Guidelines

CASCB 2021 BIG CHUNK LARGE PROJECT Funding

1. Objectives and Expectations

The CASCB funding line “Big Chunk Project” is designed as a large, concerted effort to plan and allocate the cluster’s funding for new, follow-up and delayed starter projects over the very important period of the next 2-3 years. In this large and competitive call, we wish to give all cluster P.I.s and other eligible researchers the opportunity to submit their best proposals with good chances of succeeding. For this we expect the authors to describe their core questions and how they contribute to the cluster goals outlined in the supplementary CASCB overview (see “supplement I” at the end of this document).

Specifically, we invite and expect submissions of:

➢ New project proposals with a focus on new questions and approaches while the context of their larger-term goals should reasonably fit or complement the main research areas and goals of the CASCB, as they are summarized in the supplementary document to this guideline. We greatly value multidisciplinarity in new project proposals.

➢ Starter Follow-up proposals which are based on and have evolved from existing CASCB starter projects that were launched in 2019 and are approaching the end of their current funding. The goal is to provide successful follow-up proposals with the security to deepen their research topic, and to intensify data collection and exploitation over the next funding period. Submissions in this category should aim to add new ideas and aspects (also: new hires) that go beyond the original starter project. We also encourage the formation of new project groups or P.I. compositions from starter projects, if beneficial or needed for working on new ideas or directions.

➢ Starter Update proposals for delayed starter projects that did not start before 2020 and have positions or project plans to be funded until or beyond 2022. These “late” starter projects should give an overview of the state of the originally proposed project and list expected investment needs and consumables in 2021 and 2022. Their participation in this call will make an important contribution to the planning of the cluster’s budget, and they will have the opportunity to also propose extension ideas for their project. We are aware of the fact that it is hard to estimate new topics that will be researched after 2022, but rough ideas should be presented.
2. Eligibility

➢ Any member of the University of Konstanz or MPIAB holding a PhD degree and either P.I., (junior) group leader or independent researcher status is eligible to submit a Big Chunk Project proposal as leading applicant. Project proposals will be pre-screened by the cluster office for eligibility with formal funding conditions before further review.

3. Funding Scope and Resource Allocation

➢ Fundable are:
  ○ Academic positions (2-year Post Doc or 3-year PhD positions)
  ○ Project-specific research costs (consumables, equipment, etc.)

➢ Similar to the original allocation of funds to the starting projects, we encourage P.I.s to team up and submit joint applications which can propose several Post-Doc/PhD positions plus additional project-specific research costs, depending on the size of the team. As a rule of thumb, we recommend to propose not more than one position per (co-)applying cluster P.I.

➢ We encourage joint submissions to share supervision of resulting hires across their team of leading P.I.s and generally discourage the strict allocation of new hires to a single P.I.

➢ Submissions by single P.I.s are possible but should still state how the project and new hires will be integrated within and be able to benefit from intense exchange with the cluster research community.

➢ The cluster office will allocate workspace in the VCC building as well as on floor Z8 to new hires in coordination with the project P.I.s and with the aim to accommodate them in a project- and cluster-relevant working environment and with access to research infrastructure essential to their work. Our goal is to use and fill the space in VCC in an interdisciplinary manner to foster collaboration.

➢ Project groups should aim to locate their collaborative activities and newly hired members at or nearby the VCC, if possible, to take advantage of it as a hub for exchange and interaction.

4. Format, Funding Criteria and Decision-Making Process

➢ Formal requirements for the proposal submission are described in the Big Chunk Project Template, which must be used for all submissions (to download from here).

➢ The following general funding criteria apply:
  o Overall quality of the research proposal. Follow-up proposals will additionally be evaluated on the performance of the starter project they emerged from.
  o Fit or contribution to the cluster’s research goals (see supplement)
  o Innovation (what is new about the project)
  o Interdisciplinarity (how will different scientific disciplines interact in addressing the project’s research questions; e.g. by the composition of collaborators or intended publications across several fields).
We kindly ask applicants to submit a one half-page statement on their project’s current or future contribution to CASCB’s goal to foster Diversity and Equal Opportunity as described in “supplement II” at the back of this document. For questions or guidance to this statement, please contact the CASCB Diversity Officer: felicia.afriyie@uni-konstanz.de.

Decisions on Big Chunk Project proposals will be made by the CASCB Extended Executive Board. Proposals will be reviewed by three independent reviewers, at least one of them being external and at least one from within the research community at CASCB, Uni Konstanz or MPIAB. Due to the estimated high demand of reviewers in this call, we kindly ask applicants to prepare to be contacted as reviewers for other proposals. We ask - and believe we can trust - everybody to contribute to a smooth and fair review process to your best of possibilities and collegial discretion (review reports and any non-review relevant information will be kept strictly confidential). The final funding decision will be made approximately 8-10 weeks after the submission deadline (May 30th 2021).

We recommend applicants to get in contact with the CASCB Science Manager (alexandra.wild@uni-konstanz.de) in the process of their application.

5. Submission and contact

- **Submission deadline: May 30th, 2021**

- Please submit final proposals and diversity statements exclusively to the following address: grants.cascb@uni-konstanz.de

- For questions and coordination of your submission, please contact the CASCB Science Manager: alexandra.wild@uni-konstanz.de
Supplement I:
Centre of the Advanced Study of Collective Behaviour – An Overview

(link to pdf)
Supplement II:
Diversity Statement- Guidelines

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Diversity Statement is to demonstrate the project's commitment and capacities to contribute to the CASCB's goals for diversity, inclusion and equal opportunity in areas of teaching, outreach, professional environment, Cluster involvement, and field work policies.

The document is also an opportunity to highlight the understanding of the barriers faced by underrepresented or marginalized groups, as well as personal experiences meeting the needs of a diverse population of students, PostDocs/ Early Career Researchers, Group Leaders and staff.

The Diversity Statement should be about one half page long and may include:

• Statement of values as they relate to your understanding and commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunity in higher education.

• Examples of experiences that demonstrate your commitment to fostering the success of underrepresented members, and supporting a diversity of perspectives in the classroom, lab, campus, or community.

• Future plans for continuing to advance inclusive excellence, diversity, or equal opportunity in your research, teaching, and service.

II. Measures fostering Diversity at CASCB

You can incorporate your measures in the following areas:

Teaching:
Project proposals may submit a statement explaining how their teaching will contribute to a culture of inclusion and campus diversity.

Professional Environment:
CASCB projects may submit diversity statement describing how to incorporate diversity into teaching, research, and/or services.

The statement should discuss how the projects would help achieve CASCB’s goal to attract and hire more women, and members from underrepresented groups.

Outreach:
The CASCB as an aspiring hub for research on collective behaviour wants to increase visibility on the local and global level to promote inclusive excellence in research. Please state, how your project will account for outreach activities in the future to increase the interest of underrepresented and marginalized groups in Science.
Cluster involvement:
As a crucial part of the cluster, each project should outline how their vision for cultivating a diverse and inclusive community will foster the CASCB’s values.

Field Work Policies:
With this statement, the project offers a perspective on how field work will involve either the local university or local community to increase interaction and reciprocal benefits while allowing for an inclusive field work experience.

You also may wish to reflect on your own frame of reference.

- What are your values regarding diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunity in your professional life? Why do you think diversity is valuable in higher education settings? How about in your discipline specifically?
- What kinds of student, staff, or faculty diversity are you thinking of as you answer this question, and are there other ways in which diversity manifests in campus communities that might be valuable to consider?
- What elements of your own identity influence your teaching, research, or cluster involvement in a tangible way?

For further questions on the Diversity Statement, please contact Felicia Afriyie (Felicia.Afriyie@uni-konstanz.de)