

Application for a MMM PostDoc-line seed money grant

This third round of the **MMM Seed Grants** introduces two separate lines of funding opportunities: one for PIs and one for PostDocs. The present call for **MMM PostDoc-Seed-Grant** applications aims at promoting scientific collaborations among PostDocs working in Minds, Media, Machines in the research theme of “Living Technologies 2.0”. It is designed to aid our PostDocs in sharpening and developing their research profile and/or becoming visible as an expert in an MMM-related research topic. MMM Seed grants support collaborative and individual projects in a lightweight procedure.

Two types of applications: We aim to encourage **collaborations** among PostDocs from at least two MMM-AGs. However, we also recognize the potential of smaller individual projects that might lead to an interesting output based on the **new ideas** of a single MMM PostDoc. Therefore, this new funding line can now also be used to apply for a broad range of measures to support PostDocs in conducting excellent individual research in MMM. However, even applications for individual financial support should outline the relevance of their work with respect to our aim of establishing new collaborations. For example, such applications could describe how their successful project could help create a basis for future collaborative efforts.

Funding via MMM PostDoc-Seed-Grants is available up to the following amounts, depending on proposals targeting individual or team efforts:

- For individual PostDoc-Seed-Grants: up to **3500 EUR**
- For collaborative proposals by PostDocs from at least two MMM-AGs: up to **5000 EUR per AG per grant** (e.g., 10000 EUR for two PostDocs from two different AGs)

All projects should be **completed within 1 year** from the date of receiving the seed-grant. As in the previous rounds, collaborative applications from MMM teams of different disciplines are especially encouraged but not a requirement. In general, collaborations that aim to bridge between the research areas (“pillars”) of MMM, e.g., with respect to methods, theory, or outcomes will be prioritized over collaborations that are more narrowly focused. We thus strongly encourage new ideas that build on the potential for synergies available in MMM.

Grant Criteria:

Only **MMM PostDocs**, i.e., post-doctoral researchers working in at least one of the AGs belonging to the High-Profile Area “Minds, Media, Machines” (MMM; for a list of AGs see: <https://minds-media-machines.de>) can apply for the **MMM PostDoc-Seed-Grant**. Proposals should state the name of a full MMM-Member who is endorsing the proposal. The **MMM PostDoc-Seed-Grant** is aimed at initiatives that are designed to conduct individual and collaborative research on Minds, Media, and Machines in the research theme of “Living Technologies 2.0”. The overarching goal of collaborative proposals in this funding line should thus be related to our ongoing efforts to advance MMM-research in artificial intelligence, robotics, machine learning, data science, human computer interaction, social media, and mediatisation. As per our mission statement, proposals should consider these research areas in the context of key issues related to MMM-technologies, such as the benefit and welfare of the society, taking on board aspects such as usability, privacy, security, sustainability, and lawfulness, and supporting aspects of human life ranging from the education of children to the support of the elderly.

Successful MMM PostDoc-Seed-Grant proposals should provide a clear vision of how the proposed work leads towards publications, collaborations, and future joint proposals within the context of MMM. An important criterion will therefore be the **proposed project’s contribution to MMM**, and how it strengthens the basis for joint proposals targeting external funding. Please be as concrete as possible and specifically describe the project’s contribution to MMM as well as the added value of the proposed collaboration, highlighting the points that may help to distinguish it from other proposals. Further criteria include **prior works** and their **fit to the research topic, viability, and innovativeness of the topic, and plans towards joint future work** (e.g., submission of a joint grant proposal). Attention should furthermore be paid to the **adequacy of the requested funding**.

Examples of possible cost positions in this funding period include, but are not limited to:

- Studies that aim to examine a “Living Technologies 2.0” (LT2.0) theme with a new mix of methods
- Studies that explore research questions at the intersection of two or more AGs
- Funding of materials or small equipment¹ required to study relevant aspects of human-machine interaction
- Funding for data collection / annotation student hours to pursue research angle within the scope of LT2.0
- Conference attendance to present project results
- Publication costs not otherwise covered by the University (e.g., high-ranking hybrid journals), or by the PI of the respective MMM-AG. Note that these should be independent publications, i.e., single author publications or senior-author publications
- Publications and/or preliminary work with the goal of proposal planning (e.g., DFG).
- Start-up funding for and preparation of high-profile 3rd-party funded proposals (e.g., ERC): Travel expenses, workshops, meetings with proposal partners, coaching costs for proposal strategy / presentations
- Research stays incoming / outgoing: up to 2 months, travel, study, and accommodation costs of MMM postdocs in external laboratories, or external postdocs on invitation of MMM postdocs
- Funding for workshops organized by the applicants (e.g., a satellite workshop at a major conference)
- Funds for publication of a substantial body of work, e.g., book, scientific publication in a high-impact journal, or a comprehensive review paper (e.g., in media sciences or psychology)

Financial support for other types of collaborative research initiatives is possible, provided that it supports a collaboration between different MMM member groups. Collaboration with MMM-external partners is possible. However, these partners will not be eligible to receive funding via the MMM PostDoc-Seed Grant. While we expect most projects to be conducted by two AGs in MMM, collaborations between three or more AGs are possible. Such larger collaborations will increase the overall maximum amount of funding for the entire project (e.g., a Post-Doc plus substantial additional other costs). However, the expected outcome of such collaborations should likewise be substantially higher. **We encourage potential applicants to contact us either via email at kuester@uni-bremen.de or by phone (0421 218-64266) to discuss the possibilities.**

Funding Conditions:

The funding decisions for all applications will be made by the members of the MMM Executive Board. Based on the decisions, applicants will receive a decision letter addressing the above-stated **grant criteria (contribution to MMM, scientific excellence of the proposed project, expertise of the applicants with regards to the proposed project, adequacy of the requested funding)**. For negative decisions (no funding recommendation), feedback will be provided on suggestions and improvements to be made for a potential future resubmission. For administrative and legal reasons, all expenses made by projects that are funded via the MMM-PostDoc Seed Grants will need to be executed through the MMM Office.

Funding via the MMM-PostDoc Seed Grants is available for activities that can be **concluded within twelve months**. MMM Seed-Money grants are subject to the same basic rules as any other funding provided via the city state of Bremen² (“Landesmittel”). Part-funding is possible in all cases. PostDocs in MMM are eligible to apply for PostDoc-line MMM Seed Grants under the condition that the application is endorsed by at least one full MMM-Member, and provided that the collaboration involves at least two AGs in MMM. Second round grant money cannot be used to top-up a granted seed money proposal from former calls / rounds. However, AGs from the first round of the MMM Seed-Grant series may apply for new projects involving new collaborations in MMM.

A brief final report must be submitted no later than 4 weeks after the end of the project (ca. 1-2 pages).

¹ Equipment costs should not exceed 2.500€ per AG. Ideally, this equipment is aimed for use in further collaborative work in MMM beyond the scope of the proposed project.

² Grants are subject to the general rules of the University of Bremen for SAP-purchases and “Landesmittel”.

Application Guidelines:

Applications for the MMM PostDoc-Seed Grant can be submitted via [E-MAIL](mailto:mmm@uni-bremen.de) to mmm@uni-bremen.de. **The deadline is November 15th, 2021.** Please use the **Application Form** below. The application should not exceed **two pages**, using a font size of 10 pts, plus up to 1 page for references.

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Title | [Title] |
| List of all applicants* | [name], [name], [name] |
| Estimated start | [DD.MM.YYYY] |
| Estimated end | [DD.MM.YYYY] |

*Note. Please include a statement about the endorsing MMM-Member(s) [*This application is endorsed by (Name)*].

1. Summary (max. 250 words)

[Pitch of the project idea, expected results, and how it relates to the mission of "Living Technologies 2.0".]

2. Project Proposal

[Text.]

2.1. Background and research questions

[This section should provide a brief statement about the background and State of Art, followed by the main research question(s) to be addressed. Relevant own previous work should be included where suitable but is not as critical as in other types of proposals due to the aim of facilitating new initiatives for collaborations in MMM.]

2.2. Relevance, Objectives, and Expected Results

[This section should detail the expected outcomes of the proposed project. Explain how your work is relevant to the mission of "Living Technologies 2.0", which MMM cross-cutting issues are addressed, and what your objectives are with respect to leveraging the project results for future work / proposals.]

2.3. Methods

[Detail the methods of the proposed work, considering the methodological benefits of conducting this work collaboratively in MMM.]

2.4. Workplan and Timeline

[Depending on the complexity of the proposed work, consider including a Gantt chart.]

2.5. Resource Plan

[Brief summary of the individual items.]

| Nr. | Requested item | Cost [EUR] |
|---------------------|----------------|------------|
| 1 | | |
| 2 | | |
| Total amount | | |

* if a currency conversion is required, please use <http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/> and indicate the date of the conversion.

References

[References should adhere to the APA reference style (7th Edition).]

3. Statement [may use digital signatures]

The applicant(s) has (have) no other financial resources available or requested for the activity.

Date, Signature

Date, Signature

Date, Signature