Call for Proposals for UUlm Research Incubators

In the Structural and Development Plan 2022-2026, the university defined an incubator concept under the guiding principle of "Curiosity-driven research", which creates scope for highly innovative projects in the areas of research, transfer/translation, young researchers and teaching according to the motto "High Risk, High Gain".

The **Research Incubators** serve to identify new, promising interdisciplinary research fields **outside the scientific mainstream and the university's existing focus areas**. The incubators are intended to enable and drive developments that will lead to the establishment of profile-relevant research areas and fields of action in the medium or long term. The focus is on the exploration of new scientific questions and the generation of innovative methodologies from which future collaborative research projects, science spheres and focal points in research will emerge. The establishment of the incubators is designed as a dedicated promotion of interdisciplinary cooperation with the aim of overcoming the classic faculty boundaries.

**Objectives**
Research Incubators aim to open up new innovative research fields for future third-party funded projects, especially collaborative funding measures. The incubators' research topics should lie outside the current mainstream research at the university and the university's research priorities. Topics within the existing Science Sphere Quantum Science and large-scale collaborative research projects are not funded.

The incubators promote interactions between different departments and faculties in line with the university's guiding theme of “Crossing Borders”. They consist of small interdisciplinary teams from at least 2-3 departments.

**Application and selection process**
Applications can be submitted by professors and permanently employed scientists. An application consists of a maximum of 4 pages and an Appendix (CVs, list of third-party funding). Please use the enclosed form for the preparation of the application. **The deadline for submitting applications is 07.10.2024**, the applications are to be submitted via forschung@uni-ulm.de.

The selection of the research incubators is carried out with the participation of a selection committee. The selection committee is composed of representatives of the eight departments of the non-medical faculties and two representatives of the medical faculty. The evaluation by the selection committee is based on the following criteria:

- Scientific quality, originality and innovative potential of the project
- Interdisciplinary character of the project (e.g. through participation of different faculties)
- Scientific quality and expertise of the scientists involved
- Prospect of continuation of the project after the end of the incubator funding through third-party funding
- Distinction from already existing Science Spheres and collaborative research projects
The selection committee makes a recommendation to the Executive Board about the applications to be funded approximately four weeks after the submission deadline. The final decision on the funded projects is made by the Executive Board.

Scope of funding, use of funds, evaluation
Funding is provided for 3 years and is to begin within three months of the announcement of the evaluation results. The amount of funding per incubator is up to approximately 150,000 euros per year. After approval, the financial department sets up the project accounts and makes the approved funds available in the form of lump sums.

Only those staff positions that serve a qualification (doctoral students/postdocs) can be financed via the incubators. The approved funds may be used for material and investment expenses, travel expenses and the hiring of personnel, but not for representation expenses (e.g. food, drinks or gifts). When spending the funds, those responsible for the project must observe the guidelines of the state of Baden-Württemberg and the DFG Code of Conduct “Guidelines for Ensuring Good Scientific Practice”.

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