



**Call for proposals Instruments I (Seed grants) and II (Midsize projects)
IP Themes**

Version 221214 (Final version)

1 Introduction

In close consultation with the (Vice-)Chairs of the IP Theme Steering groups (i.e. the Deans), the Executive Board of University of Amsterdam (UvA) issues this call for:

- *Seed grants* (Instrument I) range from 15-50k and can be spent on bringing together UvA-scholars from different faculties to work on small innovative interfaculty research projects or grant proposal preparations.
- *Midsize projects* (Instrument II) range up to 400k (of which half must be brought in by the participating faculties) and are meant for projects that build on existing research ties between UvA-scholars from different faculties and that anticipate to be able to draw in non-academic parties, and thus generate societal interest and funding from external sources (3rd money stream incl HorizonEurope).

The deadline for submitting proposals is 24 February 2023, intending for projects to start in the second quarter of 2023 or as early as possible thereafter.

Please consult the [dedicated webpage](#) for specific information for each IP Theme.

1.1 Background to the call

As the UvA Strategic Plan 2021-2026 ('Inspiring Generations', chapter 2.2) states, the UvA wishes to encourage collaboration between disciplines on societally relevant topics. This way, we bring the outside world in, allowing the UvA to execute research on complex, societally relevant problems. For this, dedicated grant support, dedicated network organization, etc. is being organized around the four themes mentioned below.

Additional funds have been made available for *Seed grants* (Instrument I – see 2 below) and for *Midsize projects* (Instrument II – see 3 below). In 2023 we anticipate to open a call for matching of Largescale projects (Instrument III). This allows the UvA to build a body of interfaculty research connecting to societally relevant themes in collaboration with societal partners, bringing the outside in. Please see Appendix IV for a background to the call.

Four societal Themes (IP Themes) have been defined, all of which play to UvA's strengths:

- responsible digital transformations
- healthy future
- fair and resilient societies
- sustainable prosperity.

Funding is now available for Seed grants and Midsize projects. See 2. and 3. below.

- Seed grants are intended to explore and stimulate interfaculty collaboration and can have a maximum of 50k€ each. Depending on the number of applications and the requested budgets, we expect to be able to award between 3-4 grants for each theme.
- Midsize projects are meant to encourage UvA-scholars to consolidate existing collaborations between scholars from different faculties on a research topic within one of the four IP Themes, and involving non-academic parties in that research. It is not necessary to have received seed grant funding in order to be eligible for funding for a midsize project.

See the [webpage](#) for more information on the strategic goals of each Theme.

1.2 Available budget

See at 2 and 3 below.

1.3 Submission deadline

Deadline for submitting proposals is 24 February 2023, at 11.00h CET.

1.4 Annual calls

From 2023 onwards, funding will be available annually for the IP Themes: for

- Seed grants (Instrument I),
- Midsize projects (Instrument II) and
- Matching of Large projects with third party funding (Instrument III) – a first call for this instrument is expected mid-2023.

1.5 Theme-managers

We encourage potential prospective applicants to counsel with the respective Theme-manager in order to learn how to best connect to the focus of the respective Theme and to stay up to date about planned activities, network opportunities, news, etc. They can provide more information about the Themes:

- for responsible digital transformations: Christine Erb, via email m.c.erb@uva.nl
- for healthy future: Jillian O'Mara, via email j.r.omara@amsterdamumc.nl
- for fair and resilient societies: Christina Feray-Ceulemans, via email c.t.ceulemans@uva.nl
- for sustainable prosperity: Dylan Suijker, via email d.p.l.suijker@uva.nl

We also encourage potential prospective applicants to consult the IP Theme Steering Group member from your faculty ([see aforementioned website](#)) or you can consult the IP Theme-managers.

1.6 More information:

See <https://www.uva.nl/over-de-uva/over-de-universiteit/strategie/themagerichte-samenwerking/themagerichte-samenwerking.html#Verantwoorde-digitale-transformaties>

There you will find:

- contact details of the Steering group members for each Theme;
- contact details of the Theme manager for each Theme;
- summary of the focus of each IP Theme;
- information on the seed grant projects already awarded;
- Programmaplan Thematisch samenwerken (which will be updated early 2023);
- this call.

2 Call for Seed grants (Instrument I)

Seed grants are intended to explore and stimulate interfaculty collaboration and can have a maximum of 50k€ each. Depending on the number of applications and the requested budgets, we expect to be able to award between 3-4 grants for each theme.

2.1 Requirements:

- A Seed grant proposal should set up new research initiatives with a clear output such as a joint grant proposal or a joint research paper, and needs to fall within the scope of one of the four themes and specify how that is the case.
- The call is open to all tenure-track, assistant, associate and full professors, and professors by special appointment from the UvA, for applications for projects that fit the seed grant projects criteria as defined in this call. Members of the steering committee can in principle participate in applications (except for Healthy Future) but will not take part in assessment of such proposals.
- A minimum of one co-applicant of a different faculty is required. Thus, involvement of a minimum of two faculties is required, even though participation of more faculties is strongly encouraged, as well as collaboration between different disciplines from two or more faculties.
- Collaboration with non-academic partners is not yet required, but societal relevance should be clear.
- The proposal needs to explicate how this adds to the overall knowledge base of UvA and does not copy what is being done at other institutions in the Amsterdam region.
- The proposal should involve new research initiatives, although they may build on existing projects; they should however clearly extend the collaborative and/or interdisciplinary and/or methodological scope.
- The envisaged output of the project should be clearly described (e.g., a joint paper, an interdisciplinary research proposal or joint grant proposal).
- The proposal needs to describe what the grant will be spent on, with rough estimates of the amounts and a timeline of the project with a starting and end date.
- The project should run for 6-12 months.
- The project size should be between 15k€ and 50k€.

2.2 Eligible expenses:

- Personnel costs.
- Data access and collection, research assistants.
- Conferences/research travel/visitor proposals.

A budget sheet format as well as standard rates per FTE etc. will be made available online.

2.3 Applying:

More information about the content of the four Themes and the current seed grant projects of the four Themes can be found on the [dedicated website](#) or via the Theme-managers (see 1.5 above).

Are you considering sending in a project proposal that fits the Seed grants criteria?

- ➔ Contact the representative of your faculty in the IP Theme Steering group or the Theme manager (see 1.5 above).

Do you have general questions about this call?

- ➔ Please contact Niek Brunsveld and Emmelie Kamsteeg for more information via e.kamsteeg@uva.nl.

A Format for applying for a Seed grant is available in Appendix I.

3 Call for Midsize projects (Instrument II)

Midsize projects are meant to encourage UvA-scholars to consolidate existing collaborations between scholars from different faculties on a research topic within one (or potentially two) of the four IP Themes, and involving non-academic parties in that research. It is not necessary to have received seed grant funding in order to be eligible for funding for a midsize project.

The Steering Groups of the four IP Themes have met regularly over the past year in order to discern how the collaborations between scholars from different UvA-faculties and/or of UvA-scholars with non-academic parties can best be strengthened. The midsize projects are open for research topics that fall within a particular Thema (or potentially in two Themes). More information about the content of the four Themes and the current seed grant projects of the four Themes can be found on the [dedicated website](#) or via the Theme-managers (see 1.5 above).

3.1 Requirements:

1. A Midsize project proposal should consolidate existing collaborations between scholars from different faculties on a research topic within one (or potentially two) of the four IP Themes, and involve (in kind or in cash) non-academic parties. It should fall within the scope of one of the four themes and specify how that is the case. It should work towards bringing outside parties (non-academic partners) into interfaculty UvA-research.
2. The call is open to all tenure-track, assistant, associate and full professors, and professors by special appointment from the UvA, for applications for projects that fit the midsize projects criteria as defined in this call. Members of the steering committee can in principle participate in applications (except for Healthy Future) but will not take part in assessment of such proposals.
3. A minimum of one co-applicant of a different faculty is required. Thus, involvement of a minimum of two faculties is required, even though participation of more faculties is strongly encouraged, as well as collaboration between different disciplines from two or more faculties.
4. Collaboration with one or more non-academic partners is required. The kind of collaboration can vary widely. The commitment of external partner(s) need not be in cash, but should indicate that a consortium with societal partners is viable, which may in due course lead to new sources of external financing in the future. Funding in the future need not necessarily come from the non-academic partner but may also come from funding programmes such as HorizonEurope, National Growth Fund or the like.
5. The proposal needs to explicate how this adds to the overall knowledge base of UvA and does not copy what is being done at other institutions in the Amsterdam region.
6. The project should clearly extend existing collaborative and/or interdisciplinary and/or methodological scopes.
7. The envisaged output of the project should be clearly described (e.g., a joint paper, an interdisciplinary research proposal or joint grant proposal).
8. The proposal needs to describe what the grant will be spent on, with rough estimates of the amounts and a timeline of the project with a starting and end date.
9. The project should run for 12-24 months.
10. The project size can vary, but central funding is limited to 200k€ per project and to a maximum of the funding that the two (or more) faculties bring in [*in a previous version of this call, this incorrectly stated 'three (or more) faculties'*]. The expectation is that projects will vary between 200k€ and 400k€ (of which in each case at least half is funded by the participating faculties). See also the paragraph below.

3.2 Financing of the projects

Faculties participating in the proposed project must, combined, allocate at least as much funding to the project as is asked for from the Board. Allocation should be made visible in the Faculties' budgeting sheets.

- The 200k that will be matched by the faculties for Instrument II projects will be distributed over all faculties that participate in a particular project.
- The 200k matching by the faculties should be made visible in the Faculties' budgeting sheets: faculties should guarantee that researchers receive sufficient research time to make the project viable.
- The 400k that will be available for each project should in principle be allocated for hiring new staff (or extension, specifically for this project, of existing staff).
- All faculties commit in advance to the matching for all projects that are selected in which their faculty participates, so that no separate negotiation between groups that propose projects and faculties will be needed during the process.
- In order to organize the co-financing from their faculty, prospective applicants will have to contact their dean or research director as to whether their faculty can and will support the application.

3.3 Eligible expenses:

- Personnel costs.
- Data access and collection, research assistants (RA rate standardized: 55 per hour gross, including UvA overhead).
- Conferences/research travel/visitor proposals.
- Costs associated with societal impact.

A budget sheet format as well as standard rates per FTE etc. will be made available online.

3.4 Applying:

More information about the content of the four Themes and the current seed grant projects of the four Themes can be found on the [dedicated website](#) or via the Theme-managers (see 1.5 above).

Are you considering sending in a project proposal that fits the Midsized projects criteria?

- ➔ Contact the representative of your faculty in the IP Theme Steering group and/or the Theme manager (see 1.5 above).

Do you have general questions about this call?

- ➔ Please contact Niek Brunsveld and Emmelie Kamsteeg for more information via e.kamsteeg@uva.nl.

A Format for applying for a Midsized project is available in Appendix II.

4 Assessment procedure

Assessment procedures

The rector magnificus and the chairs of the Steering groups of the IP Themes (the deans) will function as the assessment committee. The Steering groups will provide their chair with an advice about the projects falling under their Theme. This advice will consist of a qualitative judgement on the basis of the assessment criteria mentioned below, as well as a ranking.

The applicants will be able to respond to this qualitative judgment, which will be sent to the assessment committee along with the advice by the Steering groups.

Based on the advice by the Steering Groups and the response by the applicants, the assessment committee (rector and Steering group chairs) will make an assessment of the quality of the proposals based on the requirements mentioned in the calls (under 2. and 3. above).

The result of the assessment and prioritization translates into a decision of the UvA Executive Board on awarding or not awarding funding for the proposal.

Assessment criteria

Assessment will be based on:

- A. Fulfilling the requirements as listed under 2.2 (in the case of a Seed grant) or 3.2 (in the case of a Midsize project).
- B. Alignment of the objectives of the Seed grants or Midsize projects with the IP Themes.
- C. Quality of the research proposal and consortium, based on the application formats in Appendices I (in the case of a Seed grant) or II (in the case of a Midsize project).

Relevance to chosen focus of the Themes will be ultimately decisive for equivalent proposals.

Awarding projects over the four Themes

In principle, two projects are awarded for each IP theme. If there are more good proposals, the two remaining slots are allocated to the most promising of the remaining proposals



Appendix I: Seed grant application format

To be sent in via e.kamsteeg@uva.nl no later than 24 February 2023, 11u CET.

The proposal must be drawn up in English. The size of a proposal is a maximum of 750 words (with the exception of title/applicants and budget sheet). A proposal addresses the following matters:

1. Title and applicants

2. Purpose of seed grant (max. 100 words)

What seed is intended to be planted with this Seed grant proposal and what plant should it grow into?

3. Scientific case / impact (max. 200 words)

What does scientific innovation consist of? What makes this project an interfaculty collaboration, how do the disciplines meet? What are the main themes and methodology? What scientific objective and sub-objectives does this project have? How does the innovation build on existing strengths and areas to be developed within the UvA?

4. Societal case / impact (max. 100 words)

What is the intended IP theme for this project and how does the project contribute to the relevant IP theme? What social impact is intended? Involvement of a non-academic party is not a requirement, but what parties might ultimately be interested in this research field?

5. Staff, organization and institutional context (max. 200 words)

How is this Seed grant organized? How do the faculties and the non-academic party relate to each other? What is the best organizational form to achieve the above? Who commits to this project (if awarded funding), what contribution do they make, and for how much of their time?

6. Expected output and success indicators (max. 100 words)

What products or other outputs are created? How does this relate to the objective of this project? By what indicators can the success of this project be measured?

7. Potential follow-up and financing (max. 50 words)

How does this project tap into potential follow-up funding? Subsidy providers, stakeholders, perspective on a follow-up. Why is there is a reasonable possibility for acquiring additional external resources after the midsize period?

8. Budget (according to budgeting sheet format)

How much funding is applied for (15-50k€)? What is it spent on (postdocs, research assistants, teaching leave, etc.)? Use the format that will be available through the website.



Appendix II: Midsize project application format

To be sent in via e.kamsteeg@uva.nl no later than 24 February 2023, 11u CET.

The proposal must be drawn up in English. The size of a proposal is a maximum of 1500 words (with the exception of title/applicants and budget sheet). A proposal addresses the following matters:

1. Title and applicants

2. Summary (max. 200 words)

A short summary of the Midsize project.

3. Scientific case / impact (max. 400 words)

What does scientific innovation consist of? What makes this project an interfaculty collaboration, how do the disciplines meet? What are the main themes and methodology? What scientific objective and sub-objectives does this project have? How does the innovation build on existing strengths and areas to be developed within the UvA?

4. Societal case / impact (max. 200 words)

What is the intended IP theme for this project and how does the project contribute to the relevant IP theme? What social impact is intended?

5. Involvement or interest of non-academic parties (max. 200 words)

Which non-academic party (public, semi-public or private) contributes to this project? What expertise can this party contribute to the project? How is the contribution of the non-academic party made (in kind/in cash)?

6. Staff, organization and institutional context (max. 200 words)

How is this Midsize project organized? How do the faculties and the non-academic party relate to each other? What is the best organizational form to achieve the above? Who commits to this project (if awarded funding), what contribution do they make, and for how much of their time?

7. Expected output and success indicators (max. 200 words)

What products or other outputs are created? How does this relate to the objective of this project? By what indicators can the success of this project be measured?

8. Potential follow-up and financing (max. 100 words)

How does this project tap into potential follow-up funding? Subsidy providers, stakeholders, perspective on a follow-up. Why is there is a reasonable possibility for acquiring additional external resources after the midsize period?

9. Budget (according to budgeting sheet format)

How much funding is applied for? What do the faculties bring in? What is it spent on (postdocs, smaller seed grants, teaching leave, etc.)? Use the format that will be available through the website.

Appendix III: Format report at end of Seed grant or Midsize project

For seed grants (Instrument I) at the end of the funding period, the report consists of:

- a short video of the results obtained within the seed grant project.

For midsize projects (Instrument II), at the end of the funding period, the report consists of:

- a video of the results obtained with the project funding, as well as
- a short report, with the following details:
 - Use of budget (max. ½ A4);
 - What are the available resources spent on?
 - Results or the added value of the growth project financing (max. 300 words);
 - What things have been possible to develop that would not have happened without this funding?
 - to what output and/or outcomes did this lead?
 - Which interfaculty collaborations and collaborations with social parties have arisen?
 - what external visibility has been generated?
 - Strategy (max. 300 words)
 - How did the above results contribute to achieving the goals formulated in the growth project proposal?
 - What are your plans for the future?

Appendix IV: Background to the call

As the UvA Strategic Plan 2021-2026 ('Inspiring Generations', chapter 2.2) states, the UvA wishes to encourage collaboration between disciplines. Additional funds have been made available to invite academics to formulate new and at times unexpected research questions at the interface between disciplines and faculties, and to incorporate these into our teaching.

Four societal Themes (IP Themes) have been defined for this purpose, all of which play to the UvA's strengths:

- responsible digital transformations
- healthy future
- fair and resilient society
- sustainable prosperity.

The Strategic plan also states that by boosting innovation through these Themes, we aim to achieve the following additional benefits:

- the research collaboration must attract other income, which will ideally lead to long-term partnerships with internal and external researchers and with interested businesses and philanthropists. The additional funding will come from the EU, the NWO, the Growth Fund or the region, for example;
- the innovation must filter through into our degree programmes (both undergraduate and postgraduate), enabling us to attract new students with programmes that relate to the new research questions. That way, we continue to present the UvA as a leading research-intensive university;
- the research collaboration will enable us to attract talent from both the Netherlands and abroad through an inter-faculty approach.

For each of the IP Themes, dedicated grant and network support will be organized. Each IP Theme will also organize network events, seminars, conferences, etc. Also, dedicated communication support is being organized. Next to that continuous support, the following instruments are available:

Seed grant projects (opstartprojecten) / Instrument I

In 2021-2022, the Theme Steering groups have chosen a particular focus for their IP Theme. In order to get scholars from different faculties to work together on that research focus, seed grant projects (opstartprojecten) were identified with a (semi-)open call, and were allocated funding from Instrument I. Open calls will continue to be available annually.

Midsize projects (doorgroeiprojecten) / Instrument II

Next to starting new collaborations, there is also funding available for (existing) interfaculty collaborations within those Themes and with involvement of societal stakeholders, in which the participating faculties are willing to co-invest. This means that faculties are willing to make *additional investments* in these collaborations, e.g. because they contribute to the faculty's strategy and because it connects closely to external research (and funding) agenda's.

For these midsize projects (doorgroeiprojecten) annual funding will be available through Instrument II, to be matched by at least the same amount from the involved faculties.

It is not necessary to have received seed grant funding (Instrument I) in order to be eligible for funding for a midsize project (Instrument II).

Large-scale cofunding projects (grote cofinancieringsprojecten) / Instrument III

For large-scale projects with financial support by third money stream a third mechanism is being put in place, i.e. Instrument III.

➔ This instrument will become available in due time.

This initiative is in addition to the existing provision for Research Priority Areas (RPAs). RPAs need not have a societal component, whereas projects within the Themes do. Also, RPAs are not expected to be able to attract external funding in the near future, whereas projects within the Themes do.

The funds will be used to support the establishment of project-based research areas over a period of five to ten years. Thereafter, the research areas will fund themselves (from research council and contract funding and through the education and research parameters of the internal allocation model).