

TURBO Programme

Background and objective/aim

The University of Twente and Radboudumc share a long history of collaboration, whereby they strengthen each other in education, valorisation and research. To collaborate strongly in research, in 2017 a collaborative programme was launched, named the **T**wente **U**niversity **R**adboudumc **O**pportunities (TURBO) programme. After 7 successful rounds, both institutes have committed to an 8th round in 2025.

Annually, the two institutions will jointly supply four TURBO grants of 80K€ each. These project-based grants will be awarded to four preferentially new collaborations between researchers from the University of Twente and Radboudumc. This pre-seed subsidy should support a joint grant application of a researcher of the University of Twente with a colleague of the Radboudumc. Typically, this concerns a collaborative grant application for the EU, NWO (e.g. crossover or TTW-grants), NWA routes, EFRO, Interreg etc. The grants can be spent freely, with an emphasis on generating sufficient background for the new grant proposal. The grants can, for example, be used to hire (new) scientific personnel, purchase equipment, arrange networking events for the set-up of new consortia, or realize participation of industrial parties/companies for a joint grant application.

Scope

In May 2024, Radboudumc and the University of Twente will further intensify their collaboration. The TURBO projects should be in line with the ambition to align the unmet clinical need with technology to improve health and healthcare by developing new diagnostic methods and new and improved therapies for diseases that currently cannot be diagnosed or treated well. Opportunities to improve lie amongst others in development and application of new technological methods (e.g. organ-on-a-chip), the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning for the analysis of large amounts of data, technological developments related to e-health, as well as legal, safety, ethical, financial, risk-associated, and practical considerations that are key to the implementation of medical technology. Therefore, the projects could concern innovation in Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) with technology (in collaboration with the domain of care & wellbeing).

Although TURBO projects could take place in all of these fields, the major aim of the TURBO-assisted grant application should be to get the application a step closer to the market. This means that the projects should focus on a transition of Technology Readiness Level (TRL) or Societal Readiness Level (SRL). A preference is given to the higher levels (TRL or SRL of 5 or above).

Criteria

Collaboration / Applicants

- The project is a collaboration between a researcher from the University of Twente (scientific staff or tenure track) and a Radboudumc RGL, a Talent Tracker (TT), or a member of a Radboudumc RLG-research group. The RGL is part of the application team but is not necessarily the main applicant.
- A researcher is allowed to submit only one project as applicant or team member. Those who received a TURBO grant as main applicant in last year's round cannot apply in this round. Those who received a TURBO grant in any previous round could apply if they fulfilled the conditions of TURBO, i.e. applied for an external grant based on the TURBO project.
- Collaboration between the two parties is evident both in the research proposal and the budget plan. The project's aim cannot be met without the joint expertise of the applicants from both Institutions. Please note that new collaborations are favored above existing collaborations.
- Collaboration with additional applicants is possible, but the TURBO resources remain internally at UT and Radboudumc. Other partners can bring in additional resources for the project.

Project

- Projects bring together health and technology (in the broadest sense). Projects should be innovative and can be fundamental, applied or implementation science. Higher TRLs or SLRs are preferred.
- The focus of the project and the envisioned external grant application should be integrated in a Radboudumc Research Program and on the interface of unmet need conditions, health and/ or medical technologies, building on existing data sources/ infrastructures.
- The proposed external funding body is known, and accompanying application deadlines are within max. 15 months after the start of the TURBO project.

Budget

- According to the TURBO grant budget plan format, the project represents a value of 80k€ and has to be supported by a clear budget plan.
- The budget will be to the department of the main applicants. We strive to have an even distribution of the budget: 40 k€ to the main applicant from Twente University and 40 k€ to the main applicant from Radboudumc.
- The project is feasible with the funded subsidy (80k€) and within the proposed time span of max. 1 year. The project includes the finalization of an external grant application within the project time span.

Evaluation committee

- The evaluation committee is (preferentially) chaired by an external representative.
- There are two permanently appointed members; one from each institution.
- There are two scientific experts taking a seat on the committee, representing the reviewers.
- Grant advisors of both institutions are represented.

Every proposal is first evaluated by at least two independent scientific experts (reviewers) and a grant advisor from each institution according to the criteria: (scientific) quality (50%), feasibility of project and likelihood of obtaining additional funding (20%), innovativeness (15%) and (societal) impact (15%).

Eventually the proposals will be discussed by an evaluation committee consisting of the scientific experts and grant advisors from both institutions. Projects that do not fulfil the general criteria and required focus will not be taken into consideration by this evaluation committee. The combined scores of both institutions are the basis for a final ranking by the evaluation committee.

The evaluation committee must come to a unanimous agreement. If no consensus can be reached, the chairperson will make the final decision.

Time schedule

23 April 2024	Announcement TURBO round 2025
15 July 2024	Deadline full proposal TURBO grant
15 July – 15 Sept 2024	Applications evaluated by reviewers and the committee
16 October 2024 15:30-17:30	Granting meeting (online or live)
Not later than 1 Jan 2025	Start of projects
31 December 2025	End of projects and draft grant proposal written
1 April 2026	Submitted grant application at external funding body at the latest

For more information

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Programme manager at Radboudumc: Frank Kruijsbeek (frank.kruijsbeek@radboudumc.nl)

Submit your application documents to techmed@utwente.nl

Attachments

- 1) Application form TURBO programme
 - 2) Budget plan format TURBO programme
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