



Seed Funding Call Fall 2026



for Collaborative Projects between the University of Tübingen and UNC-Chapel Hill

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) and the University of Tübingen (UT) are pleased to announce a joint call for proposals to support collaborative research initiatives. We welcome submissions from all academic disciplines and schools. Projects that align with the strategic focus areas for research of UNC and UT are encouraged.

Max. Grant Amount:	Up to €8,500 from UT and \$10,000 from UNC-Chapel Hill may be awarded per collaborative research project. Applicants are expected to request comparable levels of funding from both institutions. Each institution will administer its respective share.
Purpose:	Planning a larger and sustainable collaborative research project and preparing an external grant application.
Dates:	Application Deadline: 15 November 2026 Project Funding Period: 1 January - 31 December 2027
Who can apply:	Applications must be submitted by researchers from both universities with one principal investigator identified 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. Projects that have previously received funding through the UNC-UT Seed Fund or UT intramural funds for international exchange are not eligible for this call. However, previous recipients are eligible with different projects and an expanded research team (preferably through the involvement of researchers from additional disciplines)
How to Apply and Contacts:	Please request an application form from and submit completed applications to: UNC Global Affairs globalaffairs@unc.edu and UT Unit for International Research Cooperation 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 for lab rotations, joint graduate training activities or collaborative projects; • Organization of joint workshops or seminars on the research topic for researchers and graduate students; • Equipment necessary for the project and not available at either university; • 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 and Criteria:	Applications will be evaluated by a joint UNC-UT committee. 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 third party funding applications) (30%) • Clarity of project objectives, project planning, and feasibility of the budget (20%) • Potential for long term research cooperation, particularly through the inclusion of new departments, disciplines, and research topics within the institutional partnership (40%) • Alignment with the strategic research priorities of UT (core research areas and profile areas) and UNC (research roadmap) (10%)

This call is published subject to the availability and approval of funding from the participating institutions.