

Bern, 31 December 2022

Call for Applications for the Funding of International Networking Activities in Research

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.

The Faculty of Medicine of the University of Bern has earmarked a budget of CHF 150'000 per year over a period of up to 5 years. The partner institution will be expected to provide 1:1 matching funds over the same period of time with new ring-fenced funding for the initiative.

Funded are networking activities in research, aiming at strengthening or building academic links with an international research partner. 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. 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.

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 and the willingness to consider matching funding.

- **CVs of applicants** including research achievements and publications in the last 5 years should be submitted using the Swiss National Science Foundation format. ¹

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/5931011>

Full application: *by invitation*

Selection Criteria

- i) The call is open to all disciplines of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Bern.
- ii) The willingness of the partner institution to consider matching funding. A firm commitment will be expected at the stage of a full application.
- iii) 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.
- iv) Applications will be expected to show how complementary scholastic resources or infrastructure in the different partner institutions achieve added value for both.
- v) Applications will be expected to show how mutual benefits will be gained for both institutions beyond individual research groups.
- vi) Issues of gender equality and minorities must be considered.

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

Bern, 31 December 2022

Prof. Dr. C.L.A. Bassetti
Dean Medical Faculty

¹ <https://www.snf.ch/en/f8TLKrHtiavVbevww/page/funding/documents-downloads/guidelines-cv-research-output-list>