Edital FAEPEX 35/2025

Max Planck Institutes-UNICAMP Seed Fund Application Guidelines 2025 Call for Proposals

1. Background

The Max Planck Institutes (MPI), as listed in the Annex 1, and the Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP) have agreed on a framework for continued collaboration and investment to strengthen the strategic partnership between these institutions.

The partnership framework aims to deepen existing collaborations and develop wider faculty networks to build cognate research areas; broaden access to expertise, facilities and educational exchange; and reinforce strategic goals for institutional engagement.

To this end, the institutions have established a joint Strategic Collaboration Seed Fund for which permanent members of staff at each institution are encouraged to apply.

2. Criteria

The MPI-UNICAMP Seed Fund supports collaborative engagement between MPIs and UNICAMP with the following priorities:

2.1 **Implementation Grants to support and strengthen existing researcher-to-researcher collaborations that lead to clearly defined outputs**.

Priority will be given to activities that have the potential to:

a) Advance joint research priorities;
b) Connect world-leading researchers;
c) Enhance our institutional research profiles through collaborative publications;
d) Build productive, impactful relationships with leading academic, scientific, cultural and policy communities in the region;
e) Serve as foundation for jointly-submitted proposals to external funding agencies for sustained support of

2.2 **Initiation Grants to encourage wider researcher involvement and expand institutional engagement.**

We invite applications from colleagues interested in developing new research relationships. Priority will be given to:

a) Applicants who can clearly demonstrate that they have established a potential area of collaboration with MPI/UNICAMP counterparts;
b) Activities with the potential to extend beyond individual links to wider – i.e., 'research group to research group' – collaborations;
c) Projects with the potential for sustained and scalable collaborative activity.

3. Guidelines

3.1 There are no restrictions on the forms of activity supported by the MPI-UNICAMP Seed Fund providing they meet the criteria outlined above.

3.2 The fund is available to support planning visits, workshops and exchanges with the partner institution for the purpose of developing the strategic partnership. The fund may also support meetings in third party locations where there is potential to develop and/or showcase collaboration.

3.3 Activities may include, but are not limited to:

a) Academic projects to expand MPI-UNICAMP academic networks and research outputs, such as joint conferences, workshops, symposia, collaborative experiments and co- authored publications;
b) Curriculum innovation and development of joint teaching and learning initiatives;
c) Trilateral activities that link research projects to wider MPI-UNICAMP strategic regions – including, for example, countries in Africa, Latin America, China, India, and Europe.

3.4 Applicants are encouraged to apply for the funding of reciprocal activities in order to broaden networks and cement engagement.

3.5 Applications that can demonstrate potential for relationships to become sustainable beyond the proposed project and initial seed funding term are strongly encouraged, whether through faculty and departmental commitment or the likelihood of securing externally leveraged grants and awards.

4. Financial Support

4.1 MPI seed funding will be allocated locally, with MPI paying the travel and accommodation costs of MPI staff travelling to UNICAMP, and the costs of projects occurring at MPI; and UNICAMP paying the travel and accommodation costs of UNICAMP staff travelling to MPI, and the costs of projects occurring at UNICAMP.

4.2 MPI-UNICAMP seed funding will be subject to the travel reimbursement and other relevant financial policies of the institution providing the funding to its faculty or units.

4.3 Requests of support for non-standard expenses such as research equipment or research assistant staffing shall be clearly justified.

4.4 The maximum funding available per project is up to Euro 20,000 in total, with an equal contribution from each partner.

4.5 The maximum funding available per call will be Euro 200,000 in total, shared equally between both parties

5. Application Process

5.1 Applications must be submitted using the MPI-UNICAMP Strategic Collaboration Seed Fund Application Form (Annex 2) **and** provide the following information:

a) Identified PIs at both MPI and UNICAMP
b) Purpose and timescale of visit/programme activity.
c) Anticipated total cost and itemised budget for the proposed activities.
d) Academic rationale for support, including:
   i. the strategic importance or added academic value of the collaboration for your home department and University;
   ii. the anticipated shared outcomes and benefits for the collaboration
e) Anticipated means of sustaining the collaboration, including:
   i. funding available from other sources;
   ii. potential for securing future external investment
f) Letter of support by a Director of the collaborating MPI / Application form signed by a Director of the collaborating MPI
g) Approval from the corresponding Executive Officer of the Unit / Dean . Email confirmation of this support will suffice and should be saved in PDF format and attached with the application.
h) List of 6 (six) names of experts in the area of their proposal, avoiding any possible conflicts of interest, that will be used for MPI internal assessment procedures

5.2 **Applicants from each institution must present evidence of availability of matching funds from its partner institution**.

5.3 All proposals to UNICAMP must be submitted through the FAEPEX system. The form provided in Annex 2 must be uploaded in the “Documents” section of the FAEPEX system.

5.4 All proposals to MPI must be submitted through by email to latam@gv.mpg.de in a single pdf document. Submissions by any other means, or after the deadline specified in item 7 below, will not be accepted.

5.5 Further information can be found by contacting Tobias Renghart/ Carolina Abadie at latam@gv.mpg.de, at the MPI) or by contacting the Research Office, at the Universidade Estadual de Campinas (faepex@unicamp.br).

6. Assessment and reporting

6.1 Each Party will assess proposals according to its own internal procedures.

6.2 The grant review panels at MPI and UNICAMP (the MPI–UNICAMP Steering Group) will liaise to jointly determine which projects will receive funding.

6.3 Proposals that do not comply with the terms of this Call for Proposals will not be considered for review.

6.4 Grant recipients will be required to submit a project report outlining the activities undertaken with the support of the award. Recipients may also be asked to present their outcomes to the MPI–UNICAMP Steering Group and, where appropriate, in departmental or institutional forums.

6.5 In addition, recipients will be asked to provide a follow-up update **two years after the funded activities** in order to assess longer-term outcomes that may not be apparent in the initial report.

7. Application Timeline 2025/2026

- Applications open: December 10th, 2025
- Applications close: March 16th, 2026
- Results announced: May 29th, 2026

ANNEX 1

About Max Plank Society and its Institutes

The Max Planck Society operates a number of research institutions in Germany as well as abroad. These Max Planck Institutes are independent and autonomous in the selection and conduct of their research pursuits. To this end, they have their own, internally managed budgets, which can be supplemented by third party project funds. The quality of the research carried out at the institutes must meet the Max Planck Society's excellence criteria.

1. Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior
   Evolutionary Biology · Behavioural Biology · Ecology
2. Max Planck Institute for Astronomy
   Astronomy · Astrophysics
3. Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics
   Astronomy · Astrophysics · Cosmology · Theoretical Physics
4. Bibliotheca Hertziana – Max Planck Institute for Art History
   Cultural Studies · Art History
5. Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry
   Cell Biology · Structural Biology · Molecular Biology · Biophysics · Medicine
6. Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry
   Biogeochemistry · Ecosystem Science · Climate–Carbon Cycle
7. Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics
   Neuroscience · Systems Neuroscience · Brain Imaging · Computational Neuroscience
8. Max Planck Institute for Biological Intelligence
   Neuroscience · Behavioral Biology · Ecology · Evolutionary Biology
9. Max Planck Institute for Biology of Ageing
   Developmental Biology · Evolutionary Biology · Genetics · Structural Biology
10. Max Planck Institute for Biology
    Evolutionary Biology · Genetics · Microbiology · Developmental Biology
11. Max Planck Institute for Biophysics
    Biophysics · Structural Biology · Membrane Proteins
12. Max Planck Institute for Brain Research
    Neurosciences
13. Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics
    Cell Biology · Genetics · Developmental Biology · Systems Biology
14. Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology
    Ecology · Chemical Communication · Genetics · Evolutionary Biology

15. Max Planck Institute for Chemical Energy Conversion
    Structural Biology · Cell Biology · Chemistry
16. Max Planck Institute for Chemical Physics of Solids
    Solid State Physics · Quantum Materials · Materials Science
17. Max Planck Institute for Chemistry
    Atmospheric Chemistry · Earth System Science · Environmental Science
18. Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences
    Neurosciences · Cognitive Science · Linguistics
19. Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces
    Immunobiology · Infection Biology · Medicine · Solid State Research
20. Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law
    Criminology · Security Studies · Legal Theory · Forensic Psychology
21. Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research
    Demography · Population Studies · Sociology · Social Policy
22. Max Planck Institute for Dynamics of Complex Technical Systems
    Systems Engineering · Chemical Engineering · Process Systems · Modeling & Simulation
23. Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self-Organization
    Physics of Complex Systems · Fluid Dynamics · Biological Physics · Nonlinear Dynamics
24. Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics
    Neuroscience · Psychology · Music Cognition · Cultural Studies · Aesthetics
25. Ernst Strüngmann Institute (ESI) for Neuroscience in Cooperation with Max-Planck-Society
    Neuroscience · Medicine
26. Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology
    Human Evolution · Genetics · Primatology · Anthropology · Archaeology · Linguistics
27. Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology
    Evolutionary Theory · Genetics · Ecology · Microbiology
28. Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics
    Astrophysics · Space Science · High-Energy Astrophysics · Cosmology
29. Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience
    Neuroscience · Structural Biology· Cell Biology
30. Friedrich Miescher Laboratory of the Max Planck Society
    Developmental Biology · Evolutionary Biology · Structural · Biology · Cell Biology
31. Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society
    Surface Chemistry · Catalysis · Physical Chemistry · Materials Science
32. Max Planck Institute of Geoanthropology
    Evolutionary Biology · Genetics · Infection Biology · Earth Sciences
33. Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics
    Gravitational Physics · General Relativity · Quantum Gravity · Astrophysics
34. Max Planck Institute for Heart and Lung Research
    Biomedical Research · Cardiovascular Biology · Pulmonary Biology · Regenerative

35. Max Planck Institute for the History of Science
    Cultural Studies
36. Max Planck Institute for Human Development
    Psychology · Education · Cognitive Science · Lifespan Development
37. Max Planck Institute for Immunobiology and Epigenetics
38. Immunology · Epigenetics · Molecular Biology · Cell Biology
39. Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology
    Infection Biology · Microbiology · Immunology · Host–Pathogen Interactions
40. Max Planck Institute for Informatics
    Computer Science · Algorithms · Machine Learning · Graphics · Databases
41. Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition
    Jurisprudence · Social and Behavioral Sciences
42. Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems
    Robotics · Machine Learning · Materials Science · Bio-inspired Engineerin
43. Max Planck Institute für Kohlenforschung
    Chemistry · Solid State Research· Materials Science
44. Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut
    Art History · Cultural Studies
45. Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law
    Comparative Law · International Private Law · Legal Theory
46. Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law
    International Law · Constitutional Law · Public Law
47. Max Planck Institute for Social Law and Social Policy
    Social Policy · Social Law · Aging Research · Welfare Systems
48. Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance
    Public Finance · Tax Law · Economic Policy
49. Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory
    Legal History · Comparative Law · Legal Theory · Intellectual History
50. Max Planck Institute for Mathematics
    Mathematics · Geometry · Number Theory · Algebra
51. Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences
    Mathematical Modeling · Applied Mathematics · Complex Systems · Data Science
52. Max Planck Institute for Medical Research
    Biomaterials · Biophysics · Cell Biology · Structural Biology
53. Max Planck Institute for Metabolism Research
    Neuroscience · Metabolism · Obesity Research · Neuroendocrinology
54. Max Planck Institute for Meteorology
    Climate Science · Atmospheric Physics · Earth System Modeling
55. Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology
    Marine Microbiology · Biogeochemistry · Microbial Ecology

56. Max Planck Institute for Terrestrial Microbiology
    Microbiology · Biochemistry · Synthetic Biology · Ecology
57. Max Planck Institute for Molecular Biomedicine
    Stem Cells · Developmental Biology · Regenerative Medicine
58. Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics
    Genomics · Medical Genetics · Computational Biology · Molecular Biology
59. Max Planck Institute for Multidisciplinary Sciences
    Biophysics · Neuroscience · Structural Biology · Molecular Biology
60. Max Planck Institute for Neurobiology of Behavior
    Neuroscience · Behavioral Neuroscience · Neuroethology
61. Max Planck Research Unit for Neurogenetics
    Genetics · Medicine · Neurosciences · Cell Biology
62. Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics
    Nuclear Physics · Quantum Dynamics · Astroparticle Physics · Precision Spectroscopy
63. Max Planck Institute for the Science of Pathogens
    Genetics · Immunobiology · Infection Biology · Medicine · Microbiology
64. Max Planck Institute for Physics
    Astronomy · Astrophysics · Particle Physics · Plasma Physics · Quantum Physic
65. Max Planck Institute for the Physics of Complex Systems
    Quantum Physics · Nonlinear Dynamics · Statistical Physics · Materials Theory
66. Max Planck Institute for the Science of Light
    Photonics · Quantum Optics · Optical Physics · Biophotonics
67. Max Planck Institute for Molecular Physiology
    Structural Biology · Cell Biology · Physiology · Chemistry
68. Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research
    Plant Biology · Genetics · Molecular Plant Physiology · Evolutionary Biology
69. Max Planck Institute for Molecular Plant Physiology
    Plant Biology · Plant Metabolism · Systems Biology
70. Max Planck Institute for Plasma Physics
    Plasma Physics · Fusion Energy · High-Temperature Physics
71. Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research
    Polymer Science · Materials Science · Soft Matter Physics · Chemistry
72. Max Planck Institute for Psychiatry
    Infection Biology · Medicine · Neurosciences · Physiology · Cognitive Science
73. Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics
    Psycholinguistics · Cognitive Science · Language Acquisition · Neuroscience of Language
74. Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics
    Particle Physics · Plasma Physics · Quantum Physics
75. Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy
    Radio Astronomy · Astrophysics · Cosmology · Instrumentation

76. Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods
    Jurisprudence · Social and Behavioral Science
77. Max Planck Institute for Security and Privacy
    Cybersecurity · Cryptography · Data Privacy · Computer Science
78. Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology
    Social Anthropology · Ethnography · Legal Anthropology · Migration Studies
79. Max Planck Institute for Software Systems
    Computer Science · Distributed Systems · Verification · Machine Learning
80. Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research
    Planetary Science · Solar Physics · Astrophysics · Space Missions
81. Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research
    Solid State Physics · Materials Science · Nanoscience · Quantum Materials
82. Max Planck Institute for the Structure and Dynamics of Matter
    Solid State Research · Material Sciences
83. Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies
    Sociology · Political Economy · Social Theory · Governance
84. Max Planck Institute for Sustainable Materials GmbH
    Chemistry · Solid State Research · Material Sciences · Governance

ANNEX 2

MPI-UNICAMP Strategic Collaboration Seed Fund Application Form

1. LEAD APPLICANT AND PRINCIPAL CONTACT AT UNICAMP	
Name:	
Title:	
Institution:	
College:	
School/Department/Academic Unit:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
2. LEAD CO-APPLICANT (and PRINCIPAL CONTACT) AT MAX PLANCK	
Name:	
Title:	
Max Planck Institute:	
Department:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

Where relevant please also include details of any third-country partners below:

3. COLLABORATIVE PROJECT:	
3.1 Title:	
3.2 Project Summary: (100 words max)	
3.3 Intended timescale of activity:	
3.4 Total amount of funding requested:	
3.5 Itemised breakdown of costs, indicating whether funding is required from MPI or UNICAMP	
3.6 STATEMENT: (500 words max, referencing the criteria outlined on p.1. of the application guidelines):	
3.7 Grant Type (Please select one): *Implementation: To support and strengthen existing faculty-faculty relationships leading to clearly defined outputs.* ☐ *Initiation: To encourage wider faculty involvement and expand institutional engagement.* ☐	
3.8 Describe the strategic importance or added academic value of the collaboration for your home department and University.	
3.9 What are the anticipated shared outcomes and benefits of the collaboration?	
3.10 What funding is available from other sources and is there potential for future external investment?	
3.11 Please provide confirmation that your Head of College or other academic unit endorses your application (an email will sufficient).	
3.12 Other documents listed at item 5.1	