



TRANSFORM: To Reach A New Structure For Optimal Research and Methods Fact Sheet Processes and Submission Criteria

Summary

The UZH is a dynamic university. UZH members are continuously developing new ideas for research and innovation that go beyond their discipline and thus beyond the responsibilities of their institutes and faculties. To support the development of novel and unconventional initiatives in research and innovation, central funds are made available by the Executive Board of the University for research initiatives of strategic importance.

Within the TRANSFORM funding line, fast-start funding for long-term structural changes in the UZH research landscape can be applied for (examples: establishment of an interfaculty or interuniversity cooperation, founding of new institutes or new centers, strengthening of a subject area through an additional (assistant) professorship tenure track, development of new research networks). Binding proof of sustainable co-financing/follow-up financing via the relevant faculties and/or long-term third-party funding is a requirement in each case.

The application must be prepared according to the official template (Application template TRANSFORM at <https://www.research.uzh.ch/en/funding/researchers/transform.html>).

Application documents and criteria

The following formal and content-related criteria must be met when submitting an application:

- The maximum funding period is four years (a follow-up funding by central funds is not possible).
- The application (max. 15 pages, in English) includes a project plan with a clear research reference, a budget, and a binding proof of co-financing and/or follow-up financing (sustainability and long-term funding by faculties and/or long-term third-party funding).
- The initiative originates from at least two organizational units of the UZH that will be the site of the structural changes and is typically interdisciplinary and interfaculty.
- The proposal clearly outlines the sustainable, structural added value that can be achieved by the initiative.
- The maximum funding amount is 0.5 million CHF per year.
The funds can be used for personnel costs (incl. APTT or ATP) as well as material costs.
Financing for the building of pure infrastructures is excluded.
- The proposal includes a justification why the initiative cannot be funded (e.g. due to a high-risk approach or the setting up of a longer-term, structurally sustainable research unit) through alternative funding schemes (third-party funding or existing university funding sources). The acquisition of third-party funding is strongly encouraged (see co-/follow-up funding above).
- In the case of a cooperation with external partner institutions, an appropriate financial participation of the partner institution is declared.
- All UZH professors are eligible to apply.



- Appendices:
 - CVs of the applicants (incl. proof of previous research achievements, in particular with relevance to the planned initiative)
 - Optional: Letters of recommendation from the relevant faculty deans

Submission and decision process

Applications for funding must be submitted to the Vice President Research via the Division Research Development. Following a formal review, all applications submitted by June 1 of each year will be evaluated (if necessary with the involvement of external experts). In addition, statements of the faculties involved may be obtained (if not already submitted together with the proposal). It is recommended that submissions are discussed with the responsible Vice Dean Research. The decision on funding is taken by the Executive Board of the University on the recommendation of the Vice President Research. Applicants will be informed about the decision in the 3rd quarter of each year. Funding is provided from the beginning (January 1) of the following year.

Reporting

Reporting is regulated individually depending on the duration and type of project. As a rule, a target agreement between the project management and the Vice President Research is required. The achieved goals must be documented at least in the form of a final report; if the project is funded for more than two years, an interim report is also expected.

Contact:

Maurus Bolfig, division Research Development (044 634 48 12, maurus.bolfig@uzh.ch)