



Ecoversity Seed Funding Call: Early Career Scientist@TU Braunschweig

Academic exchange is key to establishing and strengthening successful research networks. As part of the Ecoversity – Collaborative Space for Change initiative, TU Braunschweig is issuing a call for proposals to support initiatives by researchers employed by or appointed to TU Braunschweig within the last five years, as well as by any junior lecturers, tenure-track professors and postdoctoral researchers, to establish and strengthen research collaborations with colleagues at TU Braunschweig and its partner institutions, including non-university research organisations, civil society, business, politics and culture.

The call enables researchers to form robust partnerships that transcend disciplinary and institutional boundaries. By doing so, the university is providing crucial impetus for the future direction of research and collaboration aimed at addressing global challenges.

Funding may be used to carry out research initiatives or workshops that promote academic collaboration. Projects involving an interdisciplinary group of participants are particularly welcome.

Projects should relate to at least one of TU Braunschweig's key research areas (Mobility, Metrology, Engineering for Health and City of the Future) and to one or more of the following thematic areas:

- Quantum technology
- Aviation
- Digital Construction
- Microtechnology
- Space
- Marine, climate and sustainability research
- Technologies for climate-neutral mobility
- Biotechnology and healthcare research
- Artificial Intelligence
- Humanities and Social Sciences

1. Funding Lines

Funding is available through two funding lines:

1. **Collaborative research initiatives** with at least 1 partner
2. **Workshop** with at least 2 partners

Research initiatives funded under Funding Line 1 (collaborative research initiatives) must aim to draft a collaborative research proposal. Workshops funded under Funding Line 2 must aim to produce a joint publication or develop a joint research approach.



2. Eligible applicants

Eligible applicants include staff members who have been employed by or appointed to TU Braunschweig within the last five years, as well as any junior lecturers, tenure-track professors and postdoctoral researchers. Research initiatives involving PhD students are particularly welcome.

3. Application process

Applications may be sent to ecoversity@tu-braunschweig.de **until 11 September 2026**. Please use the English-language application form, which can be downloaded at www.tu-braunschweig.de/ecoversity.

4. Scope of funding, duration of funding, subject of funding

A total of 150,000 euros in funding is available for this call for proposals.

- Collaborative research initiatives will receive a grant of up to € 20,000.
- Workshops will receive a grant of up to € 3,500.

Proposals submitted should stimulate collaboration and deliver concrete results, such as joint publications or research grant applications. Initiatives at various stages of development (e.g. conception, implementation or further development) may be eligible for funding. Workshops must also be geared towards the aforementioned joint objectives.

Funding may only be awarded to departments at TU Braunschweig and must be spent by 31 October 2027. Applicants are responsible for complying with applicable laws and TU Braunschweig guidelines relating to cost-effectiveness, economic effectiveness, procurement, and catering. These must be taken into account when developing the research project or workshop concept.

5. Maximum funding period:

- Collaborative research initiatives: twelve months
- Workshops: two days

6. Partner organisations and matching contribution

Research initiatives and workshops must be supported by the partner organisation(s). This must be confirmed in a brief statement and attached to the application.

At least one partner institution must be part of TU Braunschweig's regional academic ecosystem. For research initiatives, they must be prepared to make a financial contribution of € 20,000. Alternatively, the matching contribution of € 20,000 can be made by covering costs of activities carried out by participating researchers, or to provide research infrastructure as a matching contribution.

7. Funding criteria

- Potential to strengthen collaboration within the scientific ecosystem at TU Braunschweig (www.tu-braunschweig.de/ecoversity)
- Initiative/workshop within a core research area and one or more thematic area(s)
- Clear definition and focus of expected outcomes
- Coherence and feasibility of the planned initiative
- Sustainability – prospects for further collaboration after the funded initiative has ended

8. Selection Process

Decisions on funding will be communicated approximately six weeks after the application deadline. Applications will undergo a formal preliminary review by the Ecoversity Hub. A selection committee comprising three members of the Executive Board of TU Braunschweig and members of the International Ecoversity Advisory Board will select the applications to receive funding. Applications are assessed and ranked according to the specified criteria. During the selection meeting, applications are discussed and compared, and a final funding recommendation is made.

9. Report & Visibility

Once the funded activity has been completed, a brief report detailing the results of the initiative/workshop must be drawn up based on a template and sent to the Ecoversity Hub. Further details will be provided if funding is awarded.

Applicants agree to contribute to at least one media feature to raise the profile of the collaborative initiative/workshop, such as an article in “Die Woche” or a post on TU Braunschweig’s social media channels.

Questions?

Please feel free to contact Anika Düring (Ecoversity Hub):

Email: ecoversity@tu-braunschweig.de or phone: +49 531/391-14085

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