



Tenth call for flagship projects funded by Saarland University's Internationalization Fund

Funding for Transform4Europe Fellowships

Saarland University has an outstanding international profile that is reflected in the large number of international degree programmes offered, the above-average proportion of international students and graduates, a strong European focus with particular emphasis on France, a wide range of active international partnerships, and close cross-border collaboration within the University of the Greater Region (UniGR) and the European university alliance Transform4Europe (T4EU).

At Saarland University, internationalization spans all aspects of university life and is an essential pillar of the university's development strategy. To further strengthen its international profile, Saarland University is seeking to build new academic collaborations and partnerships in research and teaching, as well as actively contribute to developing European university alliances.

Early-career researchers have the potential to play a particularly important role in this internationalization process. This potential will now be fostered more directly by placing greater emphasis on doctoral and postdoctoral researchers within the T4EU alliance. The aim is to strengthen the international profile of early-career researchers and to support their integration into academic networks within the T4EU alliance and so lay the foundations for long-term academic collaboration with T4EU partners. At the same time, networking initiatives that connect the participating professorships and research groups will be strengthened.

Saarland University's Internationalization Committee is therefore announcing its tenth call for flagship projects in the following area: **Funding for Transform4Europe Fellowships**

This call for applications supports researchers who are conducting research at Saarland University and who plan to use this funding to undertake a research stay hosted by at least one other [T4EU partner institution](#), and who qualify for a T4EU Fellowship on the basis of their academic profile and research project. Specifically, the proposed funding measure includes:



- Funding for 25% of a doctoral or postdoctoral position for a period of 24 months. The remaining share of the position (75%) must be financed from other sources, e.g. by the supervising/host institution(s).
- A travel allowance of €4,000 per year, to be used exclusively for travel to the relevant T4EU partner university/universities.
- A contribution of €3,000 towards organizing an academic conference or workshop.

Teaching conducted at a partner institution will be recognized in accordance with provisions set out in Saarland University's guidance note 'Recognition of teaching activities undertaken as part of an international or national staff mobility programme'.

Funding may be awarded to **doctoral researchers and postdoctoral researchers who must be employed at Saarland University for the entire funding period. Postdoctoral researchers must have completed their doctorate no more than six years prior to the start of funding and must be employed at Saarland University on a fixed-term contract.** Periods of childcare and parental leave will be taken into account.

Persons who receive funding as a T4EU Fellow make the following commitments:

- to actively involve the relevant T4EU partner(s) in the planned research project
- to physically relocate to the partner institution(s) for a total period of three months, with at least one month per year spent at the partner institution
- to publish at least one academic paper, ideally in collaboration with professors from Saarland University and the T4EU partner institution
- in the case of doctoral research: to complete the doctorate via a cotutelle agreement (a jointly supervised binational doctorate), or – if cotutelle supervision is not possible – via the T4EU PhD Tracks programme
- to initiate a joint project, for example in the form of (hybrid) teaching activities for students from two (or more) T4EU institutions; a one-week in-person seminar at one of the participating universities; a summer school at one of the institutions that focuses on their joint research project; etc.

The International Relations Division will be pleased to advise you on formulating your application and, where appropriate, connect you with other experts or resources at Saarland University.



Eligibility: Applications may be submitted by all professors at Saarland University.

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Academic quality of the proposed activity (30%)
- Potential for strategic networking within the T4EU alliance (30%)
- Potential for the T4EU Fellow to develop their own network (20%)
- Prospects for follow-on projects funded from other sources (10%)
- Use of complementary/alternative funding sources (10%)

Funding from the Internationalization Fund will only be provided if standard funding options are not available and funding from other central funds or from external budgets is not possible.

Selection process

- Applications must be submitted to the International Relations Division (intfonds@uni-saarland.de) using the [application form](#) via the Dean of the faculty or the management of the institution or organizational unit applying.
- Applications may be submitted in German, French or English. If you wish to submit an application in French or English, please enclose an abstract in German with your application (max. length: 2,000 characters incl. spaces). The abstract should contain a brief description of the proposed measure or project at Saarland University and the T4EU partner institution(s) and should explain how it will contribute to strengthening internationalization.
- **Application deadlines: 10 June 2026 (further applications may be submitted by 15 October 2026 and 1 March 2027 subject to the availability of funds)**
- You will be notified of the outcome of your funding application within one month after the next scheduled meeting of the Internationalization Committee and following approval from the University Board. The scheduled meeting dates are listed in the committee calendar on Saarland University's website.
- All publications produced in association with the funded project (e.g. posters, flyers, websites, funding acknowledgement in academic publications) should include the words 'Funded by the Internationalization Fund of Saarland University' together with the Saarland University logo.



- The research group/professor submitting the application is required to submit a project and financial report to the International Relations Division no later than three months after completion of the project. The report must provide details of project implementation and of how the funds were used. (The report form is available online or can be made available to you on request.)
- The research group/professor submitting the application should inform the university's Press Office about the project and its content and should provide further information for reporting purposes as required. Information may also be made available and shared via the International Relations Division's Instagram accounts.