



Seed Funding 2027

for Collaborative Research Projects between the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg and the University of Tübingen

	The University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) and the University of Tübingen (UT) jointly provide seed funding to strengthen research collaboration within their strategic partnership. Applicants from all schools and disciplines are encouraged to submit joint proposals.
Purpose	To catalyse the development of innovative, long-term research collaborations by providing early-stage resources that position research projects for larger external funding opportunities.
Availability of Funding	This call is published subject to the availability and approval of funding by both Wits and UT.
Max. Grant Amount	Up to 125,000 ZAR from Wits and up to €6,500 from UT may be awarded per collaborative project. Applicants are expected to request comparable levels of funding from both institutions. Each institution will administer its respective share.
Project Funding Period	1 January – 30 November 2027
Application Deadline	15 October 2026
Who can apply	Applications must be submitted by a team of researchers from both universities and include one principal investigator from each institution. Principal investigators must hold a doctoral degree and an academic or research appointment at their respective university. Postdoctoral researchers serving as principal investigators must hold an appointment extending at least six months beyond the end of the funding period. Applications involving early-career researchers are particularly encouraged. Projects that have previously received funding through the Wits-UT Seed Fund or UT intramural funds for international research collaborations are not eligible for this call. However, previous recipients are eligible with different projects and partners.
How to apply	Please request an application form from a contact below. Send one joint application form to: alison.simons@wits.ac.za and international.research@uni-tuebingen.de



What can be funded

The following costs or activities can be covered by the Seed Grant:

- Travel costs to visit project partners, including lab rotations, joint graduate training activities or collaborative projects
- Organization of joint workshops or seminars on the research topic for researchers and graduate students
- Other costs directly related to project planning or implementation

Other Funding

The Seed Grant can be combined with other grants, provided funds are not covering the same activities or costs.

Selection Process

Applications will be evaluated by a joint Wits-UT committee.

Selection Criteria

Projects will be selected in accordance with the following main criteria

- Scientific quality of the research project, including ambition, innovative potential, expected results and impact, and prospects for follow-up funding (in particular, specifically planned external funding applications) (30%)
- Clarity of project objectives, project planning, and feasibility of the budget (20%)
- Potential for long-term research collaboration, particularly through the inclusion of new departments, disciplines, and research topics within the strategic partnership (40%)
- Alignment with strategic research priorities of the universities (for UT: [Core Research Areas](#) and [Profile Areas](#), for Wits: [Strategic Priorities](#)) (10%)

Reporting

Following the completion of the project, funded researchers will be asked to submit a short project report using a reporting template. The reporting form is available from the coordinators listed below.

Contacts

Wits: Alison Simons (alison.simons@wits.ac.za)

UT: Elmar Hofman (elmar.hofman@uni-tuebingen.de)