Senior Academic Staff and/or recurring personnel costs are eligible. Only activity-related personnel costs are eligible. However, it is possible to recruit a project employee or temporarily fund an extra-departmental employee. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)