



Regulations UZH Global Funding Scheme

4 May 2026

1. General Provisions

1.1 Purpose

The UZH Global Funding Scheme supports faculties, departments, and professional service units in developing and implementing joint initiatives with international partners that advance the objectives of the UZH Global Strategy 2030. The scheme harnesses the global networking potential of the UZH community by mobilizing scalable and high-impact bottom-up initiatives from researchers and units across the university, in particular through collaboration with Network and Priority Partners as well as relevant non-academic actors operating at the interface between science, policy, and diplomacy. Through targeted support for collaborative activities, the UZH Global Funding Scheme helps extend the international network of UZH while strengthening its visibility, impact, and international engagement, contributing to progress across the strategic priority areas of the Global Strategy 2030.

1.2 Administration

The UZH Global Funding Scheme is administered and coordinated by Global Affairs. This includes issuing the funding call, including the call text, application and reporting content, responding to inquiries about the call, receiving the project applications, organizing the evaluation, and sending out the decision notifications, administering the funds, and receiving the reports. It is the responsibility of the UZH Project Lead to open a suitable account (“K-elements”) according to the instructions by UZH Global Affairs. Amendments of the account (“Mutationen”) as well as the closure of the K-element may only be initiated by UZH Global Affairs.

1.3 Funding lines

The UZH Global Funding Scheme includes various funding lines that allow for project applications with different durations and grant sums (currently: *Global Seed Fund*, *Global Outreach Fund*, *Global Champion Fund*). Each funding line is managed through specific calls. Details on the funding lines, types of projects that may be funded, and call timelines are specified on the call website (cf. UZH Global Funding Scheme Call website).

1.4 Eligibility

1.4.1 Academics and members of professional services employed at the University of Zurich

The UZH Global Funding Scheme is open to professorial staff, non-professorial academic staff, and administrative and technical staff (cf. UniG, § 8-10). Applicants must be employed at the University of Zurich during the entire period of the project to be eligible as Project Lead.

1.4.2 Project Partners

Each project proposal must be submitted together with a Project Co-Lead from one partner university from the list of Network and other Priority Partners. The list can be found on the UZH Global Funding Scheme website. Project Co-Leads can be professorial staff, non-professorial academic staff, and administrative and technical staff employed at the respective partner universities.

Alternatively, and only for the *Global Champion Fund* and the *Global Outreach Fund*, the Project Co-Lead may be a natural person employed at a reputable policy organization, policy research institute, or boundary organization with demonstrated experience in science-policy interfacing and international cooperation¹. The following applies:

- The partner institution(s) must be legally established entities with a demonstrated track record in research, policy advisory, international cooperation, or related science and knowledge diplomacy activities.
- By submitting the application, the Project Co-Lead confirms that the partner institution is formally established and has the administrative capacity to participate in the proposed activities.

2. Application

The Project Lead (cf. 1.4.1) must submit the following information to Global Affairs via the *Good Grants Tool* linked on the UZH Global Funding Scheme call website. Each Project Lead may submit a maximum of one application per funding line and per call. Submissions via e-mail will not be accepted.

2.1 Mandatory for all funding lines:

Completed budget template and CV of project leaders from UZH and the partner institution (max. 2 pages each).

2.2 In addition to 2.1, the following documents are mandatory for the *Global Seed Fund* and the *Global Outreach Fund*, if partner and/or UZH internal co-funding is listed in application:

Evidence of co-funding through partner institution and/or UZH internal co-funding with a clear distinction of in-kind and in-cash funding.

- Evidence of any form of co-funding must be provided in form of a signed letter at the time of application submission.
- Co-funding that has not yet been formally secured, meaning that no official funding decision has been issued for the funds on which the co-funding is based, shall not be recognized or accepted as co-funding.

2.3 In addition to 2.1, the following documents are mandatory for the *Global Champion Fund*:

Evidence of co-funding through partner institution as well as UZH internal co-funding with a clear distinction of in-kind and in-cash funding.

- Evidence of any form of co-funding must be provided in form of a signed letter at the time of application submission.
- Co-funding that has not yet been formally secured, meaning that no official funding decision has been issued for the funds on which the co-funding is based, shall not be recognized or accepted as co-funding.

3. Evaluation of Project Applications

3.1 Criteria

Project applications are evaluated in line with the following evaluation criteria:

- Impact of the project idea in achieving institutionally sustainable progress in an area of the Global Strategy 2030 with an eligible partner (cf. 1.4.2).
- Novel and unique idea in terms of internationalization in education, research, innovation, societal outreach, or professional services delivery
- Clear and well-structured budget plan

¹ Further information on eligible organizations, institutes, and organizations can be found on the [UZH Global Funding Scheme](#) call website (under [Global Outreach Fund](#) and [Global Champion Fund](#) respectively).

- Level of matching fund and commitment from the partner university, or other stakeholders where applicable

3.2 Evaluation Body

The Global Seed Fund and Global Outreach Fund will be evaluated by UZH Global Affairs.

The Global Champion Fund will be evaluated by UZH Global Affairs, in consultation with representatives from the faculties, VP Research and VP Education and Student Affairs.

3.3 Timeline

The evaluation timeline is specified in the call timeline (cf. UZH Global Funding Scheme call website). The application deadline date is final and there will be no extensions provided. The application tool (*Good Grants Tool*) will automatically prevent application submission after the deadline.

3.4 Grant

The evaluation and decision of the evaluation body is final and cannot be appealed. There is no legal entitlement to the grant. There is no legal entitlement to receive individual feedback of the funding decision. The Project Leads of UZH are informed via e-mail whether their project is funded.

4. Report on Project Progress and Achievements

4.1 Submission

The following reports shall be submitted in English by the UZH Project Lead to UZH Global Affairs via the *Good Grants Tool*. Submissions via e-mail will not be accepted. The link to submit the reports through the *Good Grants Tool* is available on the UZH Global Funding Scheme website.

4.1.1 For the *Global Seed Fund* and *Global Outreach Fund*:

Within six weeks after completion of the Project: A Final Project Report. The Final Project Report shall summarize the achievements and future outlooks of the Project and the collaboration.

4.1.2 For the *Global Champion Fund*:

- At halftime of project²: Midterm Report mentioning the status of the project and current milestones
- Within six weeks after completion of the project: A Final Project Report. The Final Project Report shall summarize the achievements and future outlooks of the Project and the collaboration.

4.2 Entry of the Project into the UZH Global Cooperation Database

It is the Project Lead's responsibility that the activity is registered and updated on the [UZH Global Cooperation Database](#).

5. Project Budget

5.1 Approval

Expenditures of the grant must agree with the approved budget in the Grant Letter. The approved budget is described in the Grant Letter, which is sent to the Project Lead. The allocated funds may only be spent within the approved duration of the project. Generally, the transfer of lump-sum money to another account, including UZH internal, is prohibited.

² For example: If the project lasts 24 months, the mid-term report is due after 12 months. The project duration is stated on the Grant Letter.

5.2 Deviations

Deviations from the budget may only be permitted upon written agreement with Global Affairs. Deviations from the budget must be communicated to Global Affairs as soon as they become apparent. Any unspent grant falls back to Global Affairs.

5.3 Co-funding from the Partner University or Eligible Non-Academic Stakeholder and UZH internal matching funds

Global Seed Fund and Global Outreach Fund: Applications that demonstrate co-funding by partner institutions (cf. 2.2) will be given priority. *Global Champion Fund:* Some level of UZH internal co-funding as well as co-funding from the partner institution is required; the closer to matching funds, the better (cf. 2.3).

6. Financial Contribution

6.1 Assignment

The financial contributions are not tied to the Project Lead but to a UZH institute or unit. The Project Lead is responsible for overseeing the administration of the financial contribution in line with UZH financial rules and regulations and on behalf of their UZH institute or unit. Should the Project Lead terminate their employment at UZH during the project period outlined in the application, the Project Lead is responsible to find a substitute within UZH to finish the projects in line with the project proposal.

6.2 Administration

The grant funds shall be administered via an account specifically opened for the project by the UZH Project Lead and in accordance with the instructions from UZH Global Affairs (project type “K”). The UZH Project Lead will be able to pull funds from the account (project type “K”) up to the maximum grant amount within the agreed project duration on the Grant Letter. The UZH Project Lead is responsible for ensuring that the account does not exceed the agreed maximum grant. If it does, the UZH Project Lead shall be responsible to cover the excess. By submitting the final report, the Project Lead agrees to the closure of the account by UZH Global Affairs. The remaining amount on the account falls back to UZH Global Affairs.

UZH Global Affairs exclusively administers funds to UZH Project Lead via the UZH account (project type “K”). If project costs covered by the grant are incurred by a project partner (in line with the submitted project budget), the UZH Project Lead is responsible for taking the necessary steps in accordance with UZH’s and the partner’s regulations for such payments (i.e. setting up bilateral contracts, if required).

6.3 Audit

UZH Global Affairs will have access to the activity on these accounts and reserves the right to check if the funds were spent as indicated in the application form.

6.4 Withholding of Payment

UZH Global Affairs reserves the right to withhold part or all of the payment of the financial contribution if the project is not progressing well and falls severely behind schedule (more than six months). Further, UZH Global Affairs reserves the right to reclaim part of or all of the payment of the financial contribution in case the UZH Project Lead fails to submit the reports, or if reports of low quality are submitted.

7. Obligations Project Lead and UZH Global Affairs

7.1 Overall Management

The UZH Project Lead shall be responsible for the overall scientific, administrative and financial management of the project.

7.2 Sharing of Information

UZH Global Affairs shall share information about relevant opportunities with the Project Lead. Further, UZH Global Affairs shall include information about the projects in briefings of the UZH Executive Board and ensure the visibility within the general communication of the UZH (for instance, but not limited to UZH related websites, social media, etc.) around the partnerships between UZH and the project partner(s).

7.3 Participation in Monitoring and Reporting

The Project Lead shall ensure continuous monitoring of the activities executed in the framework of the project and take timely corrective actions whenever needed and fulfills the reporting requirements. The Project Lead shall further inform UZH Global Affairs in due time about events or changes that may affect the successful implementation of the project.

7.4 Participation in Audits

The Project Lead shall grant full access upon request by UZH Global Affairs or a duly authorized representative to check if the funds were spent as indicated in the application form. Therefore, the Project Lead shall provide all requested information and grant full access to relevant documents and accounts if requested, including information about partner and UZH internal co-funding.

7.5 Communication

The Project Lead shall make information in relation to the granted project (relevant photos, links, etc.) available to UZH Global Affairs upon request and/or in the report. Further, the Project Lead shall mention the support received from UZH Global Affairs in any presentation or publication directly resulting from the project and allow the University of Zurich and the partner institution to mention the project as being supported in the framework of their partnership (e. g. by using the phrase “Supported through UZH Global Funding Scheme”).

7.6 Data protection

If data is collected from individuals, the legal regulations of data protection to protect the privacy of individuals must be observed. For more information, refer to the [UZH Fact Sheet Data Protection](#).

7.7 Compliance and export control

The following applies:

- Activities under this grant may be subject to export control regulations of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). The UZH Project Lead is responsible for compliance.
- The Project Lead is advised that they are required to comply with SECO regulations on sanctions against individuals, organizations, and countries. UZH Global Affairs is not able to fund projects with sanctioned entities. The updated sanction list is available on the SECO website.
- All UZH researchers in a grant-funded project are further required to comply with UZH’s regulations on international cooperation, travel safety, and research integrity.
- UZH Global Affairs reserves the right to not fund proposals upon consideration of the reputational risk of the project or partnership to UZH.

For more information, refer to the [UZH Export Control](#) and the [UZH Responsible Internationalization Policy](#).

8. Expiration of Claim

If the UZH Project Lead leaves the University of Zurich and a substitute to continue the project at UZH cannot be defined (cf. 6.1), the funds must be returned to UZH Global Affairs. If the Project Partner (cf. 1.4.2) leaves their institution and a substitute to continue the project at that institution cannot be defined, the funds must be returned to UZH Global Affairs.