

Call for UT-WWU Strategic Collaboration Grants
University of Twente (UT) - University of Muenster (WWU) 2021-2022

In the framework of the Strategic Partnership between the University of Twente and the University of Muenster, the Executive Boards of the two universities have expressed their mutual interest in stimulating strategic joint research initiatives to enhance opportunities for collaboration.

The **UT-WWU Strategic Collaboration Grant** scheme aims at supporting joint research initiatives with potential for strategic results which will strengthen the international reputation and standings of both universities and allow access to new stakeholders (e.g., relevant international strategic networks, industrial and governmental parties) and to third-party funding.

Each UT-WWU Collaboration Grant comprises up to € 80k (for max. 12 months) to kickstart or intensify bilateral research cooperation. The grant can, for example, be used to fund a (joint) position, purchase equipment, arrange networking events for the set up of new consortia, or to realize participation of industrial parties/companies for a joint third-party funding application.

The **2021-2022 Call for Application** to the UT-WWU Strategic Collaboration Grant provides funding for three joint research initiatives. Scientists from all fields of research at UT and WWU are invited to apply under this scheme. Proposals that valorize synergies between the two institutions are particularly encouraged.

Rules for application

- The proposal is a collaboration between research teams from the University of Twente and the University of Muenster.
- The proposal is of high scientific quality. Collaborations with a clear outlook for future third-party funding are favored.
- The proposal is innovative, and it can be either fundamental or applied science.
- The proposal's results cannot be reached without the joint expertise from both applicants. Collaborations enhancing synergies between UT and WWU are favored.
- The proposal is in line with the strategies of both universities.
- The proposal is relevant for the Strategic Partnership of the UT and WWU.
- The proposal is realistic, represents a value of up to € 80k, and must be supported by a clear budget plan.
- The proposal outlines the future of the collaboration beyond the current application, in particular addressing external funding formats and a timeline.
- The proposal includes a clear exploitation plan for its results.
- Collaboration between the two parties is evident both in the research proposal and the budget plan.
- A project proposal can be submitted only once. A researcher can submit one project per year, as applicant or team member.
- All proposals must be written in English, in accordance with the official template of the relevant call.

Deadline for submission is **5 November 2021** – 17.00.00 CET.

Please send your proposal per Email (as a PDF) to:
ut-wwu-collaborationgrants@uni-muenster.de

Proposals retained for funding are expected to start their activities in early 2022.

For further information please contact:

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Evaluation of proposals

- A joint Evaluation Committee, consisting of independent scientists from the UT and the WWU, is in charge of the assessment of the Call for Application and evaluation of submitted proposals.
- The members of the joint Evaluation Committee cannot submit a proposal themselves.
- Each member of the joint Evaluation Committee assesses submitted proposals on the following established criteria:
 - scientific quality and innovation
 - valorization of synergies between UT and WWU
 - relevance for the Strategic Partnership
 - increase of international reputation and standings of both universities
 - access to new stakeholders (e.g., relevant international strategic networks, industrial and governmental parties)
 - feasibility of project and likelihood of obtaining external funding
- The joint Evaluation Committee assesses all proposals based on their scores on the above-mentioned criteria and produces a ranking list.
Based on the ranking list, the first 6 ranked proposals are invited to pitch their initiative in front of the joint Evaluation Committee and invited guests in a dedicated event on 28 January 2022. The joint Evaluation Committee ranks the finalists and sends the ranking as an advice to the Executive Boards.
- The final decision on the funding allocation is taken by the Executive Boards of UT and WWU, represented by the Rectors.
- Conditions of monitoring and reporting of funded proposals will be stated in the allocation letters.