Northwestern University / Tel Aviv University

Updated Call for Proposals, July 23, 2020 for Joint Research Projects: COVID-19 and Beyond

This updated call replaces the original call from July 7, 2020

This updated call does not involve participation in a workshop. All that is needed is to find a research partner and submit a joint proposal by August 15, 2020

1. Introduction and Purpose
The Northwestern University (NU) – Tel Aviv University (TAU) Joint Research Program is intended to support and promote joint research projects carried out by TAU and NU research groups through a Call for Proposals. Researchers affiliated with each institution [Principal Investigators (“PIs”)] are invited to jointly submit research proposals for the development of collaborative research projects and the exchange of researchers between TAU and NU (a “Project”) under the terms and conditions described below.

The field of interest for this Call for Proposals is COVID-19 but collaborative conversations are expected to continue to other fields.

2. Project Definitions, Eligibility, Allowable Costs
a) Up to two (2) joint Projects will be selected by means of a call for proposals issued jointly by the two institutions, up to USD $50K each Project, shared equally between both institutions.

b) To be eligible under the program, a Project must include research team participants from both Institutions. Eligibility to serve as the person responsible for the scientific and scholarly conduct of a Project (the PI) will be determined in accordance with the policies and procedures of the relevant institution. Submissions are made jointly by two PIs, one from NU and one from TAU, with a preference for multidisciplinary collaborations that integrate a broader scope of research among engineering, medical, scientific, and humanities disciplines.

   a. Those eligible to submit proposals are tenure-track / tenured researchers who are affiliated with either TAU or NU. Collaborators from other institutions besides TAU and NU are eligible to participate in projects but are not eligible for any financial support from TAU or NU.

   c) A prior collaborative research record of accomplishments between groups is not required to apply for funding.
d) Support is not intended for pre-existing research collaborations without a significant expansion of the scope and partnership of the research.

e) Each Project will be for a budget period ending one year from the activation date of the award (tentative award period: October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021). Cost extensions will not be allowed, and any unused funds at the end of this period will be returned to the sponsoring institution.

f) Funding provided by the Universities is intended to support research expenses at the respective institutions, including research personnel (students, post-doctoral fellows, research associates) and direct research costs (materials, supplies, and expendables for the performance and analysis of experiments). Funding cannot be applied to capital equipment purchases, travel, or to supplement faculty salary/living expenses. All expenses may be subject to approval by the respective sponsoring institution.

g) The collaborations that win the seed funding are expected to gather preliminary data and apply for joint research funding from the NSF/BSF foundation, for example, or to leverage the seed-funded collaboration explicitly in US or Israeli grant applications before the end of the award period.

3. Value and Funding Principles
   Two successful joint proposals will receive up to a maximum of USD $50,000 each, total. TAU will provide each approved project up to 50% of the USD $50,000, and NU will provide each approved project up to 50% of the USD $50,000, each in support of their respective researchers.

4. Submission Instructions
   a) All proposals will be in English in either US standard format (Letter paper, 1” margins) or Israel standard format (A4 paper, 2.5 cm margins), and should be submitted as a single .pdf document containing the following:
      • Cover sheet with budget (point b. below);
      • 2-page research plan (point c. below);
      • NSF style biosketch (see template) or NIH style biosketch for each of the faculty investigators.
   b) The cover sheet should include the following items:
      • The names, academic rank, and departments of the investigators;
      • The proposal title;
      • A one-paragraph, non-technical executive summary of the research goals (the summaries from all proposals submitted will be shared with the donor);
      • Budget: List trainees that will be supported by this award and for how long, their salaries, other budget requests, and the total funding being requested.
   c) The 2-page research plan should include the following items:
• **Scientific Question**: What scientific question does this proposal address? Why is it important? What will be learned through the proposed research? Why is the project too risky and/or not well suited for established funding mechanisms?

• **Research Plan**: Provide a compelling and well-justified research plan for research that can be completed one year from the activation of the award (tentative award period: October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021).

• **Research Team**: Summarize the expertise that each submitting PI brings to the project. Also, briefly discuss whether/how this represents a new collaboration, an expanded collaboration, and/or a new research direction for an existing collaboration.

• **Measures of Success**: Discuss the ways in which this proposal will (i) affect future collaborative research directions for the PIs, (ii) increase the likelihood of both NU and TAU research groups obtaining external funding either jointly or independently (identify at least one funding agency), and/or (iii) increase the external visibility of the NU/TAU collaboration.

• **Figures**.

• **References**.

5. **Proposal Submission**:

Either submitting scientist (the NU PI or the TAU PI) should submit his/her joint application to Prof. Itai Benhar, the Acting Director of the Tel Aviv University Center for Combatting Pandemics. Proposals must be submitted as a single .pdf file. Proposals submitted as multiple files will be returned without review.

Email: benhar@tauex.tau.ac.il

For administrative purposes, if you have identified a partner and plan to apply, please notify Prof. Itai Benhar by email, before the August 15 deadline. In the subject line please write: “Submission to NU-TAU COVID 19 call”

6. **Intellectual Property**

a) Definitions. In this Call for Proposals,

i. “Background Intellectual Property” means Intellectual Property of a Party that is: proprietary to that Party and was conceived, created, or developed prior to the execution of this Agreement, or will be conceived, created or developed following execution of this Agreement independent of, any research performed pursuant to or related to this Agreement or a Project hereunder; and in each case, that is necessary for the performance of a Project.

ii. “Foreground Intellectual Property” means Intellectual Property that is discovered, created or reduced to practice in the performance of a Project.
iii. “Intellectual Property” (or “IP”) means all intellectual property, including technical information, know-how, models, drawings, specifications, prototypes, inventions and software.

b) Ownership
i. Background Intellectual Property of a Party shall remain the exclusive property of such Party.
ii. NU shall own all Foreground Intellectual Property created solely by NU’s personnel.
iii. TAU shall own all Foreground Intellectual Property created solely by TAU’s personnel.
iv. NU and TAU shall jointly own all Foreground Intellectual Property created jointly by NU’s and TAU’s personnel. Both parties will negotiate in good faith and enter into an inter-institutional agreement relating to the protection, use and commercialization of such joint Foreground Intellectual Property.

TAU and NU agree that each party has its own pre-existing proprietary rights that are not affected by this Call for Proposals. If TAU personnel and NU personnel are co-inventors of any result or invention, the parties will negotiate in good faith and enter into an inter-institutional agreement relating to the protection, use and commercialization of such joint result or invention.

7. Timeline for 2020 Call for Joint Research Proposals –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Updated Call for Proposals announced on TAU and NU websites and/or</td>
<td>July 23, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>distributed by email</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closing date for submission of proposals</td>
<td>August 15, 2020</td>
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<td>Project adjudication: Projects will be reviewed by the TAU and NU</td>
<td>August 20, 2020 thru Sept.</td>
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<td>committee members, which will reach a mutual decision based on all</td>
<td>15, 2020</td>
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<td>votes of the committee members.</td>
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<td>Notification of results</td>
<td>Sept. 15, 2020</td>
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8. Analysis and Selection
a) The proposals will be subjected to an administrative review to ensure eligibility and will subsequently be reviewed by way of a competitive process which will evaluate the merit and relevance of the project, the academic excellence of the candidate, the relation of the proposed project to any ongoing research, and the interest of the two institutions. Proposals which do not comply with the terms of the Call for Proposals will be considered “not qualified.”

b) TAU and NU will convene a mutual ad hoc committee comprised of NU and TAU researchers to review, approve, and rank proposals received at their respective institutions.

c) Selection of proposals for funding must be agreed to by both parties.

9. Result of the Analysis
Final results will be announced on the TAU and NU websites and by email to the interested parties.
10. **Contract for Selected Projects**
Each PI will sign a research agreement with their respective institution, outlining the terms of the award, the use of funds, duration, and other terms consistent with this call for proposals.

11. **Final Project Reports**
Final projects reports, two pages in length, are due to each institution within 2 months after the project ends.

Each report should include:
- A brief summary of the collaborative research project
- A description of the development of human resources – with emphasis on post-doctoral and graduate students associated with the project
- A list of joint publications or papers submitted for publication, conference presentations, and any intellectual property disclosures
- Any other outcomes of the collaborative project
- A description of the collaborative research funding applied for, or planned for, to continue collaboration between the two groups

Reports will be prepared and submitted jointly by either co-applicant to the following contact:

Prof. Itai Benhar, the Acting Director of the Tel Aviv University Center for Combatting Pandemics.

Email: benhar@tauex.tau.ac.il

12. **Grant Cancellation**
TAU and NU may cancel funding if, during the tenure of the award, one or more facts are deemed serious enough to warrant cancellation, at the discretion of the TAU Vice-President for Research and Development or the TAU Program Coordinator at NU.

13. **Information about the Call for Proposals**
All questions related to this Call for Proposals must be directed to:

Prof. Itai Benhar, the Acting Director of the Tel Aviv University Center for Combatting Pandemics.

Email: benhar@tauex.tau.ac.il