



Birmingham-Leiden Strategic Collaboration Fund

Background

The University of Birmingham (UoB) and Leiden University (LEI) developed strong institutional, academic and executive-level relations through the EUniWell European University Alliance. We are now creating a framework for continued collaboration and investment to grow the strategic partnership between our two institutions.

We seek to further develop a special, long-term and broad collaboration based on principles of sustained reciprocity and mutual benefit, supported through a newly established joint seed funding programme.

The fund aims to deepen existing collaborations and develop wider faculty networks to: build cognate research areas; expand access to expertise, facilities and educational exchange; and strengthen strategic aspirations for institutional engagement.

Criteria

The Birmingham-Leiden seed fund supports collaborative engagement between the University of Birmingham and Leiden University with the following priorities:

Implementation Grants to support and strengthen existing faculty-faculty relationships leading to clearly defined outputs.

Priority will be given to activities that have the potential to:

- a) Progress joint research priorities;
- b) Connect world-leading researchers;
- c) Enhance our institutional research profiles through collaborative publications;
- d) Build productive, impactful relationships with leading academic, scientific, cultural and policy communities;
- e) Evolve into jointly-submitted proposals to external funding agencies for sustained support of collaborative research activities.

Initiation Grants to encourage wider faculty involvement and expand institutional engagement.

We invite funding applications from colleagues interested in developing new research relationships. Priority will be given to:

- a) Applicants who can clearly demonstrate that they have established a potential area of collaboration with their counterparts at the University of Birmingham or Leiden University;
- b) Activities with the potential to extend beyond individual links to wider collaborations. i.e. 'research group to research group';
- c) Projects with the potential for sustained and enlarged collaborative activity.

Guidelines

There are no restrictions on the forms of activity undertaken with Birmingham-Leiden funding, providing they meet the criteria outlined above.

The fund is available to support planning visits, workshops and exchanges with the partner institution for the purpose of developing the strategic partnership. The fund may also support meetings in third party locations where there is potential to develop and/or showcase collaboration.

Activities may include but are not limited to:

- Academic projects to extend academic networks and research outputs, joint conferences, workshops, collaborative experiments and co-authored publications;
- Curriculum innovation and development of joint teaching and learning initiatives;
- Partnership development to provide mobility and internship opportunities to ensure the distinctiveness of our high-quality student experience;
- Civic and cultural relationship-building to enhance our status as an 'engaged' university.
- Trilateral activities that link research projects into wider strategic regions – including, for example, countries in Africa, Latin America, China, India, and Europe

Applicants are encouraged to apply for reciprocal visit funding in order to broaden networks and cement engagement.

Applications that can demonstrate potential for relationships to become sustainable beyond the proposed project and initial seed funding term are strongly encouraged, whether through faculty and department commitment or the likelihood of externally leveraged grants and awards.

Financial support

- Funding will be allocated locally, with UoB paying the travel and accommodation costs of UoB staff travelling to Leiden University, and the costs of projects occurring at UoB; and

Leiden University paying the travel and accommodation costs of Leiden University staff travelling to UoB, and the costs of projects occurring at Leiden University.

- Funding will be subject to the travel reimbursement and other relevant financial policies of the institution providing the funding to its faculty or units.
- Requests of support for non-standard costs such as research equipment costs or research assistant staffing will need particularly clear justification.
- The maximum funding available per project will be up to £15,000/ €17,500 in total, with half coming from each partner.

Review timetable

Date	Action
<u>4th September 2024</u>	Fund Launched (open for c. 8 weeks)
<u>28th October 2024</u>	Application deadline
<u>13th November 2024</u>	Outcomes communicated to applicants
<u>31st July 2025</u>	Deadline to spend funding
<u>21st August 2025</u>	<u>One-page activity report</u> to be submitted by successful applicants