

# Application for Seed Money Projects 2017 (max. 4 pages)

**Deadline for application: 31 October 2016**



This is the first call for projects in 2017. The requested budget is associated to the funding period in 2017.

## Scope of the Funding

Seed Money is used to inspire new ideas, to launch new projects and promote innovative, creative and new ideas. All PIs of the Universe Cluster can apply for this support.

The aim of this new Universe-funding stream is to identify and support innovative research and development of projects in all fields of the Universe Cluster, where such non-bureaucratic financial support can significantly contribute to knowledge and lead to advances in this scientific field.

## Procedure

Applications can be handed in at any time, with proposals being evaluated twice a year. Deadlines for applications are being sent out to all principle investigators of the Universe Cluster and can also be found on our website (<http://www.universe-cluster.de/research/seed-projects/>). A selection committee will evaluate submitted applications. The competitive selection process includes a written application (as outlined here) and a 10 minutes oral presentation of the project. Marks will range from "funded", "subject to resubmission" to "rejected". Funds will be awarded twice a year.

## Evaluation Criteria

The concept of the application must be a new approach and thus must not be a part or supplement of an existing funding support! It can however be a – so far unsupported – new idea within the large collaborations that scientists of the Universe Cluster are often involved. If that is the case, this has to be stated explicitly and clearly described. Evaluation criteria are as follows:

- novelty of the research concept; originality of the approach
- scientific quality of the project
- relevance of the project with regards to the research areas of the Universe Cluster
- quality of the project planning, structure and cost plan
- interdisciplinarity/collaboration of Universe Partner Institutions

## Funding

Typical projects to be funded involve, e.g. analysis and studies of new hypotheses, innovative concepts, “proof of principle” projects; initiation of new collaborations, consumables, new equipment, infrastructure, start-up funding to produce preliminary results for bigger applications, special events.

The available total budget in 2017 for all seed projects is 300.000 EUR (i.e. 150.000 EUR for each call on average).

Seed money is **not meant** to fund personnel; however, in very exceptional cases funding for positions in new projects can be made. In this case applicants have to justify in detail, how the position will be funded after this period of startup funding. The person should not have worked in the Cluster on a similar project before.

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Funding ends on **31<sup>st</sup> October 2017** which is the end of the Cluster's second funding period. Funds that are not used or committed by this date will go back to the Universe Cluster.

## APPLICATION DETAILS:

**Name of the proposer/s:** *[First name, last name, institution]*

**Title of the project:** *[title, max. 100 characters]*

**Research Area(s):** *[at least one of the Cluster's research areas]*

**Category:** *[theory/experiment/interdisciplinary]* and *[consumables/investment/personnel]*

**Involvement of other institutions or infrastructure:** *[e. g. TUM, LMU, MPI, ESO, LRZ, FRMII, MLL, TUM-UGL, Cluster laboratory,...]*

**Short summary of the project:** *[max. 1000 characters incl. blanks]*

**Time scale of the project** *[start DD.MM.YYYY; end DD.MM.YYYY] end at the latest 31.12.2016*

**Requested Budget:** *[Cost plan: break down and total sum incl. VAT]*

## Scientific plan

*-Preliminary work in the field*

*-Detailed description of the project: methods, goals and important milestones*

***-Seed aspect of the project and possible continuation after initial Cluster-funding***

*-Timeliness, challenge and attractiveness*

*-Feasibility, risk of the project and expected results*

*-Please add 1-2 appropriate graphs or images*

*-Which groups (local as well as external) will be involved?*

*-Added value*

*-In case of staff funding: what is the source of funding after the startup funding?*

Applications should be sent to **Andreas Müller** ([andreas.mueller@universe-cluster.de](mailto:andreas.mueller@universe-cluster.de)).

**Interdisciplinary and inter-institutional projects are encouraged and will be given priority.**

All proposals for seed money projects will be presented in a **seminar in November 2016, date, time and venue to be announced**. Please nominate a proposer who can present your application in a 10min presentation on this date!