

Call for Proposals 2020

Hebrew University of Jerusalem and University of Illinois Joint Research and Innovation Seed Grants Program

Purpose of the Program

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJI) and the University of Illinois System (U of I) are jointly launching a Joint Research and Innovation Seed Grants Program for university research scientists. This program aims to facilitate both research and development cooperation and delivery of talent, innovations, and resources from these universities to the marketplace. The program will be interdisciplinary in nature and the review process will include assessing innovation and commercialization potential. The goal of these awards is to promote economic development through R&D of innovative technologies, while facilitating cooperation between the two universities.

The Hebrew University International Office and the University of Illinois System Office of Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation (OVPEDI) will administer the program.

Priority Areas

Priority focus areas for the program include **agriculture, artificial intelligence, data science, and medicine**. Both universities' worldwide reputation and standing in these topic areas – along with the strong potential for technology development and commercialization – made them clear choices for this seed grant program.

Interdisciplinary initiatives are being encouraged. The joint funding program aims at supporting first as well as more advanced steps in a proof of concept collaboration. The application should address the commercial viability of the project, technical details and overall planning, the clarification of intellectual property rights that are likely to be generated (position and strategy), and plans for securing funding for the project at the end of this seed grant and other forms of commercial discussion that are envisioned.

Funding

HUJI and the U of I will each invest \$200,000 into the inaugural Joint Research and Innovation Seed Grants Program, consisting of two funding periods of two years each. The total \$400,000 investment (\$200,000 per funding period) will provide funding for up to four teams per funding period for projects of 2 years. Funding can be used for personnel expenses for postdocs and student workers (no faculty salaries), supplies, travel, meetings and for additional expenses that are necessary to move research forward.

Intellectual Property (IP)

For purposes of this program, intellectual property will remain with the university that generated such intellectual property (what's mine is mine and what's yours is yours). In the event that new intellectual property will be generated jointly by the universities from the seed funding, both universities will agree to reach a mutually beneficial agreement with respect to intellectual property ownership, management, protection and further development and exploitation.

Application

Proposals for the activities that will last for two years must be jointly submitted by faculty of the HUJI and U of I. Participants are encouraged to include both senior and junior faculty/researchers of HUJI and U of I. All teams will be interdisciplinary in nature and each team will have at least one participant from HUJI AND one participant from U of I. HUJI applicants must be faculty members of that university.

The supported activities should have a clearly defined focus with scientific and technical merit, demonstrate innovation and economic impact, and serve as a catalyst for moving research forward to a path of commercialization (when relevant). The activities can take place either at HUJI or the U of I. Inclusion of third parties is permitted, however the additional costs must be covered by these partners themselves.

The proposal should clearly explain the motivation for holding the activity, including how the relevant HUJI and U of I institutes or departments are involved and can benefit in the long term from this cooperation and what synergies can arise.

Information and Partnering Webinar

Interested researchers are encouraged to participate in the optional webinar for information and partnering on **May 4, 2020, 8 – 10 a.m. CDT (4-6 p.m. IDT)**. Please [register](#) by April 27, 2020. At the time of RSVP for the webinar, the participants will have an option to provide a short description of their research areas of interest and to indicate their willingness to give a 3-minute lightning talk on their research ideas during the webinar.

Selection Criteria

Funding for joint activities will be provided on a competitive basis, following the criteria below:

- Clearly formulated plan and goals of the activity for a period of two years.
- Excellence of innovation potential.
- Suitable outline of how the commercialization or the generation of the listed benefits will be achieved.
- Plans to assess and validate the quality and effectiveness of the project's outcomes.
- Description of the HUJI and U of I PI's research profiles (interdisciplinary nature, excellence of project leaders, scope of the fields/labs represented in the proposed activity) and synergy between them. Information on how the cooperation can be sustained beyond the initial seed funding phase.

Evaluation

Evaluation will be conducted by a joint team consisting of two representatives each from Hebrew University and the University of Illinois System. Selection of representatives will be coordinated by the HUJI International Office and the U of I System OVPEDI.

Program Progress and Review

Selected teams will submit an annual technical and fiscal summary report/presentation.

Submission and Deadlines

The application will be submitted using the following link: <https://go.uillinois.edu/HUJI-UI-Proposal>

The proposal should include the following sections:

1. Executive Summary
2. Project description/narrative (up to 7 pages) including:
 - a. Clearly formulated project plan and goals
 - b. Innovation and Commercialization potential and benefits
 - c. Plan to assess effectiveness of proposal outcome
3. Project timeline (max. project duration two years)
4. Project Budget (USD)
 - a. HUJI (USD)
 - b. U of I (USD)
5. Description of HUJI and U of I PI's research profiles (interdisciplinary nature, excellence of project leaders, scope of the fields/labs represented in the proposed activity) and synergy between them.
6. Information on how the cooperation can be sustained beyond the initial seed funding phase.
7. How IP will be addressed
8. Written endorsement statement of respective HUJI/U of I faculty/department
9. Short CVs of project leaders on both sides and list of other HUJI/U of I participants

Timetable

Milestones	Date
Call for Proposals published	April 6, 2020
RSVP for Information and Partnering Webinar	April 27, 2020.
Submit slides for optional three-minute talk during webinar	April 30, 2020
Information and Partnering Webinar (optional participation)	May 4, 2020, 8 – 10 am CDT (4-6 pm Israel)
Proposal submission deadline	July 1, 2020
Announcement of awards	August 3, 2020
Commencing the proposed activities	On or before October 19, 2020

For further information please contact

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