Sixth call for flagship projects within the framework of the Saarland University Internationalization Fund focusing on funding for international post-doctoral research projects

Saarland University has an outstanding international profile thanks to the very high number of international degree programmes, the continuously far above-average proportion of international students and graduates, its European focus with particular emphasis on France, the large number of active partnerships and close cross-border cooperation as part of the University of the Greater Region and, since 2020, through its European university alliance Transform4Europe (T4EU).

One group of people that could be particularly important for strengthening the international profile of Saarland University is post-doctoral researchers. The Internationalization Committee of Saarland University aims to support their activities by focusing on its sixth call for flagship projects fostering the international contacts of post-doctoral researchers in order to increase their visibility and networking with international research communities so they can develop their own global networks and collaborate with researchers worldwide.

Funding is available in particular for new and innovative projects and programmes (or existing projects that are further developed with new partners and/or elements as well as new projects that are initiated with existing partners) that support the internationalization of post-doctoral researchers and, in line with the internationalization objectives, contribute to the further internationalization of Saarland University.

Examples include organizing international conferences, meetings, symposia and workshops (with at least 30% international speakers/participants), grants for short-term research stays of international visiting scholars, projects in the area of international science communication and science didactics, international research projects such as smaller collaborative projects with European/international partners, workshops or meetings in preparation for possible externally funded projects with international partners, etc.

Projects may be started at any time after approval; projects must be completed no later than 31 October 2024.
The funding amount for individual projects is up to € 10,000. If partners from the University of the Greater Region, France or the Transform4Europe university alliance are involved, the maximum funding amount may be increased to € 15,000.

The International Relations Division will be pleased to advise you on the conceptual design of your projects. If necessary, support can also be provided with regard to involving further sources of expertise at Saarland University and also finding suitable partners within the University of the Greater Region or the Transform4Europe alliance.

All post-doctoral researchers (holders of a doctorate with a fixed-term position at the university whose doctorate was awarded no more than six years ago) and junior professors in the faculties (whose doctorate was likewise awarded no more than six years ago) are eligible to apply. Periods of childcare and parental leave will be taken into account.

The measures for which funding is applied for will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- To what extent does the project contribute to building new international partnerships? To what extent does the project contribute to raising the international profile and expanding the network of the post-doctoral researcher(s)?
- In the case of research projects: To what extent is the research question innovative and what added value does the international cooperation bring?
- For projects with T4EU or UniGR partners: To what degree are they involved? To what extent does the project contribute to the expansion and strengthening of the UniGR or Transform4Europe alliance? What effects are expected in the medium and long term?
- Are other complementary funding sources being used (external funding, other central funds, other funding programmes)? An overview of internal and external funding opportunities as well as external funding sources can be found here.

Eligible costs
- Project costs (including teaching assignments, research assistants)
- Travel expenses
- Project duration: 31 October 2024
Funding from the Internationalization Fund will only be provided if no standard funding options, no sufficient funding (e.g. from other central funds) and no external funding are available for the project.

Examples of ineligible measures include:

- Individual applications (scholarships) for students (incoming, outgoing)
- Travel expenses that can be funded via Erasmus+ mobility funds for researchers and lecturers
- Projects aimed at the internationalization of study programmes that are eligible for the teaching and studying fund
- Graduate training projects that can be funded through GradUS Global

**Selection process**

- Applications must be submitted using the application form via the Dean of the faculty (or the management of the institution applying) to the International Relations Division (intfonds@uni-saarland.de).
- Applications may also be submitted in English.
- **Application deadlines: 15 June 2023 and, if funds are still available, 15 October 2023**
- Decisions regarding the (non-)approval of funding will be issued within one month of the application deadline.
- All publications resulting from the funded measure (e.g. posters, flyers, websites) should include the words “funded by the Internationalization Fund of Saarland University” together with the Saarland University logo.
- Applicants are required to submit a project and financial report detailing the implementation of the project and the use of funds to the International Relations Division no later than three months after the completion of the project (a form will be provided).
- The applicant will inform the university’s Press and Public Relations Office about the project and the overall content, providing further information for reporting purposes as required.