



September 15, 2018

Request for Proposals

Freiburg - Penn State Collaboration Development Program 2019

Penn State University and the Albert Ludwigs University of Freiburg are seeking proposals to foster collaborative, sustainable, self-supporting research programs. The Collaboration Development Program has been created to provide **seed money** opportunities for faculty teams to develop plans for long-term programs integrating students and faculty from both universities. Proposals are expected to focus upon program development to enable future collaborative efforts, including work on preliminary research ideas to demonstrate proof-of-concept. The program supports research stays, joint conferences, virtual seminars and activities for younger researchers.

The 2019 program focuses on a topic derived from the intersection of the strategic objectives from both universities:

Water-Energy-Food Systems; Sustainability and Health

The successful seed fund programs should clearly demonstrate linkage and support of the topic.

This program is open to faculty members affiliated with the University of Freiburg and Penn State in all disciplines. The application should include between 1 to 4 researchers from both sides.

Successful teams will be those which will (i) demonstrate a clear potential to be sustainable through external funding sources and (ii) involve a clear collaborative effort between faculty members on both Freiburg and Penn State sides.

The Partners

Penn State University is a leader in higher education and carries out its mission of teaching, research, and service with pride and focus on the future. The Collaboration Development Program is part of Penn State's strategy for building a Global Penn State through a network of strategic partnerships with peer institutions around the world. Further information on Global Penn State can be found at: <https://global.psu.edu>.

Trinational – European – Global: The University of Freiburg (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg) is one of Europe's strongest research universities. Thanks to its broad spectrum of academic fields, the University of Freiburg has great potential for innovative fundamental research – both at the core of individual disciplines and in collaborative interdisciplinary research. To implement its internationalization goals, the University of Freiburg is involved in both European and non-European networks; five key partnerships are of particular importance, one of them with the Penn State University. More information: www.uni-freiburg.de

Collaboration Development Program – Overview

1. Proposals must identify and include 1 to 4 participants respectively from the University of Freiburg and Penn State.
2. A one-time award with no opportunity for renewal.
3. The support is worth 12.500 Euro + 15.000 USD in total per group for 12 months plus administrative support for holding conferences and guest researchers' stays. The budget will be evenly allocated at both sites.
4. The program will support research stays at the Partner University, workshops and conferences, activities for junior researchers, longer fellowship stays and invitations of international partners. The seed grant funds cannot be used for faculty salary or stipend, indirect/administrative costs, to hire a consultant or contractor, and for general equipment expenses (laptops, ipads, printers, etc.). All air travel must be Economy Class. Please inquire with your university contact for clarification if an expense is allowable.
5. Up to **2** groups can be funded.
6. On the Freiburg side, the research stays and workshops/ conferences will be facilitated by the Freiburg Institute of Advanced Studies (FRIAS).

Proposal Format and Eligibility

1. Applicant teams are invited to submit the completed application form in one pdf file (incl. appendix) to the contact persons below.
2. The appendix should include:
 - 1 page CVs of the project faculty members.
3. Applicant teams must submit the complete application dossier by the specified deadline. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Page limits may not be exceeded.
4. Eligibility: The call is directed at teams that contain at least one faculty member of the two universities. Team members need to hold a position at their respective university for the duration of the project.

Proposal Evaluation

1. The selection under the program is competitive and merit-based. A joint academic selection panel from Penn State and University of Freiburg will evaluate and select the projects to be funded on the basis of written peer review assessments.
2. Funding priority will be given to projects that:

- a. Are of high academic quality.
 - b. Advance creation of self-supporting, sustainable, collaborative research, and provide a funding plan beyond year 1
 - c. Strengthen the connectivity and relationship between University of Freiburg and Penn State
 - d. Create a team with multiple faculty at each university.
3. The evaluation criteria and weighting:
 - a. Academic merit (30%)
 - b. The plan to produce a self-supporting, sustainable collaboration program (50%)
 - c. Potential and plans to create a strong integrated collaboration between the universities with multiple faculty involvement at each institution (20 %)

Timeline

The deadline for applications is November 01, 2018.

Selection decisions will be announced by mid-December 2018.

Activities of the supported teams should start January 01, 2019.

Contact

It is recommended that researchers interested in this program should please contact the Penn State/ Freiburg Collaboration Center in advance to preparing an application.

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