

Call for Proposals – São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) and Berlin University Alliance (BUA) 2026

Summary: The São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP), Brazil, and the Berlin University Alliance (BUA), Germany, announce this joint initiative to fund collaborative research proposals in basic research across all areas of knowledge.

Deadline for proposal submission to FAPESP 15.03.2026

Funding Modalities:

- **Seed funding**
- **Bilateral Workshops**

Maximum project duration Up to 24 months

Eligibility: Researchers affiliated with Higher Education and Research Institutions in the State of São Paulo who are Principal Investigators of ongoing research projects funded by FAPESP under the support modalities mentioned in item 4.1.

Researchers affiliated with one of the Berlin University Alliance's institutions: Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin, and Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. Projects must have two PIs across BUA's member institutions

Submission: To FAPESP via the SAGe Platform.

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1. Introduction

FAPESP and the Berlin University Alliance (BUA) signed, on 05 of September 2025, a Cooperation Agreement with the objective of promoting and strengthening scientific and technological cooperation between researchers from the State of São Paulo, Brazil, and from the institutions that make up the Berlin University Alliance: Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin, and Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin.

Under this Agreement FAPESP and BUA launch this Call for Proposals to fund collaborative projects as an initiative to implement and consolidate this partnership, open to researchers affiliated with Higher Education and Research Institutions in the State of São Paulo in partnership with researchers affiliated with institutions that make up BUA.

This call will fund projects in two modalities: (i) seed funding and (ii) bilateral workshops.

Researchers from the State of São Paulo and from BUA interested in applying to this call must choose one of the modalities and follow the guidelines described below.

Proposals are expected to be balanced between the two teams, not necessarily in monetary terms, but with equivalent commitment and research efforts from both sides.

2. Funding and Duration

FAPESP and BUA will jointly fund:

2.1. Projects under the seed funding modality:

- Projects up to EUR 20,000.00 with a duration of 24 (twenty-four) months. FAPESP will fund the research groups based in the State of São Paulo (up to EUR 10,000.00), and BUA will fund the research groups based in Germany (up to EUR 10,000.00).
- The projects must have the same duration on both sides.
- A total of 4 (four) proposals may be supported under this Call.

2.2. Projects under the bilateral workshops modality:

- Projects up to EUR 40,000.00 with a duration of 24 (twenty-four) months. FAPESP will fund the research groups based in the State of São Paulo (up to EUR 20,000.00), and BUA will fund the research groups based in Germany (up to EUR 20,000.00).
- The projects must have the same duration on both sides.
- A total of 3 (three) proposals may be supported under this Call.

3. Areas of Knowledge

Bilateral research project proposals developed by researchers from BUA and from the State of São Paulo, Brazil, may be submitted in any field of knowledge.

4. Eligibility of Researchers

4.1. For FAPESP:

Eligible to submit proposals under this Call are researchers employed by public or private higher education and research institutions in the State of São Paulo who are Principal Investigators of ongoing FAPESP-funded research projects under the following support modalities: *Regular, Projeto Temático, Jovem Pesquisador, Projeto Inicial (PI), Projeto Geração Centros de Pesquisa, Inovação e Difusão (CEPID), Centros de Pesquisa em Engenharia/Centros de Pesquisa Aplicada (CPes/CPAs), Centros de Ciência para o Desenvolvimento (CCDs), Programa Ensino Público, Programa de Pesquisa em Políticas Públicas (PPPP)* and *Programa de Apoio à Pesquisa em Parceria para Inovação Tecnológica (PITE)*. Principal investigators on on-going projects on the following modalities are also eligible: *Projetos Temáticos, CEPIDs, CPes/CPAs, CCDs* and *PIEs*.

4.2. For the Berlin University Alliance:

4.2.1. Eligibility to submit proposals within the scope of this Call:

Researchers eligible for BUA funding under this Call must be permanent or contracted employees of Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Freie Universität Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin or Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin at an Academic Level ((Junior) Professors, Research Group Leaders or equivalent) at time of application and must maintain this status for the duration of the proposed activities.

Each joint proposal must include at least two Principal Investigators (PIs) from different BUA institutions. A letter of support from the Head of Department must be submitted as proof of eligibility by each PI.

4.2.2. Eligibility for the exchange activities within the scope of this Call:

Principal Investigators as well as Associated Researchers from BUA institutions directly involved in the proposed research project. Participating doctoral and post-doctoral fellows must hold a position or a fellowship/scholarship during the planned exchange mission.

5. Proposal Characteristics

5.1. Proposals must be written in English and include:

5.1.1. Seed funding modality:

A clear description of the collaboration plan (distribution of work and implementation methods) and the expected added value of the collaboration.

Proposals must include the following sections, following the template available in SAGE:

- Summary (50 words);
- Project description and schedule (up to 1,000 words): expected project outcomes, collaborative and innovative aspects. A project management schedule must be included;
- Dissemination and future funding (up to 200 words): plan for dissemination of research results and potential future funding opportunities;
- Budget summary: a budget table detailing the resources requested from FAPESP and BUA (template available on the SAGE platform).

5.1.2. Workshop modality:

A clear description of the workshop organization (venue, number of participants, expected objectives) and the expected added value of the collaboration.

Proposals must include the following sections, following the template available in SAGE:

- What will be the topic of the workshop and its relevance? (up to 500 words)
- How will the workshop train early-career researchers? (up to 500 words)
- What are the expected outcomes of the workshop? List them. (up to 500 words)
- Who will be the speakers (include a brief academic bio)
- What is the proposed strategy for selecting the remaining participants? What measures will ensure diversity and representativeness? (up to 500 words)
- A project management schedule must be included
- Budget summary: a budget table detailing the resources requested from FAPESP and BUA (template available on SAGE platform).

6. Proposal Submission Procedures

6.1. The proposal must have one Principal Investigator (PI) in the State of São Paulo and two at BUA from different BUA institutions stating PI and co-PI;

6.2. The research project must be conceived and jointly written by the São Paulo and BUA PIs;

6.3. Only the PI from the State of São Paulo must submit the joint proposal to FAPESP;

6.4. The BUA partner researchers must register in the SAGE system to be listed as part of the project team. Registration can be done via “Sem cadastro?” on the initial page. Only fields marked with an asterisk (“*”) must be filled. Once listed in the proposal, the BUA PIs must confirm participation.

6.5. In addition to the research project and budget summary, the São Paulo PI must include all documents required by SAGe in the submission:

6.5.1. Seed funding modality

- a) Information approved by the Host Institution regarding institutional infrastructure (model available on the SAGe form)
- b) Statement from the Host Institution Director (model available on the SAGe form)
- c) Data Management Plan (Plan (up to 2 pages) describing the data the project will produce, how it intends to make them available and preserve them. [PDF up to 1MB])
- d) Research Project
- e) Proponent's Curriculum Summary (model available on the SAGe form)
- f) Curriculum Summary of the BUA's Principal Investigators (model available on the SAGe form).

6.5.2. Workshop modality:

- a) Information approved by the Host Institution regarding institutional infrastructure (model available on the SAGe form)
- b) Statement from the Host Institution Director (model available on the SAGe form)
- c) Data Management Plan (Plan (up to 2 pages) describing the data the project will produce, how it intends to make them available and preserve them. [PDF up to 1MB])
- d) Workshop Project
- e) Proponent's Curriculum Summary (model available on the SAGe form)
- f) Curriculum Summary of the BUA's Principal Investigators (model available on the SAGe form).

6.6. The submission deadline is 15.03.2026. No proposal will be accepted after the deadline, nor will addenda or clarifications be accepted unless formally requested by FAPESP or BUA. Proposals received after the deadline or not in compliance with the specifications herein will be deemed ineligible.

6.7. Proposals must be submitted in English exclusively via FAPESP's SAGe platform, where all fields must be completed. Submission to FAPESP: New Initial Proposal > +

Other Funding Lines > + Cooperation Agreements > + Berlin University Alliance (BUA) > + Regular Research Grant > + FAPESP/Berlin University Alliance Joint Call 2025. A copy must be sent by email to the BUA Representative in a single PDF document (kathinka.rosenkranz@berlin-university-alliance.de).

6.8. Applicants must note that FAPESP reserves the right to reject applications that do not comply with the procedures established in this Call.

7. Funding Modalities and Eligible Costs

7.1. Eligible costs for FAPESP

7.1.1. Under the seed funding modality, FAPESP funds may be used for:

- Travel expenses, daily allowances, and travel insurance;
- Modest direct research costs: consumables, third-party services, low-cost equipment, and access to facilities, to support activities and expenses related to visitors;

a. FAPESP: will provide funding for travel (economy-class airfare – www.fapesp.br/5835, item 3.4.1), travel insurance (www.fapesp.br/2921), and daily allowances (www.fapesp.br/16590) for São Paulo researchers visiting BUA:

- Payment of daily allowances must comply with Ordinance PR nº 35/2020 (www.fapesp.br/14018). If the stay abroad is less than 30 days, a maximum of 10 daily allowances per researcher may be used. Monthly maintenance may only be applied if the stay abroad is 30 days or longer, in accordance with FAPESP's current tables for researchers (www.fapesp.br/15942);
- The grant may only be used for researcher exchanges, planning visits, and initial data collection activities, always aimed at continuing and consolidating research collaboration;

7.1.2. Under the workshop modality, FAPESP funds may be used for:

- Travel expenses, daily allowances, and travel insurance;
- Modest direct research costs: consumables and third-party services;

a. FAPESP: will provide funding for travel (economy-class airfare – www.fapesp.br/5835, item 3.4.1), travel insurance (www.fapesp.br/2921), and daily allowances (www.fapesp.br/16590) for São Paulo researchers visiting BUA:

- Payment of daily allowances must comply with Ordinance PR nº 35/2020 (www.fapesp.br/14018). If the stay abroad is less than 30 days, a maximum of 10 daily allowances per researcher may be used. Monthly maintenance may only be applied if the

stay abroad is 30 days or longer, in accordance with FAPESP's current tables for researchers (www.fapesp.br/15942).

7.2. Eligible costs for Berlin University Alliance researchers:

Travel and accommodation costs are calculated on the basis of the German Federal Travel Expenses Act. The approved funds are budgetary funds. They are earmarked and are to be used exclusively for material costs (e.g. fee payments, consumables, travelling expenses, hospitality costs, material expenses, services). Conference attendance (unless integral to the collaborative project) cannot be funded under this Call.

8. Timeline

Call announcement by FAPESP and BUA	19.01.2026
Deadline for proposal submission to FAPESP/BUA	15.03.2026
Results announcement	04.05.2026
Start of the projects	01.06.2026

9. Proposal Evaluation and Selection

9.1. Evaluation Procedure

Applicants must follow the evaluation procedure established by BUA and FAPESP. Proposals not meeting the requirements set in this Call will not be qualified for merit review. Eligible proposals will be evaluated through a three-step process:

9.1.1. FAPESP will analyze proposals deemed eligible according to its evaluation procedures described at www.fapesp.br/en/analysis.

9.1.2. Proposals will then be reviewed by an Evaluation Panel using the following general criteria:

- i. International scientific level of the research groups, including team composition;
- ii. Complementarity between research teams and respective expertise;
- iii. Methodology;
- iv. Originality and innovative nature of the project;
- v. Relevance of the project;
- vi. Purpose of the project;
- vii. Feasibility and focus of the project;
- viii. Collaboration and coordination between research departments;

ix. Scientific context (adequacy, experience, and infrastructure) of the research departments;

x. Necessity and relevance of the requested budget;

xi. Additionally, high importance will be attributed to the added value of international collaboration, complementarity and synergy between partners, contribution/coordination of research tasks, and researcher exchange.

10. Contact Information

Questions specific to FAPESP regarding this Call for Proposals should be directed to João Arthur Reis at: chamada-fapesp-bua@fapesp.br.

Questions specific to BUA regarding this Call for Proposals should be directed to Kathinka Rosenkranz at: kathinka.rosenkranz@berlin-university-alliance.de