



## **EXCELLENCE STRATEGY SUBPROJECT »EXPANDING INTERNATIONALITY«**

### **CALL FOR PROPOSALS »MOBILITY IN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS«**

**Funding period: 1 July to 31 December 2026**

Within the Excellence Strategy, the subproject »Expanding Internationality« provides funding to support international exchange in research collaborations.

This funding line is intended to support the further internationalization of Heidelberg University, in particular by fostering connections between researchers at our university and international partners. In addition, the funding line aims to encourage bi- and multilateral cooperation with international partners and the development of thematic networks. The funding measure focuses in particular on the partners and target regions of Heidelberg University that are important as part of the internationalization strategy: This strategy especially targets the Centers Abroad and the regions affiliated with them and universities involved in the 4EU+ University Alliance.

Within this framework, funding may also be granted for research stays of Heidelberg University researchers at Harvard University in order to facilitate the initiation and further development of joint research and cooperation projects.

#### **1. OBJECTIVES OF THE FUNDING LINE**

Objectives of the program include:

- Supporting the networking of researchers at Heidelberg University with international cooperation partners
- Initiation, implementation and further development of joint research and cooperation projects
- Preparing and implementing of projects within the funding lines »Strategic Partnership Grant« and »Explorer Seed Fund« of the Heidelberg | Harvard collaboration.

#### **2. FUNDING AND SCOPE**

Funding is available for mobility measures involving researchers from Heidelberg University visiting international partner institutions:

- **Short-term mobility (1–14 days)**  
Travel and accommodation costs
- **Research stays (1–2 months)**  
Travel and research grants for doctoral researchers

The maximum funding amount per project is 7.500 EUR.

Eligible measures must be completed by 31 December 2026.

The following are **NOT** eligible for funding:

- Individual doctoral research projects
- Conference and congress travel without integration into a concrete cooperation project

### 3. APPLICATION

#### 3.1 ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants are:

- Professors and postdoctoral researchers at Heidelberg University

#### 3.2 APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Applications must include:

- Application form
- Project outline (max. 5 pages) including:
  - Description of the project (research or networking)
  - Planned collaboration
  - Added value of the mobility measure for Heidelberg University with regard to existing and planned collaborations
- Budget plan
- Letter of support from the respective institute or unit at Heidelberg University

#### 3.3 APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications must be submitted **by May 26, 2026**, in electronic form as **a single PDF file** sent to:

[expanding.internationality@uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:expanding.internationality@uni-heidelberg.de)

### 4. SELECTION

Selection will be made by a Selection Committee chaired by the Vice Rector for International Affairs and Diversity.

Key selection criteria include:

- Quality and coherence of the proposed project
- Added value of the planned cooperation for Heidelberg University
- Contribution to the sustainable development of the collaboration
- In the case of proposals of projects within the Heidelberg | Harvard cooperation: contribution to the further development and sustainable continuation of the collaborative projects

Aspects of equal opportunity and diversity are taken into consideration.

### 5. KEY INFORMATION

- **Only complete applications can be considered.**
- **Approval may be granted with an adjustment of the funding amount.**
- **Information on cost calculation and administrative procedures can be found in the FAQ.**

**CONTACT:** Heidelberg University – International Relations Division – Excellence Strategy Project  
»Expanding Internationality« [expanding.internationality@uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:expanding.internationality@uni-heidelberg.de)

Prof. Dr. Marc-Philippe Weller  
Vice Rector International Affairs and Diversity

Dr. Alexander Au  
Head of International Relations Division

## 6. FAQ

### 1. WHICH COSTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

- Eligible costs include travel and accommodation expenses within the scope of short-term mobility of up to 14 days (early career) researchers of Heidelberg University, as well as travel and research grants for stays of up to 2 months for doctoral candidates without an employment contract at Heidelberg University.

### 2. HOW ARE TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION COSTS REIMBURSED?

- For individuals employed by Heidelberg University, expenses are reimbursed as part of an official business trip in accordance with the applicable regulations.
- For doctoral candidates without an employment contract, a travel allowance (round-trip travel allowance) may be granted, based on the rates of the [DAAD](#).

### 3. WHAT IS THE FELLOWSHIP RATE FOR DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS?

- The fellowship rate for doctoral candidates is based on the DAAD scholarship rates, using [the DAAD scholarship calculator for research fellowships](#) as a reference.

### 4. WHAT RULES APPLY TO COST CALCULATION FOR OFFICIAL TRAVEL?

- Travel and flight costs are generally to be calculated based on economy class or second-class fares.
- Accommodation costs are based on the standard rates set out in the Foreign Travel Expenses Ordinance ([Annex to ARVVwV](#)).

### 5. CAN CONFERENCE TRAVEL ALSO BE FUNDED?

- Only if it is clearly integrated into an existing or planned collaborative project.

### 6. WHAT MUST BE OBSERVED IN CASE OF FUNDING APPROVAL?

- The approved funds may only be used for the types of eligible expenses specified in the funding decision. Any changes must be requested from and approved by the International Relations Division.
- The respective project lead is responsible for the disbursement of fellowships and travel grants. Business travel authorization and expense claims must be signed by the sending institute or unit.

### 7. CAN A FELLOWSHIP BE GRANTED IN ADDITION TO AN EXISTING EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT AT HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY?

- No. An exception applies to contracts as student assistants (up to 40 hours per month), provided there is no substantive or temporal overlap with the fellowship.

### 8. CONTACT FOR INFORMATION

- If you have any questions, please contact the International Relations Division at [expanding.internationality@uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:expanding.internationality@uni-heidelberg.de)
-