

January 2019

University of Geneva – University of Zurich

Joint Seed Funding

Call for Proposals

Deadline 15 May 2019

Call for Proposals 2019

Since December 2017 the University of Geneva (UNIGE) and the University of Zurich (UZH) have entered into a strategic partnership agreement. The largest comprehensive universities in the German- and French-speaking parts of Switzerland already maintain close links in research, teaching and student exchange. It is the aim of the partnership to further foster and intensify these links and to jointly strengthen the visibility of both institutions within Switzerland and abroad with a specific focus on digital issues. Both universities pursue similar goals with their respective digital strategies – the Stratégie Numérique at UNIGE (<https://www.unige.ch/numerique/fr/strategie-numerique/strategie-numerique/>) and the Digital Society Initiative at UZH (<https://www.dsi.uzh.ch/en.html>).

With the goal of facilitating cooperation in the framework of the strategic partnership, UNIGE and the UZH have established a Joint Seed Funding Scheme. The funding shall enable UNIGE and UZH faculty and researchers to intensify joint academic activities by supporting the development of outstanding common projects in research and teaching. The supported activities should have a clearly defined focus and serve as a catalyst for the development of new joint projects.

The funding scheme is not limited to a specific academic field and the proposals can be either focused on one discipline or be of interdisciplinary character. However, in view of the common goals of the partner universities to strengthen their joint position as digital leaders in Switzerland and abroad, a specific attention will be given to proposals covering digital issues.

Submission and Deadlines

Geneva and Zurich faculty are invited to submit proposals for collaborative projects using a common application form. Proposals may come from individual faculty members or a group of faculty but should have Geneva and Zurich faculty members as co-PI's (Principal Investigator) in all cases. Main applicants may be of any faculty rank, but must be a regular member of the faculty (not post-docs or visiting scholars). The proposal must include a letter of endorsement from a full professor if the PI does not have this status.

The Call for Proposals closes on **30 April 2019**.

Given the multilingual character of the academic community in both universities, English has been chosen as the official language for this Call for Proposals. To facilitate project review, applications should be made in English. Online applications are welcome at <https://uzh.unige-cofunds.ch>.

They will include the following:

- Short project description (max. 500 words)
- Answers to a questionnaire referring to the criteria mentioned below
- Budget outline
- Project timeline
- Letter of endorsement, if applicable (see above)

Please note that in order to keep the application and review process proportionate with the funding involved (see below), full project descriptions beyond the points above are not necessary and will not be considered.

Proposals will be evaluated by a joint committee composed of senior faculty members and the Rectorates from UNIGE and UZH. Particular attention will be given to the following criteria:

- Coherent and clearly formulated plan of the activity (comprehensible for non-expert reviewers)
- Scientific merit and envisaged synergies of the proposed activities and of the anticipated outcome
- Potential for strengthening the institutional links between UNIGE and UZH and/or for supporting their joint digital strategy
- Potential for creating sustainable follow-up collaborative activities
- Potential for obtaining third party funding (at the national and/or international levels)

Funding

Funds can be spent over the course of the grant period on meeting costs, accommodation, workshops and conferences, facilities use and other expenses related to the preparation of external funding proposals, as specified at the time of the proposal.

Grants will be awarded in the amounts of min. CHF 2,000 to max. CHF 10,000 over a one-year period. The next Call for Proposals is planned for Spring 2020.

Administrative Contacts for Further Information

At UNIGE:

Noria Mezlef
Head of Strategic Partnerships
International Affairs
noria.mezlef@unige.ch

At UZH:

Angela Ferreira
Project Manager
International Relations Office
angela.ferreira@int.uzh.ch