
Research Projects - Frequently Asked Questions



What kind of projects does GLOHRA intend to fund?

With our emphasis on novelty and interdisciplinarity, we hope to see projects that push the boundaries of traditional research. We encourage you to investigate new or even radical ideas that address global health challenges. Specifically, the German Alliance for Global Health Research aims to fund projects that

- address transnational health issues, determinants, and solutions
- contribute to the improvement of health and health equity worldwide
- are interdisciplinary (see below) and link GLOHRA members from different institutions and cities
- contribute to the aims of GLOHRA
- link scientific excellence with the domains of capacity building, science-based policy advice, teaching, implementation and/or clinical practice
- promote active, eye-level partnerships with national and international partners, including the Global South

Please demonstrate in your application that your project falls within the scope of these aims.

What constitutes interdisciplinarity?

For our collaborative research funding lines, i.e. interdisciplinary and cross-sector projects, we expect that project applicants represent at least two of GLOHRA's research areas, i.e. biomedical science, public health research, social sciences and humanities, as well as engineering and other sciences. In global health fellowships, applicants should outline their interdisciplinary approach in their application.

We hope that applicants will not interpret this as a minimum technical requirement to meet, but rather as an invitation to integrate approaches from multiple specialties and perspectives throughout the design and execution phases of their research project. We love to see medical



doctors working with engineers, statisticians with social anthropologists, and nutrition scientists with health systems researchers. For example, projects could scrutinize a particular problem from multiple perspectives using a mix of methods. They could also involve complementary disciplines and partners early on in the process. This will improve the chances that other researchers, policymakers, communities or companies will take up the knowledge, technology or intervention generated by the project.

Interdisciplinarity is also a key principle of our evaluation process. So be sure to write your proposal in a way that is understandable and convincing for experts from areas other than your own.

Put simply: Fostering genuine interdisciplinarity is at the heart of what we do and we want this to be reflected in the projects we fund.

What do you expect from collaborations with "non-academic partners" in cross-sector projects?

In the cross-sector project funding line, GLOHRA expects applicants to work on research questions by engaging with partners from industry, policy and / or civil society. As with interdisciplinary approaches, we hope that applicants will not interpret this as a minimum technical requirement to meet, but rather as an invitation to integrate multiple approaches and perspectives throughout the design and execution phases of their research project.

This means that non-academic partners should have a meaningful role in the project, for example in data collection, research communication or the transfer of research results into policy and practice or the development of novel products and processes. Their role in the project should demonstrably suit their expertise and interests and it should be reflected in the budget (requested funding or match-funding).

Can I apply for more than one project?

Though we are happy to see collaboration between GLOHRA projects, an individual member or associate member can only apply for one project per round and only hold one grant at a time.

I am currently not affiliated with a German research institution according to your definition.

Can I apply for a global health fellowship?

No. According to the current regulations, only GLOHRA members are eligible to apply for a fellowship.

For the Global Health Postdoc Fellowship, is a career pause for childcare responsibilities considered in the eligibility assessment?

Similar to the German Research Foundation (DFG), eligibility for the postdoc fellowship takes into account time taken off for childcare responsibilities. Please make your eligibility clear in the CV submitted with your application.



Who is the applicant in a fellowship proposal, the fellow or the mentor/professor?

The fellow is the applicant.

I work at a university hospital and would like to collaborate with a researcher from the university my hospital is affiliated with. Do they count as two different institutions?

GLOHRA aims to link researchers from different institutions and cities. So while teams coming from a single university and their associated hospitals may formally be eligible to apply, we strongly recommend reaching out to colleagues from other institutions and parts of Germany.

Can my German partners participate in projects even though they are not GLOHRA members?

Generally, yes. If your partners are researchers who fulfill the membership criteria, they should apply for membership before you submit your joint project.

If your partners represent German legal entities from the non-academic sector (e.g. NGOs, industry, policy), they can participate as project partners (funding contribution capped at 50.000€ per non-member per year). In accordance with the principles of the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR), commercial enterprises are expected to make an appropriate contribution of their own - generally at least 50% of the eligible costs incurred. In case of small and medium-sized or not for profit enterprises, this contribution can be reduced. Individuals cannot be project partners.

Is it possible to allocate funds to an international partner organization?

Yes. Legal entities from abroad can participate as subcontractors. Subcontracting costs must not exceed 50% of the budget of the partner who awards the subcontract. Please be aware that value-added or other taxes may apply when transferring money to or subcontracting services from institutions outside the European Union.

I cannot make the deadline stated in the call – will there be another opportunity?

Yes. The call will remain open, with two evaluation meetings per year. Proposals submitted before the cut-off date communicated in the call notice are eligible for evaluation in the subsequent review meeting, depending on the number of project applications received. Submissions after the cut-off date will only be eligible for review in later evaluation meetings.

What is the earliest starting date for an accepted proposal?

We will generally inform you about the funding recommendation of the Steering Committee within two weeks of the evaluation meeting. If successful, you will be invited to submit an AZA (formal BMFTR project funding application), which will be processed by the BMFTR's funding management agency (currently PT-DLR).

The whole process from proposal submission to project start takes approximately 8 months.

What are the budget categories in project funding? Can I budget personnel, material, travel cost etc.?



Please refer to the budget categories listed in the application form (personnel, material, travel, subcontracting, other costs).

Can I request overheads?

Yes. Please apply the standard BMFTR overhead rate for your institution. The overhead should be included in the overall budget, not added to it.

Contact

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