



L-Università
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Call for Proposals: University of Malta SEA-EU Research Seed Fund

Issue date: May 2021

Section 1: Purpose

The University of Malta is hereby launching a call for proposals for funding collaborative research and innovation initiatives among the SEA-EU partners called the “University of Malta SEA-EU Research Seed Fund” (hereinafter the “**UM SEA-EU Research Seed Fund**”). The aim of this call is to gather scholars of the SEA-EU Alliance and help them initiate collaboration and establish bases for new joint competitive projects.

The applied collaborative research project (the “**Project**”) should reflect the values of the SEA-EU Mission Statement available at <https://sea-eu.org/mission-statement/> and include scholars from the University of Malta and one or more of the five other SEA-EU universities.

Section 2: Priority Areas

- Natural Sciences
- Engineering, ICT & Architecture
- Life Sciences & Medicine
- Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences

Section 3: Limitations of Awards

- Each applicant can only apply for **one** Project as principal investigator. However, they can collaborate as co-applicants in other Projects.
- Must have at least one partner institution from the other SEA-EU universities.
- Each proposal must be approved by the Head of Department and/or Faculty Dean.

The amount of the Award available to any one successful applicant is capped at €4000 per Project. Two Projects will be awarded under this Call for Proposals.

Section 4: Eligible Costs

Eligibility rules for costs incurred:

- they must be actual
- incurred during the Project duration
- incurred in relation to the Project and in accordance with the public procurement regulations as applicable to the University of Malta

Eligible costs are:

- costs related to publishing joint papers
- mobility activities (e.g. study visits)
- consumables
- subcontracting (e.g. student contract, paper translation).

Section 5: Budget Changes

Budget changes during project implementation will be permissible as long as all expenditure remains in line with the Project objectives.

Section 6: Submission Process

The application must be completed and submitted online through the [form](#) by the application deadline along with a Letter of Support from the SEA-EU collaborators.

Submissions should include:

- The application form provided by the University of Malta that is associated with this call.
- ORCID ID
- Letter/s of support from SEA-EU partner institution/s, confirming any matching or additional funding, if any.
- Profile of potential partners.
- Agenda of activities, events and training.

All applications will be acknowledged by return email.

Applications may be submitted in draft form. Applicants will be sent a copy of what they have submitted by return email, together with a link to edit the form. The form may be edited and resubmitted until the deadline, whereby the latest submitted form will be taken into consideration.

Section 7: Submission Deadline

Proposals must be submitted until **noon on Friday, June 25th 2021**.

Strictly no late applications will be allowed by the submission system. Incomplete applications, or those submitted after the deadline, will not be reviewed. Applications deviating from the guidelines listed above shall be considered as 'incomplete applications'.

For more information, please contact the SEA-EU team at the University of Malta: sea-eu@um.edu.mt or Ms Maria Calleja, UM SEA-EU Technical Manager: maria.calleja@um.edu.mt.

Section 8: Data privacy

Personal information provided in furtherance of applications for grant funding is processed in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act (CAP 586, Laws of Malta) and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) for the purpose of shortlisting and evaluating such applications, and where applicable, of making

provisions for the granting of funds as described above.

This processing is based on Article 6 (e) GDPR and is necessary for the performance of a public task. The University is mandated by the Education Act (CAP 327, Laws of Malta) to make such provisions for research and the advancement and dissemination of knowledge as it may from time to time determine (Article 72 (a)).

For the scope of achieving the processing purposes, shortlisted applications are forwarded to external evaluators as described in the Grant Programme Guidelines and above. No other personal information is otherwise disclosed to any third parties unless strictly required by law.

The UM Data Protection Officer can be contacted at: dpo@um.edu.mt and +356 2340 3233.

You have the right to request access to your personal data as well as the right to rectify and where applicable, erase any inaccurate, incomplete or immaterial personal data; to request rectification of processing, to object to processing and to request data portability for the data held by the University.

If you consider that the processing of your personal data is carried out in an unlawful manner, you may lodge a complaint with the Information and Data Protection Commissioner.

Unsuccessful applications are retained for a period of 5 years for auditing purposes. Successful applications are retained for 5 years for auditing purposes. Successful applications shall be forwarded to the Project Support Office and Finance Office at the University of Malta for implementation support.

Section 9: Selection Criteria

The evaluators shall rank proposals in accordance to these selection criteria below:

Quality of the Project (50%)

- the quality of the collaboration activities with the SEA-EU partner/s
- demonstrate innovation and interdisciplinarity in the selected field of interest
- involvement of early career researchers (i.e. Master or PhD level)

Strength of the Partnership (25%)

- led by recognized experts with a demonstrated track record in research and innovation

Outcomes and Sustainability (25%)

- potential outcomes such as joint publications, subsequent grant bids, development of innovative products, services, projects etc. are expected.

Section 10: Project Period

The UM SEA-EU Research Seed Fund award period is 12 months (January 2022 – December 2022).

Section 11: Extension

No extensions are allowed for the UM SEA-EU Research Seed Fund. However, an agreement may be reached with the Finance Office at the University of Malta regarding carrying over the funds to the following year in cases of long term leave from work, e.g. maternity, illness, injury.

Section 12: Awardee Responsibilities

The Awardee of the UM SEA-EU Research Seed Fund shall be required to submit a final report of the Project which shall include a description of the work undertaken by means of the Project and the Project results. The said report shall be submitted to the UM SEA-EU Technical Manager within 60 days after the **conclusion of the Project period**. The report should explain briefly what work was completed, what results were obtained, what publications or presentations of the work are planned and what external grant applications are planned. The report should also include an overview of the financial expenditure.

Section 13: Grant Agreement

The award of the grant under the UM SEA-EU Research Seed Fund will be subject to the conclusion of a grant agreement between the awardee and the University of Malta.