

Seed Money Projects



Call for Proposals 2021 / 2

Application deadline:	31 March 2021
Possible applicants:	ORIGINS PIs
Funding period:	2021
max. proposal length:	4 pages
Application address:	alice.smith-gicklhorn@origins-cluster.de
Selection meeting:	tbd in April

Scope of the Funding

Seed Money is meant to transform highly original and unique ideas into projects. All proposed projects need to be supported by a principal investigator (PI) of the ORIGINS Excellence Cluster. This funding scheme aims to identify and support innovative research and development of projects in all fields of the ORIGINS Cluster, where such non-bureaucratic financial support can contribute significantly to knowledge gain and progress.

Procedure

Two calls per year for applications are sent out to all principle investigators of the ORIGINS Cluster. A selection committee (see website) will evaluate submitted applications. The competitive selection process includes a written application (as outlined here) and a 10 minute oral presentation of the project. In a final step, the research board must approve of the selection committee's funding recommendation.

Evaluation Criteria

The concept of the application must be an innovative approach and thus should not be a part or supplement of an existing funding support. It can however be a – so far unsupported – new idea within a larger collaboration. If that is the case, this has to be stated explicitly and clearly described.

The following evaluation criteria apply:

- originality of the approach
- novelty of the research concept, uniqueness with regard to international competition
- certain amount of risk, after the motto “no risk, no gain.”
- involvement of cluster members and relevance to the research of the ORIGINS Cluster
- follow-up research after Seed Project
- quality of the project planning, structure and cost plan, plausible budget request
- interdisciplinary nature/amount of collaboration between ORIGINS partner institutions/ relevance to other fields

Funding

Typical projects to be funded involve:

- analysis and studies of new hypotheses, innovative concepts, “proof of principle” projects
- initiation of new collaborations needing consumables, new equipment, and infrastructure
- start-up funding to produce preliminary results for bigger applications or special events

- NEW: Hosting of dedicated small international workshops to start new collaborations and bring together experts in the fields for brainstorming (ca. 15 external week-long guests with an upper budget limit that is typical for Seed Money projects of ca. 25k Euro)
- Seed money is not meant to fund personnel; however, in very exceptional cases funding for positions per contract in new projects can be made. In this case applicants have to justify in detail how the position will be funded after this period of startup funding. The person should not have worked in the cluster on a similar project before.

Funding ends on the accounting deadline in mid-December 2021. Funds that are not used by this date will go back to the ORIGINS Cluster since these Cluster funds cannot be transferred across fiscal years.

Project presentation and selection

All proposals for Seed Money projects will be presented in a selection meeting, date and venue tbd. Please nominate a proposer who can present your application in a **10 min presentation**. The committee will meet after all presentations and propose a distribution of the available funds.

Structure of the application

Please use one of the provided application templates or follow the structure outlined below and add one or two appropriate graphs or images.

- | | |
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| Name of the proposer/s: | [First name, last name, institution] |
| Title of the project: | [title, max. 100 characters] |
| Research Unit(s): | [at least one of the Cluster's research units] |
| Category: | [theory/experiment/interdisciplinary] |
| Funding of: | [consumables/investment/personnel/workshop] |
| Involvement of other institutions or infrastructure: | [e. g. TUM, LMU, MPI, ESO, LRZ, FRMII, ODSL, C2PAP, ...] |
| Time scale of the project | [start DD/MM/YYYY; end DD/MM/YYYY] |
| Requested Budget: | [Cost plan: break down and total sum incl. VAT] |
| Short summary of the project: | [max. 1000 characters incl. blanks] |
| Scientific plan: | |
- Preliminary work in the field
 - Detailed description of the project: methods, goals and important milestones
 - Seed aspect of the project and possible continuation after initial Cluster-funding
 - Timeliness, challenge and attractiveness
 - Feasibility, risk of the project and expected results
 - Research plan for the continuation of the project in case of success
 - Which groups (local as well as external) will be involved?
 - Added value
 - In case of staff funding: what is the source of funding after the startup funding?

Applications should be sent to Alice Smith-Gicklhorn (alice.smith-gicklhorn@origins-cluster.de) by 31 March, 2021. Interdisciplinary and inter-institutional projects are encouraged and will be given priority.