

Baden-Württemberg & Massachusetts Partnership on Educational Exchange and Cooperation

2027 Researcher Mobility Program – Call for joint research seed fund proposals

The [University of Massachusetts Amherst](#) (UMass Amherst, UMA) and the [Ministry of Science, Research and Arts, State of Baden-Württemberg](#) (BW) support joint collaborations through the UMA-BW Researcher Mobility Program. The aim of the program is to support the development of new collaborations through organized research visits, collaborative meetings, workshops, or seminars, with UMA and the [nine research universities in Baden-Württemberg](#). Up to four Principal Investigators (PIs) will be funded in 2027 jointly in Baden-Württemberg, Germany, through the BW Ministry and at UMass Amherst. Projects leading to long-term collaborations and sustained research relationships, and generating publications, exhibitions, and/or grants for external funding will be prioritized for funding.

Project proposals should articulate a connection with one of the following themes:

- Health, Performance, and Well-being
- Agriculture and Food Systems
- Climate, Sustainability, and Energy

Details of the **Baden-Württemberg, Germany & Massachusetts State-to-State Program** can be found here:
<https://www.umass.edu/global-affairs/global-partnerships/partners/spotlight>

Scope of Program

This seed funding program supports UMass AND BW research university collaborators in convening a research visit, collaborative meeting, workshop, or research seminar in Massachusetts or Baden-Württemberg.

Proposals should be prepared, submitted and led jointly by a UMass faculty member AND a BW faculty member, to establish a new/emerging collaboration or target identified extramural funding for an existing relationship. Applications from researchers with well-established collaborations will only be considered if they clearly articulate a commitment to targeting identified extramural funding opportunities.

There is no limit to the number of academic staff members who can participate in proposals, with the involvement of Early Career Researchers (ECRs) strongly encouraged. **Interdisciplinary proposals, involving researchers from different disciplines and faculties, are also strongly encouraged.**

Funding Available

Four emerging grants for new/emerging collaborations for PIs with commitments to submit a proposal to an identified extramural funding opportunity. Each emerging grant will be funded up to \$5,000 for the UMA partner for travel to BW and other costs associated to the project (see below eligible costs) and up to €3,000 for the BW partner for travel to UMA. PIs should request funds based on the scope of their proposed activities, providing justification for costs. The coordination offices at UMA and in BW will transfer funds directly to PIs respectively. Funds can be combined with other funding resources unless the other funding sources have restrictions for combined use.

Projects should be planned to start from January 2027, with UMA grant spending completed by January 31, 2028 and BW grant spending completed by December 31, 2027, for all PIs. Funds not spent by the end of the funding period will be transferred back to UMA or BW so that unspent balances can be reallocated.

The summary below outlines the eligible and ineligible costs to be included in the budget, noting that fund administration at UMA or BW reserves the right to determine the eligibility of costs.

Eligible costs

- Travel costs for the PIs (faculty) and other UMA and BW researchers named in the proposal, including research associate/postdoctoral fellows. This includes flights, accommodation, and subsistence.
- Funds can include outward travel costs to visit UMA or BW and/or inward ones to invite UMA or BW researchers named in the proposal.
- Other costs associated with organizing workshops, seminars, and meetings between the two universities
- International journal submission fees for joint research papers
- Research or experiment-related software purchases required for research collaborations between the two universities
- Costs to assist with grant application preparation such as grant-writing, copy-editing, or graphics services

Ineligible costs

- Research costs, including consumables and existing staff time
- Faculty salaries, including summer salaries and costs to buy out of teaching or other assigned responsibilities
- Directly incurred staff costs, for example, Research/Teaching Assistants
- Scholarships, tuition, and fees for students
- Honoraria of any kind
- Conference attendance fees

Eligibility Criteria

Applications must be led by a UMA faculty member and a BW faculty member jointly.

PIs must hold a faculty or librarian (UMA) appointment at UMA or a BW research university, with research as part of their assigned duties at the time of application and for the duration of the award.

Faculty with joint appointments between UMA or a BW institution and another institution should ensure that their appointing institution(s)/organization(s) are aware of their application and safeguard against any possible conflicts of interest, etc.

Evaluation of Projects

The proposals will be reviewed according to the following criteria

- **Alignment with themes.** Does the proposal clearly articulate a connection to one of the themes described above? What is the strength of that connection?
- **Collaborator complementarity:** What is the added value of the new or emerging collaboration? How does the proposed activity combine mutual areas of interest and strength?
- **Desired impact:** What desired outcomes do the planned activities set out to achieve? What are the anticipated benefits of the proposal or its desired outcomes for local or international communities?
- **Capacity for future collaboration/funding:** For the emerging grants, applicants should address: What is the potential for this proposal to foster ongoing collaboration, and through what mechanisms? How well does the proposed collaboration plan to access or pursue external funding? Specificity of targeted opportunity will be rated highly as part of the evaluation process.

Reporting and Publications

Successful PIs will be required to submit a report within one month of the formal completion date of the project. This report needs to outline the activities undertaken, grant expenditure breakdown, opportunities that have been identified, and future planned actions for the research program.

Any publications (e.g., abstracts, articles) or dissemination of research (e.g. public presentations) arising from activities supported by this Grant should acknowledge financial assistance received from the UMA-BW Researcher Mobility Program. Copies of the publications and/or information about the presentations should be included in the above report or notification provided to the coordination offices in BW and at UMA – the Office of International Affairs at the University of Hohenheim (UHOH) for BW and the Office of Global Affairs at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The title for acknowledgment is “UMA-BW Researcher Mobility Program, provided by the University of Massachusetts Amherst and the Ministry of Science, Research and Arts, State of Baden-Württemberg.”

Changes in Investigators and Extensions

If circumstances change – for example, the PI or a team member leaves the project – awardees must provide notification to the coordination offices in BW and at UMA – the Office of International Affairs at the UHOH for BW and the Office of Global Affairs at UMA. All changes must be approved in writing.

Call Timeline

Call opens	1 July 2026
Application deadline	31 October 2026 at 12:00 (Amherst)
Announcement of selections	Late November – Early December 2026
Funding periods	BW: 1 January 2027 – 31 December 2027 UMA: 1 January 2027 – 31 January 2028

Application Process

Applications written on the designated application form should be submitted to coordination offices in BW and at UMA – the Office of International Affairs at the UHOH for BW (bw-umass@ua.uni-hohenheim.de) and the Office of Global Affairs at UMA (ewirth@umass.edu) via email by **31 October 2026 (at 12:00 Amherst)**. Applications should be written in English and for an audience proficient, but not expert, in the field.

Contacts

For inquiries on the BW-UMA Joint Research Seed Fund or potential counterpart researcher matching, please contact either of the following contact points:

UMA PIs: Eric Wirth, Manager of Global Partnerships, Vice Provost’s Office of Global Affairs, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Email: ewirth@umass.edu

BW PIs: Olubukola Aloba, Coordinator BW-UMass state-to-state-program, Office of International Affairs, University of Hohenheim, Email: bw-umass@ua.uni-hohenheim.de



Application Form

University of Massachusetts / Baden-Württemberg Research Mobility Program

Applicant Information UMA

First Name	Last Name	Title
Department	College/School/Faculty/Research Center	Email

Applicant Information BW

First Name	Last Name	Title
Department	College/School/Faculty/Research Center	Email

Proposal

Outline the initial contact with a faculty member at a BW/UMass Institution			
Duration of Activity			
	Proposed Start Date	Proposed End Date	
Provide a short description of the proposed partnership. (750 words total for this question and the next one on outcomes).			
Expected outcomes.			



Abstract (75 words)

Provide a short abstract of proposal (no more than 75 words) that, if funded, could be used for publicity and notice.

Budget Proposal – Cost Estimates

Please attach a project budget in spreadsheet form, indicating any co-funding or in-kind support from your College/School/Unit or project partner(s). Detail all financial implications of the proposed activities (e.g.: software, travel expenses, accommodation, etc.).

Supporting Documents (Optional)

You may attach additional information that helps to explain your research or clarify an aspect of your application. This can include, but is not limited to, images, diagrams, tables or graphs.

Sign & Date

For BW

For UMA

Signature, Date	Signature, Date



Report Form

BW-UMA Joint Research Seed Fund 2027

Dates		
Venue (if any)		
BW PI	Name	
	Job Title	
	Affiliation	
	E-mail Address	
UMA PI	Name	
	Job Title	
	Affiliation	
	E-mail Address	
Overview of the Funded Activities *Project goals, the extent to which the aims and objectives were achieved, etc. **Any URLs, photos, figures, workshop flier, etc. for reference can be added here or in separate documents.		
Outcomes from the Funded Activities *Planned publications, grant applications, co-teaching module planning, etc.		
Report on the Fund		
Total		USD or EUR

BW-UMA Joint Research Seed Fund 2027

UMA Budget

Overview

Name:

Department:

Purpose: e.g. BW-UMA Joint Research Seed Fund, provided by University of Massachusetts Amherst

Department Business Manager (Name & Email)

If Traveling: Trip Description

Destination

Travel dates (from – to): *mm/dd/yyyy – mm/dd/yyyy*

Total Budget Request (USD):

Cost Estimates:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Explanation / Additional Information</u>
TOTAL:	\$	

General reminders:

Budget Sheet should be completed and sent to OGA for review.

Four grants up to \$5000 will be funded for new/emerging collaborations

Budget request cannot exceed \$5000. Grants cannot be used for salaries or equipment

All budget amounts are understood to be the best of your ability at time of request.

Funds will expire 12/31/27 for BW grantees, and 1/31/28 for UMA grantees, these cannot be extended.

If your budget includes international travel:

[Information for Faculty & Staff Traveling Abroad](#)

Complete the Travel Registry process for your trip!

BW-UMA Joint Research Seed Fund 2027

BW Budget

Overview

Name:

Department:

BW University:

Purpose: e.g. BW-UMA Joint Research Seed Fund, provided by the BW Ministry

If Traveling: Trip Description

Destination

Travel dates (from – to): *mm/dd/yyyy – mm/dd/yyyy*

Total Budget Request (EUR):

Cost Estimates:

Description	Amount	Explanation / Additional Information
TOTAL:		€

General reminders:

Four grants up to €3000 will be funded for new/emerging collaborations.

Budget request cannot exceed €3000. Grants can only be used for travel from BW to UMA.

All budget amounts are understood to be the best of your ability at time of request.

Funds will expire 12/31/27 for BW grantees, and 1/31/28 for UMA grantees, these cannot be extended.

If your budget includes international travel:

Funding is provided as a lump-sum grant to cover travel and living expenses and is transferred to a university account.

When planning the trip, the provisions of the State Travel Expenses Act (Landesreisekostengesetz) must be observed.