



Fast-start funding for joint projects on topics related to Africa by the Universities of Hohenheim and Tübingen

Dear colleagues,

The Universities of Hohenheim and Tübingen have been cooperating for many years in teaching and research. Last year, for the first time, we announced fast-start funding for joint projects concerning Africa in order to deepen our cooperation in this region. In this context, a regional research alliance of the two universities was established in 2021 with the support of the ministry for research (MWK) entitled "Geo- and Biosphere in Africa: Diversity, Change and Opportunity". In this regard, we would like to ask again for applications for fast-start funding.

Africa is facing great challenges. The consequences of climate change are hitting Africa particularly hard. In addition, the African population is expected to double within the next 30 years. The growing population needs secure access to education, clean water, food, medicine, and energy. Creating new perspectives and opportunities for Africa is the goal of our cooperation.

Founded in 1818 after devastating famines, the University of Hohenheim is not only engaged in intensive basic research but has traditionally also been committed to developing innovative solutions for some of society's pressing problems. An established focus of the university is on the continent of Africa, especially in the Institute of Agricultural Sciences in the Tropics. The Research Center Global Food Security and Ecosystems coordinates and supports research with and in Africa (<https://gfe.uni-hohenheim.de/en>).

The University of Tübingen, as a full university of excellence, is facing up to this challenge with its strategy "*Research - Relevance - Responsibility. Open to New Challenges and a Global Scope of Action*" to tackle urgent social problems, especially against the background of globalization. For Africa, this concerns the environment, climate, and health, but also the cultural, economic, and political relations between the global North and South. In the health sector, the University of Tübingen has, for example, established the "School of Public Health" in Lambaréné and hopes to build on this success in other fields.

As researchers at Hohenheim and Tübingen, we can gain insights and develop models that will be indispensable for overcoming global and regional crises. We would therefore like to invite you together with local partners to look at Africa and develop ideas together in order to live up to our claim and our responsibility.

We are very happy to support such joint ideas and projects with fast-start financing in which at least one scientist (with a completed doctorate) from each university is involved. We welcome applications from early career researchers. We are open in regard to the region, but we are particularly interested in the south and east of Africa, where there are already many established contacts. In terms of content, we are also receptive, but would appreciate it if social science aspects were taken into account in the project planning.

The projects will be supported with a maximum of € 20,000 per consortium, whereby a balanced participation of applicants from both universities is encouraged. A short report on the use of the funds is expected after one year. For content-related and organisational questions, please contact our colleagues in the administration at international.research@uni-tuebingen.de and rebekka.schneider@verwaltung.uni-tuebingen.de

[hohenheim.de](https://www.uni-hohenheim.de).

We look forward to receiving your applications by 05.09.2021.

Vice Presidents for Research

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