

Emory University and University of Bonn Collaborative Research Grant – 2026-27 Guidelines for Applicants

Purpose

This **Collaborative Research Grant** program fosters international research and engagement between Emory University's **Halle Institute for Global Research and Learning**, and the **University of Bonn**. Applicants from all schools and disciplines are encouraged to submit funding applications for innovative and sustainable projects built around collaborative research linking faculty at the University of Bonn and Emory University. The research may take place in any country or region as long as it is done collaboratively. The expectation is that these initial projects will lead to or continue long-term collaborations, institutional and research relations, and when applicable, generate publications, exhibitions, and/or external funding. Applications that include students are encouraged but not required.

One application will be funded (each with two principal investigators: one from the University of Bonn and one from Emory University) with a project starting date of January 1, 2027, and receive up to USD15,000 and EUR13,000 Euros from their respective institution, for a total of up to approx. USD30,000. These funds must be used for research (broadly defined) and follow the budget guidelines below.

Application Eligibility

Principal investigators must be regular, continuing full-time faculty at Emory University. Principal investigators at University of Bonn must have completed a doctorate and be able to show proof of their employment at least until the end of the collaborative research project. Questions about eligibility should be directed to the respective institution.

Mutual external collaborators (including researchers from other universities internationally, or those working in non-academic contexts such as industry or government) cannot lead an application but can be involved in the proposed activities at their own expense, where the benefit of their involvement to the collaboration is justified in the proposal.

Additional Partners from GUSI network

Applicants may elect to include additional research partners from partner universities in the Global Universities for Societal Impact (GUSI) network: University of St Andrews or Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Projects must remain feasible and capable of delivering their core objectives through the bilateral partnership alone. Additional GUSI partners may provide added value to the project but should not be

essential to its delivery. Proposals with added GUSI researchers will not be given priority over proposals with only the bi-lateral partners.

Applicants who plan to include additional GUSI partners are asked to notify program officers Kelly Yates and Christian Klöckner of their intent by 8 September 2026 to receive further guidance. The budget for the additional GUSI partner should not exceed GBP 2,000/ILS 8,000 and may be used for travel or other approvable expenses.

All proposals will be reviewed and selected by the bilateral institutions, Emory and Bonn. Selection of a project does not automatically guarantee funding for an additional GUSI partner. If a project with an extra GUSI partner is selected, the researcher's respective university will review and make a decision about funding their researcher.

Key Dates

- **Call opens:** July 20, 2026
- **Applications close:** October 6, 2026 (6pm CET, 12pm EST)
- **Outcomes announced:** by December 1, 2026
- **Projects commence:** January 01, 2027
- **Projects completed:** by December 31, 2028

Emory Institutional Statement on Diversity

The Emory community is open to all who have a commitment to the highest ideals of intellectual engagement, critical inquiry, and integrity. We welcome a diversity of gender identities, sexual orientations, abilities, and disabilities, as well as racial, ethnic, cultural, socioeconomic, religious, national, and international backgrounds, believing that the academic and social energy that results from such diversity is essential to advancing knowledge, addressing society's most pressing issues, and attending to the full spectrum of human needs in service to the common good.

Bonn Institutional Statement on Diversity

The University of Bonn stands for top-level research within an extensive global network, for sound communication of science in teaching and for knowledge transfer into society. It owes its excellence to its members: its students, researchers, teachers and all its administrative and technical staff. It is their diversity—reflected in a broad spectrum of potential, experiences and lifestyles—that both enriches and challenges the University as a teaching and learning organization. The University of Bonn understands the implementation, promotion and support of equal opportunity and diversity as fundamental to a university culture built on appreciation and thus as a management and cross-sectional duty.

Guidelines for budgets

The budget for each project should not exceed USD15,000 from Emory University and EUR13,000 from the University of Bonn. Since these grants include support for research mobility, the maximum allowable expenses for airfares, accommodation and meals/per diems should correspond to the guidelines of the University of Bonn (i.e., NRW Travel Expenses Act (LRKG) for University of Bonn staff; for researchers invited to Bonn, see recommended rates on Bonn's [program website](#)) and Emory University. Any activities not addressed below are subject to the rules and regulations of the University of Bonn and Emory University.

Collaborative Research Grants are intended to support research activities, including global research-related mobility for Emory University and University of Bonn faculty and students. Proposals must clearly articulate and justify all planned activities.

Please make sure that your budget and project timeline are clearly related. Committee members should have no difficulty determining when different parts of the project will be carried out.

Allowable expenses include:

- airfare, train tickets
- accommodation
- local transportation
- appropriate per diems for faculty, post-docs, or full-time enrolled student team members
- costs for hosting a seminar, conference or workshop
- consumables (including publication/printing costs)
- hourly wages for full-time enrolled Emory or University of Bonn students

Non-allowable expenses:

- salaries or salary supplementation of any kind
- indirect and overhead costs
- course releases
- stipends or scholarships for students (tuition support purposes)
- course fees for international students
- equipment
- computers, including laptops, (excluding access to high-performance computers or other specialized applications that are justified within the project proposal) and basic computing facilities such as printers, word processing and other standard software

Duration of Grant

Grants should be spent within the period indicated in the project submission or, at a maximum, within 24 months of receipt of funding.

Application Submission

Each proposal must include the items listed below. Proposals will be peer-reviewed by researchers from multiple disciplines and must be written for such an audience. The same proposal and budget for each application must be sent to Emory University and to the University of Bonn.

Applicants must submit the following items, in the order listed below as **ONE** single PDF:

- a. Names, titles, departments and emails of Emory University and University of Bonn PI's
- b. Project title and layperson's abstract of the proposed project (up to 250 words)
- c. Names of other Emory University researchers involved, including name, title, department, role in project
- d. Names of other University of Bonn researchers involved, including name, title, department, role in project
- e. Narrative description of the proposed project for a multi-school, multi-disciplinary audience using the following sub-headings (four-page limit, 12-pt. font, single spaced)
 - i. Project objectives

- ii. Background and previous work as appropriate
 - iii. Research approach and methods
 - iv. Explanation of how you will evaluate the success of your project
 - v. Anticipated schedule for completion
 - vi. Plans for future collaboration/joint applications for funding
- f. Budget and budget justification, with one section for Emory budget and one section for Bonn budget, explaining in detail all anticipated expenditures
 - i. Description of other funds secured or applied for overlapping projects
- g. (if applicable) Integration of additional researchers from another GUSI institution (one-page limit)
 - i. Researcher's role in the project & added value
- h. Budget and budget justification for third GUSI institution
- i. For Emory University faculty only, brief letter from primary PI's Department Chair endorsing the application
- j. Curriculum vitae: 2-page maximum, current, for each PI
- k. Curriculum vitae: 1-page maximum, current, for additional team members
- l. For Emory University faculty only, please indicate if Halle Institute funding has been received in the past and if so, provide the name and date of the award and indicate whether an end-of-project report was submitted.
- m. For University of Bonn faculty only, please indicate if International Office funding has been received in the past and if so, provide the name and date of the award and indicate whether an end-of-project report was submitted.

Applicants should begin preparing their applications well ahead of the closing date to provide time for an endorsement letter from the Emory PI's respective Department Chair. Completed applications should be submitted via email to: halle.global@emory.edu (for Emory University) and via the University of Bonn's [online form](#) and must be received **by both universities** by October 6, 2026 (12pm EST, 6pm CET).

Applications will be reviewed and scored by multi-disciplinary, multi-school faculty selection committees at Emory University and at the University of Bonn. Final selections will be reviewed by the Director of the Halle Institute for Global Research and Learning and the Vice Rector for International Affairs at the University of Bonn.

Ranking Criteria & Scoring

The Selection Committees will assess, comment on, and score each application, based on the criteria below. Applicants must outline the aims, methods and expected outcomes of the project and should ensure that they address all criteria. Applications that include activities involving students and/or encourage broad collaborations across schools, disciplines, and units are encouraged but not required.

The Review Committee will evaluate each application on the following criteria:

- **Academic quality and impact:** the academic quality of the proposed work, the likelihood of it gaining wide recognition and/or having a high impact when completed. If appropriate, the ability to cut across disciplines, and/or include students.

- **Innovation:** the extent to which the project will contribute to novel thinking and creative outcomes.
- **Research Outcomes:** may include, among other possibilities: publications, grant proposals, clinical interventions, performances, exhibitions, technological innovations and enhanced networks and research-based seminar/conference/workshops.
- **Partnership & Strategic Relevance:** the likelihood that the project will lead to long-term research relationships and generate ongoing collaboration. How the research will be shared with broader academic communities at each institution and contribute to realizing university strategies.

Results

Successful applicants will receive a letter of confirmation from their home institution and an Acceptance of Award letter that must be signed and returned to the Halle Institute for Global Research and Learning at Emory University and the International Office at the University of Bonn.

Payment

Successful applicants will be awarded up to USD15,000 and up to EUR13,000 by their own institution. Awardees will be responsible for managing the project funds, reporting expenditures, and for facilitating the sharing of funds with their partner PI where required. Emory awardees must provide a new speedtype created exclusively for the project for the transfer of internal funds. Upon submitting complete award agreement documents, successful applicants will be able to receive the funds within approximately one month.

Change of Investigator

If circumstances change – for example, the principal investigator or a team member leaves the project – awardees must provide notification to the Halle Institute at Emory University and the International Office at University of Bonn. All changes must be approved in writing.

Publications

Any publications (e.g., abstracts, articles, books, posters) or dissemination (e.g., public presentations) arising from activities supported by this Collaborative Research Grant should acknowledge financial assistance received from the Halle Institute for Global Research and Learning and the University of Bonn. The name for the said acknowledgment is “Collaborative Research Grant funding provided by the Halle Institute for Global Research and Learning at Emory University and the University of Bonn.”

Forfeiture of grants

Grants not spent by the project end date will be transferred back either to Emory University or the University of Bonn as applicable so that unspent balances can be re-allocated.

Financial and Reporting Obligations

Recipients will be required to submit a final report within one month of completion of the project. The report should include an outline of the outcomes of the project, an indication of the project’s possible continuation, a summary of lessons learned in undertaking the project and a detailed accounting of funds as required by each university’s policy.

Emory awardees may apply for Halle Institute funding no sooner than two years from the end date of the 2027 project. Emory University recipients who fail to submit a final report will not be permitted to

submit future applications for Halle Institute support. University of Bonn recipients who fail to submit a final report may be excluded from future internationalization funding schemes.

Further information

Emory University

Kelly Richmond Yates, Associate Director, Halle Institute for Global Research and Learning
kyates2@emory.edu.

University of Bonn

Dr. Christian Klöckner, Partnerships and International Researchers, International Office
c.kloeckner@uni-bonn.de.