

# Seed Money Projects

## Call for Proposals 2024-02



---

Application deadline:	30 September 2024
Possible applicants:	ORIGINS PIs
Funding period:	2024/2025
max. proposal length:	4 pages
Application address:	<a href="mailto:alice.smith-gicklhorn@origins-cluster.de">alice.smith-gicklhorn@origins-cluster.de</a>
Selection meeting:	tbd (presumably 08./09. or 10.10.24 )

---

### 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 principal 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 the final step, the research board must approve the selection committee's funding recommendation.

### Evaluation Criteria

The concept of the application must be an innovative approach. It can 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
- after the motto "no risk, no gain," a certain amount of risk.
- involvement of cluster members and relevance to the research of the ORIGINS Cluster
- quality of the project planning, structure and cost plan, plausible budget request
- preference is given to projects with an interdisciplinary nature/collaboration between ORIGINS partner institutions
- spending profile (strongly encouraged: order placement in 2024)

### 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
- HiWi funding is possible.

**Unlike in previous years, the funds can be spent in 2024 or 2025. Please therefore indicate whether the funds will be spent in 2024 or 2025 and whether you could manage to already place an order in 2024 (with delivery in 2025).**

## Project presentation and selection

All proposals for Seed Money projects will be presented in a selection meeting, date and venue tbd (presumable on 08./09/10.10.24). 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.

Name of the proposer/s: [First name, last name, institution]  
Name of PI(s) if different from above [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, ODSL, C2PAP, IDSL,...]  
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
- 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

**Applications should be sent to Alice Smith-Gicklhorn ([alice.smith-gicklhorn@origins-cluster.de](mailto:alice.smith-gicklhorn@origins-cluster.de)) by 30. September, 2024. Interdisciplinary and cross-institutional projects are encouraged and will be given priority.**