

Seed Money Projects



Call for Proposals 2021 / 2

Application deadline:	30 April 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 May

Scope of the Funding

Seed Money is meant to transform innovative, creative and new ideas into projects. All proposed projects need to be supported by a principal investigator (PI) of the ORIGINS Excellence Cluster. This funding scheme that 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

Applications can be handed in at any time, with proposals being evaluated twice a year. Deadlines for applications are being sent out to all principle investigators of the ORIGINS Cluster. A selection committee will evaluate submitted applications. The competitive selection process includes a written application (as outlined here) and a 10 minutes oral presentation of the project.

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 the large collaborations that scientists of the ORIGINS Cluster are often involved. If that is the case, this has to be stated explicitly and clearly described.

The following evaluation criteria apply:

- novelty of the research concept
- originality of the approach
- scientific quality of the project
- relevance of the project with regards to the research units of the ORIGINS Cluster
- quality of the project planning, structure and cost plan
- Interdisciplinary nature/ amount of collaboration between ORIGINS partner institutions

Funding

Typical projects to be funded involve, e.g. analysis and studies of new hypotheses, innovative concepts, “proof of principle” projects; initiation of new collaborations, consumables, new equipment, infrastructure, start-up funding to produce preliminary results for bigger applications or special events. **The available total budget in 2021 for all seed projects is ca 250.000 EUR, distributed over two calls for proposals.**

Seed money is not meant to fund personnel; however, in very exceptional cases funding for positions 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 31st December 2021. Funds that are not used by this date will go back to the ORIGINS Cluster as Cluster funds cannot be transferred across financial years.

Project presentation and selection

All proposals for Seed Money projects will be presented in a selection meeting, date tdb. venue: (provisional) ORIGINS Cluster or MIAPP Building hybrid meeting. Please nominate a proposer who can present your application in a **10 min presentation!** The committee will meet after all presentations and decide on the 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]
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]
Involvement of other institutions or infrastructure: [e. g. TUM, LMU, MPI, ESO, LRZ, FRMII, MLL, ...]
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 30 April, 2021. Interdisciplinary and inter-institutional projects are encouraged and will be given priority.