

Zhejiang University - LMU Munich Joint Call

Collaborative Projects and Exchange Activities

2026 Funding Period

Zhejiang University (ZJU) and LMU Munich (LMU) are contributing matching funds to support collaborative education and research initiatives through a joint call for proposals for the development of collaborative activities.

1. Projects

- i) This call invites research proposals in the areas of mutual interest and complementary strengths that will strengthen the partnership between ZJU and LMU.
- ii) Proposals must include participants from both institutions.
- iii) Proposals from all fields are welcome but the following areas will be prioritised:
 - i. Proposals aimed at addressing issues of common concern between China and Europe, such as climate science and biodiversity protection, circular economy, health, food, agriculture, ocean observation and smart city.
 - ii. Proposals relating to one or more of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- iv) Up to **four** joint projects will be selected for funding. Proposals will be assessed by a committee composed of members from both institutions. Priority will be given to emerging collaborations that have not previously received funding.

2. Eligibility for participants within the scope of this call

Applications are open to Principal Investigators (PIs) employed on a full-time basis at ZJU/LMU. Postdoctoral researchers and PhD candidates are not eligible to apply, but are encouraged to take part in the projects.

LMU postdoctoral researchers and PhD candidates involved in the respective projects must be employed during the project time. For further LMU members (e.g. doctoral students with an external scholarship), an informal confirmation of the relevance of the doctoral candidate's participation must be enclosed by the PIs.

External collaborators from other institutions besides ZJU and LMU are eligible to participate in projects, but are not eligible for any financial support from ZJU or LMU.

3. Collaboration Activities

Activities supported by LMU include:

- Organization of a workshop or conference at ZJU or LMU
- Joint publications
- Research-related mobility between ZJU and LMU
- Research visit

On the ZJU side, funding can cover:

- Research-related mobility, including remote forms.
- Project-related joint meetings and workshops, including remote forms.
- Honorarium paid to LMU collaborators for guest lecturing.
- Limited expenses on relevant research materials and supplies.

ZJU PIs can apply to ZJU's Graduate School for extra funding to support PhD candidates travelling to LMU for joint supervision.

The above lists are not exhaustive and it is understood that there may be other ways to conduct the project.

4. Value and Duration

Up to **four** successful proposals will be funded in 2026. Funding will be provided jointly by ZJU and LMU. The total funding will consist of **EUR 33,000** from LMU for LMU academics and **RMB 300,000** from ZJU for ZJU academics.

Funds provided by both institutions must be spent by 30 November 2026.

5. Timeline

Call for proposals	17 December 2025
Deadline for submission of proposal	2 February 2026
Communication of Results to applicants	March 2026
Start date of funding	15 March 2026

6. Submission of Proposals

Proposals are to be prepared jointly and submitted either by the LMU or ZJU PI by Monday, 2 February 2026, 11:59 PM German time (UTC+1)/ Tuesday, 3 February 2026, 06:59 AM Beijing time (UTC+8)

Submission for LMU members (LMU SSO login):

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

Submission for ZJU members (registration required):

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

The links above only vary by the form of registration according to institutional affiliation. They lead to the identical application form and **only one application per project is required**.

ZJU academics must additionally submit their proposals via Email to:

Ms. ZHENG Qi, Office of Global Engagement (qizheng95@zju.edu.cn, +86-15651860530)

7. Selection Process

- i) **Selection Criteria:** Both internal review committees will assess each proposal according to the following criteria:
 - **Project design and rationale** (how clearly presented and justified is the design and basis for the collaboration)
 - **Project impact** (how clearly linked are the outcomes to the planned activities and performance indicators, such as co-supervision of PhD candidates, joint papers, external funding applications, joint research with industry and proposal for policy recommendations)
 - **Impact of collaboration** (is there a distinct advantage provided by this collaboration that is not possible by the two institutions working individually?)
 - **Capacity for future collaboration** (what is the extent to which future collaborations are possible as a result of the proposed exchange activities.)
- ii) A joint committee will convene to select the final proposals.

8. Communication of Results

Final results will be announced by means of an email communication to the successful faculty members.

9. Reporting After Project Completion

All awardees must, as a condition of receiving funding under this call, complete a narrative report of achievements (1-2 pages) preferably with images, no later than two months after the project's completion. LMU grantees must complete a mandatory online survey, which will be provided by the end of the funding period. Successful projects may be eligible for continuation funding in 2027, subject to a year-end review and re-application under the next call.