

LMU-SU Partnership Program

Call for Applications *- for the 2026 funding period -*

Premise

The SU-LMU Partnership Program was established in 2025 to promote and support research collaboration between Stellenbosch University (SU) and Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich (LMU) across a wide range of disciplines and academic levels. Both institutions have committed resources to this partnership.

Eligibility

Postdocs and professors employed at LMU/SU on a fixed-hours basis.

PhD candidates are not eligible to apply as PI, but are encouraged to take part in the projects.

For partnership development: Academic coordinators of the partnership together with staff of the international offices at LMU/SUN

Criteria

The SU-LMU Partnership recognizes the different cultures and requirements across disciplines. Therefore, the concrete implementation of the initiatives is left to the scholars. However, projects falling under the broad remits below will be prioritized.

- **Project design and rationale**
Proposals that demonstrate potential in having broad impact in the field of study and/or the PI's research activity, and that ideally make a significant contribution to the joint research agendas of both partner institutions
- **Sustainability and long term option**
Proposals that initiate new collaborations and have a clear plan to create a longer-term partnership and capacity building between SU and LMU researchers and support the development of the partnership (Interdisciplinarity, integration of new initiatives, visibility within the institutions). Proposals for which the applicants have concrete plans for a follow-up funding initiative.
- **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)**
Proposals that incorporate diverse perspectives and experiences into the project.
- **Emerging Scholars, new generation of scholars**
Proposals that also include young researchers as part of their team composition.

SU and LMU faculty members (Principal Investigators ("PIs")) are eligible to submit joint proposals. Collaborators from other institutions besides SU and LMU, subject to an appropriate balance between internal and external researchers, are eligible to participate in projects but are not eligible for any financial support from SU or LMU.

Funding

Seed Funding is available for applications that combine the financing options listed below into one cooperation project:

- cooperative formats such as joint projects, workshops and conferences
- individual mobilities

One application may involve costs of up to EUR 25,000 per annum.

- Application deadline: 12 October 2025
- Notification: November 2025

Please note that funding commitments can only be guaranteed for the funding period starting 1 January 2026 and ending 31 December 2026.

Financing Options

1 Seed Funding for Joint Projects incl. Conferences and Workshops

Planned projects between LMU and SU scholars can be supported at a small scale in the form of seed funding within 2026. The maximum amount of funding that can be applied for is 15,000 Euros.

Activities supported by LMU and SU can include:

- Travel and accommodation costs to or in Munich/Stellenbosch
- Expenses for organizing events (e.g. catering, dissemination material)
- Research support (e.g. student assistants)
- Publication costs (not at SU)
- Reasonable research-related consumables and material expenses may also be funded.
Please note that expenditure on consumables need to be in balance with other types of costs and should not account for the majority of costs.

2 Individual Mobility

2a Mobility for doctoral students, Post Docs and early career researcher

Junior scholars, especially advanced doctoral students or junior faculty, who are involved in the project and want to conduct research with faculty from the partner institution and expand their network abroad, can be funded for their stay generally for a minimum of one and a maximum of three months.

2b Short term mobility for professors

Professors who want to conduct research with faculty from the partner institution and expand their partnership network, can be funded for their stay generally for a minimum of two weeks and a maximum of four weeks.

Individual Mobility Funding (Lump sum)

- A subsidy towards the daily allowance and accommodation
- A subsidy towards the travel expenses

3 Funding for Partnership Development Projects

Planned projects between LMU and SU scholars and staff of the international office can be supported at a small scale within 2026. The maximum amount of funding that can be applied for is 15,000 Euros.

Activities supported can include:

- Travel and accommodation costs to or in Munich/Stellenbosch
- Expenses for organizing events (e.g. catering, dissemination material)

LMU-SU Networking Week

If you plan mobility to Munich within your project application, we would like to invite you to plan the stay during **8-12 June 2026**. During that week LMU Munich International Office will organize some events in Munich, where you can also meet colleagues from the other projects that are funded 2026.

Application documents

- Description of the activity (1-2 pages), including the expected outcome
- Complete project plan including budget plan from with the excel template provided in the application form (use of template mandatory)
- List of planned project participants (in particular, name and position/rank of persons for whom travel expenses are to be reimbursed)
- Curriculum vitae of all active project participants at LMU and SU
- For participating PhD students: Letter of recommendation from a professor in the same department/unit at the home institution (PhD advisor/first supervisor or academic mentor).

Submission of applications

Applications must be prepared and signed jointly by partners at LMU and SUN. PIs on both sides must have a doctorate and be employed at the university on a fixed-hours basis at the time of application.

Access to the application form for LMU members (LMU SSO login):

<https://lmu.moveon4.de/form/64194c74fbc62b33ea3ebdda/eng>

Access to the Application form for SU members (registration required):

<https://lmu.moveon4.de/form/64e86e38d88f28f4ea091318/eng>

The links above only vary by the form of registration according to your institution - they lead to the identical application form and only one application per project is required.

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. The online survey must be submitted within one month after receiving it.

Contact

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