

Bern, 31 December 2022

Call for Applications for the Funding of Global Health Initiatives

The Faculty of Medicine of the University of Bern seeks to strengthen its international network in research and is launching this call for applications for funding. The call is aimed at senior researchers of the Faculty of Medicine and their international partners who wish to jointly build a sustainable academic cooperation in the area of Global Health.

The Faculty of Medicine of the University of Bern has earmarked a budget of CHF 300'000 per year over a period of up to 5 years. No matching funds will be expected.

Funded are global health initiatives, aiming at strengthening or building international academic links. Activities may entail the funding of the exchange of visiting scholars, young researchers and PhD students, joint scientific workshops, writing grants for joint submissions, seed money grants, etc. The funding is not meant to finance research equipment or consumables. Applications may contain several activities within the above-mentioned budget commitments.

Eligibility

Eligible to apply are members of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Bern, as well as academically active senior attendings (Leitende Ärzt*innen) of the University Hospital Inselspital Bern and senior scientific assistants (Oberassistent*innen) of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Bern.

Eligible partner institutions must be mentioned on the list of the United Nations¹ (with a human development index ≤ 0.611).

Submission and Deadlines

The application process is structured in two stages. First, a letter of intent must be submitted by including the following attachments:

- **Letter of intent** clearly pointing out the strategic potential of the proposed research collaboration (max. 3 A4 pages, excluding the bibliography; minimum of 10-point font size; 1.5 line spacing). The letter should delineate the research objective and project design.
- **Written endorsement statement** of the director/ head of the submitting department/institute of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Bern, and/or the University Hospital Inselspital Bern to support the application
- **Written endorsement statement** by an authorized senior representative of the partner institution indicating their support for the initiative.

¹ <https://hdr.undp.org/en/countries>

- **CVs of applicants** including research achievements and publications in the last 5 years should be submitted using the Swiss National Science Foundation format. ²

In a second stage, a full application of up to 20 A4 pages will be requested from pre-selected projects.

Deadlines:

The Faculty of Medicine sets a period of six months between publication of the call and submission of a letter of intent. This allows prospective candidates to intensively, sustainably and credibly review and provide written evidence of the collaboration, including a binding commitment for matching funds by legitimate persons of the partner institution.

Letter of intent: **30 June 2023** to be submitted electronically via Selectus:
<https://www.grants.medizin.unibe.ch/positiondetails/5931010>

Full application: *by invitation*

Selection Criteria

- i) The call is open to all disciplines of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Bern.
- ii) It is hoped that this program will develop a sustainable partnership between institutions and the application should delineate milestones how this can be achieved during a period of 3-5 years with the potential of extension long-term.
- iii) The application will be expected to show how mutual benefits will be gained for both institutions beyond individual research groups.
- iv) The application should show how the Nagoya protocol requirements would be fulfilled.³
- v) Issues of gender equality and minorities must be considered.

Any administrative questions may be addressed to grants.meddek@unibe.ch.

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Prof. Dr. C.L.A. Bassetti
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² <https://www.snf.ch/en/f8TLKrHtiavVbevW/page/funding/documents-downloads/guidelines-cv-research-output-list>

³ <https://www.cbd.int/abs/>