

Bavaria & Queensland Research Alliance Funding Program

About the Program

The world is facing complex and severe challenges, such as (1) climate change (2) accelerated and spiralling accumulation of waste (3) fractured geopolitical landscapes (4) societal polarization and pluralism emphasized by multiple forms of migration (5) stressed health systems due to unequally growing or shrinking (aging) populations (6) disparate developments of global regions and (7) the all-encompassing need for comprehensive digitalization.

To address these challenges, Bavaria and Queensland build their collaboration on ***shared universal values*** by combining and integrating their ***complementary strengths***, including (1) advanced technologies (2) abundant resources (3) strong knowledge-based societies/communities (4) high levels of digitalization, and (5) extensive innovation potential.

Thus, the **Bavarian State Government** and the **Queensland State Government** recognize that a strong research and development capability is a critical driver for innovation, economic growth, and job creation in both States. In addition, international partnerships are important for maintaining the relevance and impact of successful and cutting-edge collaborative research.

The **Queensland-Bavaria Collaborative Research Grant Program** is a joint initiative under the Declaration of Intent between the Department of Environment, Science, and Innovation (DESI) and the Bavarian State Ministry of Science and the Arts (StMWK).

Objectives:

- Support the development of long-term strategic research alliances between higher education organizations and industries in Bavaria and Queensland.
- Facilitate joint efforts and outcomes exceeding the capabilities of individual research organizations or projects.
- Build research and development capacity, enhancing Bavaria's and Queensland's international scientific impact and reputation.
- Foster collaboration between researchers and industries, maximizing the application and commercialization of research outcomes.

The program aims to establish sustainable relationships between Bavarian and Queensland partners by supporting collaborative research projects. Applications are invited in priority areas, each specified by, but not limited to, the list of examples below:

- **Additive Manufacturing**
 - Multi-Material Printing
 - Supply Chain Certification and Trust
 - Human-centred Design and Engineering

- **Aerospace**

- **Artificial Intelligence**
 - Societal Impact of AI
 - Machine Learning Tools for Sustainable Energy
 - Data Management and Algorithmic Engineering

- **Cleantech and Emission Reduction Technologies**
 - Circular Economy
 - Smart Cities and Mobilities beyond Urban Spaces
 - Ending Plastic Waste

- **Energy (including Green Hydrogen, Synthetic Fuels and Energy Storage)**
 - Hydrogen Production, Transport, Utilization and Storage
 - Waste Utilization for Fuels and Energy Materials
 - Hybrid Processes for Renewable Fuel Production

- **Health, Life Sciences, Biomedical Research, and Bioeconomy**
 - New Treatments for Infections and Wound Care
 - Healthy Ageing and Chronic Diseases
 - Smart Wearables
 - Biofabrication
 - Waste Utilization for Food and Polymeric Materials
 - Low-cost and Scalable Processes for Biomass Utilization at Distributed Sites
 - Resilient Crops for more Sustainable Agriculture
 - New Products from Underutilized Plants

- **Quantum Technologies**

Guidelines for Applicants

Application guidelines and overarching themes of this call have been broadly defined on the basis of the agreement between Bavaria and Queensland, as well as through the discussions during the recent kick-off workshop of representatives from Bavarian and Queensland research institutions in Brisbane in February 2024, and are in accordance with established rules of government funding in both states.

Eligibility

- Applicants
 - Those eligible to apply (from here on referred to as ‘the applicant/s’) are researchers (post-doctorate or higher-level scientific staff) from state universities and state universities of applied sciences that receive funding from the Bavarian government¹ are eligible to apply.
- Projects
 - Completed or advanced-stage projects are not eligible.
 - Each application must be submitted as a collaborative project involving at least one researcher from Bavaria and one researcher from Queensland, preferably with an industry partner. Project activities carried out by partners have to involve genuine collaboration between the applicants.
Each project must have one lead applicant from Bavaria and one from Queensland.
- Application
 - All projects must submit their joint research proposal in two separate applications. Bavarian applicants must submit to the Bavarian application portal (MoveOn at the **Bavaria-Australia Coordination Unit** at UBT. Hereafter: **BACU**). Queensland applicants must submit a corresponding application to the Queensland government’s application portal (smartygrants).
 - The project description/outline has to be identical in both applications (these may include: participating partners, narrative/vision, objectives, outcomes, impact, timeline and budget)
 - Attachments should be provided in the same format/template.
 - Necessary attachments for **both grants** include:
 - CVs (max. 2 pages), brief research summaries of participating researchers, including list of no more than five publications most relevant to the project.
 - A letter of support by leadership of the two leading applicant’s institutions respectively.
 - **For seed grants:** A research proposal of maximum two pages summarizing research project and expected outcomes.
 - **For development grants:**
 - A research proposal of maximum ten pages summarizing research project and expected outcomes;
 - Letter/s of intent by industry partner/s.
 - Applications on either side have to follow the specific rules required in Bavaria and Queensland respectively. This might result in differences with regard to required formats and documentation, not affecting the project description/outline, which has to be identical verbatim.

¹ This includes researchers from KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (KUEI), Evangelische Hochschule Nürnberg (EVHN) or Katholische Stiftungsfachhochschule München (KSFH).

- Applicants can submit multiple applications on different topics for both grant formats respectively.
- Each application has to constitute a distinct project, i.e. the project relates to a distinct activity/set of activities with specified start and end points, and aims and outcomes that are achievable within these specified points,

Funding Rules

- All successful applicants must sign a grant agreement with the respective funding agency on the basis of their grant notification prior to receiving funding.
- The maximum funding amounts may not be exceeded in the projected budget, otherwise the application will be rejected.
- Foreign partners invited to Bavaria, accommodation costs up to 120 EUR per person per night may be reimbursed. (in cities with over 300,000 inhabitants 120 EUR per night, in smaller cities 90 EUR per night).
- The Bavarian Travel Expense Regulation (Bayerische Auslandsreisekostenverordnung) including associated travel expense rates (Reisekostensätze) is applicable (please use updated version).
- All spending regulations of the respective funding agency have to be adhered to.
- Overhead costs, personnel costs (including ECRs and PhD students), telephone and internet charges as well as consumables will not be subsidized.
- Payment of grants will be made based on the commencement and completion of the agreed activities and the provision of documentary evidence that all requirements in the Grant Deed have been satisfied, including evidence that total project expenditure has been incurred and project contributions made by all relevant parties.
- Only eligible expenditure incurred on or after the project commencement date can be claimed by successful applicants.

Project Implementation and Changes and End of Project

- Please notify your university's research support office before submitting your application online. Applications received electronically cannot be altered once the call has closed.
- All considerable changes to the project (partners, content, budget, timeline) have to be submitted to BACU for approval.
- If an approved project cannot be realized, the Bavaria-Australia Coordination Unit at UBT (BACU must be notified immediately).
- Seed and Development grants: The applicant is required to submit a project report and a numerical Proof-of-Use list to BACU within three months after project completion via OASys.
- Development grants only: annual milestone reports on the progress of the project implementation have to be submitted to BACU.

Category 1:	Seed Grants²
Funding amount provided by the Bavarian government:	10.000 € for 12 months³
Application deadline:	10th May 2024 9am (CEST)
Funding commences:	1st July 2024

The priority of Seed Grants lies in providing support for travel and/or accommodation for Bavarian researchers and/or visiting researchers from Queensland. Activities funded under the seed grant scheme may include:

- Organization of face-to-face and/or virtual joint symposia, workshops, mobility projects, and webinars.
- Local activities (in Bavaria and Queensland) that support the development of new collaborative research and industry links.
- Initiatives that lead to joint funding applications with partners in Queensland.

The Seed Grants support the development of new research activities between Bavaria and Queensland universities that may lead to collaboration in:

- Initiation of research which can support the development of emerging and priority industries in Bavaria and Queensland
- Encouraged initiation of research components that may lead to pilot and/or demonstration projects in collaboration with industry partners)
- Initiation of proof-of-concept activities.
- Initiation of feasibility analyses or/and market potential assessments.

In-kind contribution by all participating partners is encouraged, and may include:

- partial salary costs of project participants and support staff
- use of institutional infrastructure and consumables

Items not eligible for funding include:

- Organisational overheads
- Capital works and/or physical infrastructure, including any buildings, land transportation, telecommunications, and IT networks,
- Non-project related travel for professional development or conference attendance,
- Costs associated with the on-going programs of work and/or core business of the applicant or partner organisation(s).
- Costs of quarantine related to travel, and
- Contract research for services that can be performed by the applicant organisation.
- Expenses for staff, publication, vaccinations, etc. are not covered under this program.
- Technical lab equipment and instrumentation

² Budget proviso: All grants are subject to the availability of state budget funds for this funding program.

³ For information about the funding provided by the Queensland government, see grant announcement in Qld.

Seed grant: <https://des.smartygrants.com.au/QLDBAVSEED2024>; Development grant: <https://des.smartygrants.com.au/QLDBAVSEED2024>. contact: science.grants@DES.qld.gov.au

Bavarian Government funding either must be spent wholly in Bavaria, or if partly spent in the partnering jurisdiction, must directly relate to the Bavarian research proponent (for example to cover costs to access specialized research equipment not available in Bavaria).

Application assessment for Seed Grants

Applications will undergo competitive, merit-based process against the specified criteria (see below) by a panel with scientific/research/industry expertise.

1. Anticipated outcomes and benefits of the proposed activities (50% weighting)
2. Alignment of activity with the program priorities (30% weighting)
3. Quality of the potential collaboration and capability of the potential project team (20% weighting)

The assessment process will also consider the Bavarian government's priorities and the imperative to contribute to the strategic goals laid out in the HighTech Agenda Bavaria, as well as the need to balance the research investment to support a diversity of capability across scientific disciplines, identified fund priority areas, institutions, and research groups. Bavarian Government funding either must be spent wholly in Bavaria, or if partly spent in the partnering jurisdiction, must directly relate to the Bavarian research proponent (for example to cover costs to access specialized research equipment not available in Bavaria).

Category 2:	Development Grants⁴
Funding amount provided by the Bavarian Government:	80.000 € for 24 months⁵
Application deadline:	10th July 2024 9am (CEST)
Funding commences:	1st September 2024

Research projects and activities funded under the development grant scheme, may include:

- Research which supports the development of emerging and priority industries in Bavaria and Queensland (encouraged).
- Activities resulting in proof-of-concept.
- Research in collaboration with industry partner/s.

Feasibility analyses or/and market potential assessments are encouraged.

Funding may be used for the following eligible project costs:

- salary costs for project staff (including salary-related on-costs),
- project consumables, and
- travel expenses directly related to the project activities outlined in the submitted application.

In-kind contribution by all participating partners is encouraged, and may include:

- partial salary costs of project participants and support staff
- usage of institutional infrastructure and consumables

Items not eligible for funding include:

- Organisational overheads,
- Capital works and/or physical infrastructure, including any buildings, land transportation, telecommunications and IT networks,
- Non-project related travel for professional development or conference attendance,
- Costs associated with the on-going programs of work and/or core business of the applicant or partner organization(s),
- Costs of quarantine related to travel,
- Contract research for services that can be performed by the applicant organization, and
- Technical lab equipment and instrumentation.

Bavarian Government funding must be spent wholly in Bavaria, or be directly related to Bavarian research proponents if partly spent in the partnering jurisdiction, must directly relate to the Bavarian research component (e.g. to cover costs to access specialized research equipment not available in Bavaria).

Only eligible expenditures incurred on or after the project commencement date can be claimed by successful applicants.

⁴ Budget proviso: All grants are subject to the availability of state budget funds for this funding program.

⁵ For information about the funding provided by the Queensland government, see grant announcement in Qld, [LINK!](#)

Application assessment for Development Grants

Applications will undergo competitive, merit-based assessment against specified criteria, set out below, by a panel with scientific/research/industry expertise. Applications will be assessed by the Project Committee and undergo independent peer-review by international experts active in the selected research area.

Level of novelty, scientific merit, and feasibility of the project (30% weighting):

- The science and research address a current and significant challenge for both Bavaria and Queensland.
- Preliminary research has been undertaken (by the applicant, project partners or others) that supports the advancement of the project.

Quality of the collaboration and capability of the project team (30% weighting):

- Science and research partners with complementary areas of expertise will work together on a specific project.
- The project will build upon the competitive advantages of Bavaria and Queensland.
- The participants have the research, scientific, and management skills, and experience, with access to infrastructure and funding required, to successfully deliver the project.

Outcomes and impact of the project (40% weighting):

- The project will develop innovative technologies or processes that have the potential for application within an identified priority area. Technology readiness will be taken into account.
- The project seeks to foster real and tangible economic, social, and/or environmental benefits for Bavaria and Queensland.

The assessment process will also consider the Bavarian government's priorities and the imperative to contribute to the strategic goals laid out in the HighTech Agenda Bavaria, as well as the need to balance the research investment to support a diversity of capability across scientific disciplines, identified fund priority areas, institutions, and research groups.