Cambridge-LMU Strategic Partnership

Call for Proposals

Funding period: 1 March 2027 to 31 December 2028

Call deadline: 17 January 2027

The University of Cambridge and the LMU Munich are delighted to announce the second call of the second funding period 2025-2029. The overall aim of the partnership is to explore and support an array of activities that will continue to cement a meaningful and productive partnership between two of Europe's leading universities. The partnership, and this call, covers all disciplines.

Eligibility for proposal submission and funding

- All permanent members of LMU/Cambridge staff are eligible to apply.
- Non-permanent staff may apply with a co-PI employed as permanent staff.
- Funding can cover costs of Cambridge and LMU employees (permanent and non-permanent) and students only.
- Collaborators from other institutions besides the University of Cambridge and LMU Munich are not eligible for any financial support from either partner institution.

Funded activities

Funding is available for three types of activity: Research projects, teaching projects and establishment of new contacts

A) Establishment of new contacts

This stream supports entirely new contacts between Cambridge and LMU Munich. The participating research groups must not have collaborated previously within the Cambridge-LMU Strategic Partnership. A new topic or different individual participants do not qualify an existing collaboration for this stream.

Activities may include:

- Faculty/staff mobility (short-term, visiting lectureships/professorships)
- Junior researcher mobility (PhD students, PostDocs)
- Joint meetings of research groups
- Joint modules in teaching and research training
- Invited lectures and seminars (in particular to establish strategic contact with groups or individuals)

<u>Applications for Establishment of new contacts should include:</u>

- Brief CV of both PIs (up to two pages each; top five relevant publications only)
- Title and short project/conference/workshop description which includes (up to 500 words in total):
  - Description of the activity
  - Outline of the longer-term benefits to both institutions
- List of planned project/conference/workshop participants (in particular, name and position/rank of persons for whom travel expenses are to be reimbursed) with preliminary dates and timeline

B) Research

It is important that the partnership delivers a discernible and quantifiable increase in research activity between the institutions. Applications for research collaborations will be assessed on the basis of the concrete targets they set themselves (specific grant applications and research outputs). While it is not

necessary for every project to target an external grant (which might not be possible or desirable in every discipline), it is an advantage.

C) Teaching

The partnership should develop joint teaching and training ventures at postgraduate level that are both of lasting value and can serve as a model for future developments. The Partnership is open to different formats: jointly designed special subjects, joint modules, joint courses. Innovative methods of delivery should be encouraged.

Support in both categories is intended for specific project-related purposes such as, for example, travel, accommodation and subsistence/catering costs for meetings, workshops and conferences in Cambridge or Munich; the generation of preliminary data; and preparation of grant applications. Research-related consumables and material expenses, research support, dissemination material, in accordance with the budget plan, can also be funded. For detailed information, please refer to the section 'Budget planning and budget regulations' below.

Applications for research and teaching projects should include:

- Brief CV of both PIs (up to two pages each; top five relevant publications only)
- Title and short project/conference/workshop description which includes (up to 500 words in total):
  - Description of the research/teaching/training scheme
  - Outline of the longer-term benefits to both institutions
- List of planned project/conference/workshop participants (in particular, name and position/rank of persons for whom travel expenses are to be reimbursed) with preliminary dates and timeline
- List of planned further grant applications and planned publications
- For teaching proposals: please indicate plans for new developments that may contribute to new and sustainable activity
- For PIs who have already been awarded funding in previous rounds: please ensure that the post-completion online survey is completed on time. Former award holders should kindly note that no further extensions (cost-neutral extensions included) are possible.

Funding and duration

The maximum funding amount for both universities, as well as the maximum duration, are as follows:

Funding Stream	Funding per project	Funding period
Establishment of new contacts	€5,000 in total	2027 only; an application for an extension into 2028 may be submitted at the end of 2027
Research and/or teaching projects	€10,000–€40,000	1 March 2027 – 31 December 2027 **or** 1 March 2027 – 31 December 2028

It is recognised that deeper collaboration takes time to progress. To that end, this call will allow applicants to apply for one (fiscal year 2027) or two years (fiscal years 2027 and 2028). Funding requests for two years should include details on why this longer funding period is necessary.

Budget planning and budget regulations

Please be aware that the detailed breakdown of costs per partner university, per cost category and per fiscal year must be included in the proposal.

For the stream "**Establishment of new contacts**", funding may support one or more people travelling to Cambridge and/or Munich, including visits in both directions and multiple trips. The maximum total award

is €5,000 per application, covering all trips and all participants combined across both partner institutions. This is a single overall limit, not an allowance per person, per trip or per institution.

For the streams "**Research and/or teaching projects**", the application should include the funding categories that are relevant to the project. The funding categories are:

- Travel and accommodation costs to or in Munich/Cambridge
- Expenses for organizing events (e.g. catering, dissemination material)
- Research support (e.g. student assistants; at LMU this category exclusively)
- Reasonable research-related consumables and material expenses may also be funded. These may include duly justified laboratory costs and costs for shared facilities or equipment rental, subject to a strict cap of 50% of the total funding. This cap is an upper limit, not a target.

In order to maximize the funds available, activities should not take place outside Munich or Cambridge, unless in exceptional circumstances. In recognition of the difference in support structures in Cambridge and Munich, applications may include up to €1,000 for administrative support in Cambridge.

Travel expenses will be reimbursed by the sending institution which is likewise responsible for the payment of subsistence costs. Please refer to the university regulations at each institution (LMU: Bavarian Travel Expenses Act (Bayerisches Reisekostengesetz, BayRKG); Cambridge: Regulations of the Finance Division).

For calculating catering costs, please adhere to the LMU regulations (Richtlinien zur Finanzierung von Bewirtungs- und Repräsentationsausgaben vom 01.01.2025; accessible for LMU employees only).

Research security and export control

Applicants must consider potential research security risks when planning their proposed activities, including risks of unwanted knowledge or technology transfer, undue influence, and misuse of research. Where potential risks or uncertainties arise, applicants are responsible for seeking guidance from the relevant offices or services at their home institutions.

LMU participants must comply with the LMU Research Security Guideline (*Forschungssicherheits-Leitlinie*) and applicable supplementary rules and Cambridge participants must comply with the guidelines on Research Security and Trusted Research.

All participants must observe the legal and institutional requirements applicable to their activities, including export control and sanctions regulations. Any required approvals must be obtained before the relevant activities commence.

Deadline and submission of proposals

- Deadline: Sunday 17 January 2027
- Notification: by end of February 2027

Applications can be either submitted by LMU applicants via the LMU online submission form or by CAM applicants via the online submission form for CAM applicants. Please note that only one application either from the LMU or from the CAM PI is necessary.

Applications will be judged both on their individual quality and the overall spread of disciplines and type of collaboration. The selection of the projects will be conducted by a joint committee of experts from both partner institutions.

Reporting

Successful applicants are expected to provide a brief report on their activities and future plans. For this purpose, an online survey will be provided by the end of the funding period.

Contact

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