The University of Michigan, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU), Deutsches Zentrum für Altersfragen (DZA), Max-Planck-Institut für Bildungsforschung (MPIB), Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (DIW),

Collaborative Research in the Social Sciences

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: Submission deadline: May 15, 2016

Funding from the University of Michigan (UM) and four German Institutions will be available for collaborative research projects between co-investigators from the four German institutions and from UM. The objective of the Seed Phase is to identify topics for joint research projects in the fields of social science in two areas: 1. Technology - health interface across the life span; and 2. Mobility/ Transportation and health across the lifespan, providing a basis for joint proposals seeking external support. Successful Seed Project proposals, therefore, must have a strong potential for significant follow-on external funding. This announcement represents the first call for proposals during the initial phase of our research collaboration.

Collaborative Research Program:

With this research collaboration both The University of Michigan and the four German Institutions HU, DZA, MPIB, DIW have made a commitment to address challenges and opportunities in the social sciences. Several small research endeavors as well as student exchanges have occurred in the past, as have joint academies and conferences held both in Ann Arbor and Berlin. We believe these exchanges have set the stage for collaborative research where social scientists (and potential others) gain an international perspective by working together in confronting global challenges we are confronting in the future especially changing demographics and the changing age structure of our society. The result will be a radically changed society with numerous pressing issues to resolve. While there are many possible areas on which to focus the two noted above have garnered much interest and have a unique potential to benefit from social science input. In addition, we believe they are especially likely to benefit from an interdisciplinary approach. We hope to see successful new faculty collaborations leading to new joint research programs.
Applications for Collaborative Research in the Social Sciences

The proposal process

Successful collaborative teams will seek resources made available from both the US and German governments to form lasting international collaborations of researchers specializing in specific applications of the social sciences in solving challenging societal problems.

Budgets:

UM and the four German institutions (HU; DZA; MPIB; DIW) intend to award up to five grants with up to €40,000/year per grant. Awards may be made for one year or two years, with a quality gate review at half point of the project duration for projects lasting longer than one year.

Preconditions:

Proposals must include researchers from both UM and at least one of the four German institutions. A website is available to post project interests and find potential collaborators: http://isr-wp.isr.umich.edu/um-berlin-collaborative/

The proposers should clearly indicate how the successful conduct of the Seed Project would enhance the prospects for securing third party funding or initiating commercialization prior to completion of the project. Proposers who can identify specific external research programs with current or pending Requests for Proposals (RFPs) will be favored.

Cost sharing derived from sources either inside or outside UM and the four German institutions demonstrates the interest of third parties in the field and is recommended, but not required. The source, amount and nature of such cost sharing shall be identified in writing at the onset in the Proposal of each collaborative project.

Project durations cannot exceed 24 months. Milestones and/or deliverables after half of the project duration are required for projects lasting longer than one year (quality gate review).

A successful proposal must be consistent with regulations governing the participating institutions. Principal Investigators (PIs) can only submit one proposal.

Proposal Guidelines:

Proposals (12 pt and 1.5 line) may not exceed ten pages (not counting application form and co-PI bios) must include the following sections:

- Application form (to be found on the website)
- Executive summary
- Objectives
- Existing state-of-the-art and challenges
- Technical approach
- Rationale for collaboration
- Description of major tasks and respective task leader
- Proposed timeline for major tasks and milestones
- Opportunity for follow-on funding, potential for commercialization and long term plans (beyond the scope of the seed project)
- Plans for interchange of personnel between institutions
- Identification of project-relevant background intellectual property, if applicable.
- Budget: Cost per task to include labor, supplies, materials, travel and any other costs. Cost must be broken out for each project year and for both UM and the German institutions participants. Lodging and other living expenses are borne by the home institutions of the visitors, and must be included.

UM/HU DZA MPIB DIW CFP on Collaborative Research in the Social Sciences applications 2016
• Summary of expertise and experience of the key personnel (not included in page count)

Submission: Proposals, written in English, are due on May 15, 2016 and shall be submitted by email. The subject of the email must be in English and include “UM-HU DZA MPIB DIW Proposal” and the PI names. Send a single PDF file, including a request for notice of receipt to UMGermany2016@umich.edu and simultaneously
Dr. Valerie Popp; Research Service Center, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
valerie.popp@uv.hu-berlin.de

Evaluation of Project Proposals:
Proposals will be reviewed by a panel comprising representatives from UM and the four German institutions (HU DZA MPIB DIW), appointed by their respective Vice President for Research or their designee.

The panel shall rank the proposals according to the following evaluation criteria:
• Relevance to the objective of the cooperation
• Rationale for collaboration between UM and the four German institutions
• Originality and innovation potential of research plan
• Plan for interaction between university/institution groups, including exchange of personnel
• Potential for scientific or engineering impact
• Potential for impact beyond academic publication, e.g. commercialization, policy impact, etc.
• Potential for external support
• Cost-effectiveness

The announcement of Awards is expected by July 2016.

Progress review
A panel of experts will review each funded project halfway through the project period. Advice will be provided for enhancing the broader objectives of the work after each review. Continued funding is contingent on progress made towards meeting proposed objectives at that time.