

MMM Impulse Seed-Grants 2026

MMM Impulse Seed-Grants aim to support new ideas and collaborations between **MMM Early Career Researchers** (ECRs) in a lightweight procedure. The key intended outputs are **publications** that offer a perspective towards applying for **3rd party funding**. In 2026, we aim to support **up to 8 new initiatives** with a maximum amount of **5.000 EUR per grant**. Thematically related grants that additionally aim to advance collaboration between different MMM AGs are possible and encouraged.

Each Impulse Seed-Grant should have one designated ECR Principal Investigator, who must be a member of an MMM-AG. We further encourage applicants to involve one or more collaborators from other MMM-AGs who, e.g., contribute to the design, conduction, or publication of the joint work but receive no own funding. ECRs who are PIs in one Impulse Seed-Grant may have a collaborator role in other Seed-Grants but cannot be the ECR PI in more than one MMM Impulse Seed-Grant in this funding round.

Grant Criteria:

Proposals should be **aligned with the mission of MMM** and address 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.

Proposals should provide a clear outline of targeted **publication** outputs, demonstrate **scientific excellence** and describe how the current individual **expertise of the applicants** will be linked through the expected publications and other research outputs to support a subsequent **third-party funding proposal**. The research plan and should describe realistic outcomes, and how they will be leveraged. The **involvement of new AGs**, who have not previously benefited from MMM Seed-Grant funding, will be positively considered. Already previously funded AGs should include a brief separate statement on their contributions and any updates to **outcomes of from previous MMM funding** that has not already been reported. Lastly, attention should be paid to the **adequacy of the requested funding**, considering the competitive nature and limited overall budget for these proposals.

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

- Studies that aim to examine a new method or explore new research questions at a thematic intersection with another MMM-AG (supporting collaboration and integration in MMM);
- Funding for data collection / annotation student hours to pursue a new research angle within the scope of our motto to advance *Intelligence in Action* (see <https://minds-media-machines.de/>);
- Funding of materials or small equipment required for the seed work and third-party funding proposal¹;
- Conference attendance to present joint project results.

Financial support for other types of costs is possible if they directly support the seed project. Collaboration with MMM-external partners is possible. However, these partners will not be eligible to received funding via the MMM Impulse Seed Grant. **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.**

¹ Equipment costs should not exceed **2000€** per AG

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. For administrative and legal reasons, seed grants cannot have their own “Kostenstelle” in the SAP but remain tied to the overall MMM-funding. All expenses must therefore be communicated in advance to the MMM Office.

Funding via the MMM Investigator Seed Grants is available for **activities that can be concluded within twelve months**. Projects should start, for all involved AGs, **within 6 months of the date of approval**. They should be completed within 12 months of the date of approval. Cost-free extensions are possible. However, project funding will end by **December 31st, 2026**. It will **not** be possible to carry over any funds into 2027 because the overarching APF MMM-funding allows for no carry-over funding.

MMM Seed grants are subject to the same basic rules as any other funding provided via the city state of Bremen² (“Landesmittel”). **MMM Early Career Researchers (ECRs) are eligible and encouraged** to apply for MMM Impulse Seed-Grants. However, the call is also open to **PI- and Associate Investigator members of MMM**, who may apply to pursue a new research idea, e.g., when no resources from ECR team members are available. ECR members of MMM-AGs (e.g., **PostDocs**) should furthermore coordinate any submissions with the PI- and Associate Investigator members of their MMM-AG. Funding for a new project cannot be used to top-up a granted seed money proposal from former calls / rounds. However, AGs from the previous rounds of the MMM Seed-Grant series may apply for new projects involving new collaborations in MMM.

Reporting Requirements:

Applications are required to provide a publication plan and an outline for the targeted third-party proposal preparation and submission. A **final report** must be submitted **no later than 4 weeks after the end of the project** (ca. 1-2 pages).

Applicants further agree to support seed-grant related MMM-activities and updates. These include:

- A brief report at MMM-meetings (general assembly, retreat)
- A notice on seed-grant based manuscript submissions and grant submissions (mmm@uni-bremen.de)
- Manuscript submissions should include a brief **funding note** (equivalent to DFG/BMBF).
- Conference presentations, supported workshops, lecture series, or similar events should prominently include the MMM-logo as part of the presentation and / or advertising.

² Grants are subject to the general rules of the University of Bremen for SAP-purchases and “Landesmittel” (e.g., no “Grundausrüstung”, catering costs).

Application Guidelines:

Applications for the MMM Impulse Seed Grants can be submitted via [E-MAIL](mailto:mmm@uni-bremen.de) to mmm@uni-bremen.de. **There will be a rolling deadline.** The available funding will be allocated based on the date of submission. Please use the **Application Form** below. The application should not exceed **three pages**, using a font size of 10 pts, plus up to 1 page for references.

Title	[Title]
ECR PI (or MMM-PI-Member) applicant	[name], [MMM-AG]
Collaborator(s)*	[name], [MMM-AG]; [name], [MMM-AG]
Estimated start - end	[DD.MM.YYYY] - [DD.MM.YYYY]

1. Summary (max. 250 words)

[Pitch of the project idea, expected results, and how it relates to the mission of MMM.]

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 MMM, 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

[The timeline should include target dates and suggested outlets of planned publications as well as a preliminary timeline for the planned third-party proposal preparation. 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