



Eighth call for flagship projects within the framework of the Saarland University Internationalization Fund focusing on support for incoming international students and staff

There are numerous reasons why Saarland University has an outstanding international profile: the very high number of international degree programmes, a percentage of international students and graduates far above the national average, a strong European focus with particular emphasis on France, a large number of active partnerships, close cross-border cooperation as part of the University of the Greater Region and, since 2020, through the European university alliance Transform4Europe (T4EU).

As part of its key internationalization objectives, the university is responding to growing competition and demographic developments by implementing measures that aim to attract qualified international students and doctoral research students and to prioritize their academic success and research careers. Saarland University is one of Germany's leading universities for international employment, particularly in teaching and research. Attracting excellent international researchers and staff to Saarland University and making working here both accessible and enjoyable continue to be key internationalization objectives. Saarland University aims to cultivate internationality and diversity through its welcoming and inclusive campus environment, by implementing measures that aim to support and integrate incoming international students and staff at the university and in Saarland.

The Internationalization Committee of Saarland University is therefore dedicating its eighth call for flagship projects to **support incoming international students and staff**. The aim is to strengthen the international attractiveness of Saarland University by supporting measures that facilitate the arrival and integration of international students, researchers and staff, encourage their personal development and skills training, strengthen their intercultural proficiency, and provide tailored support throughout their time at the university.

A wide range of measures are **eligible for funding**: digital services; guided city tours or (themed) campus tours; subject-specific introductory courses; induction events (involving at least 50% international students or staff) such as get-to-know-you evenings; Saarland University merchandise as part of a small welcome package; funding of services that help prepare international students for professional life (training,



coaching, workshops); translation and expansion of English/French materials in the area of international onboarding and onboarding team workshops; marketing activities to attract international students for specific study programmes; organization of special focus days for international students; or multi-measure packages, etc. Ideally, the measures being proposed for funding should serve as a model and be transferable to other departments or areas of the university.

Grants of up to **€3,000** are available to implement small-scale projects. Larger packages of measures can receive up to **€10,000** in funding. Measures that involve collaboration between faculties and administrative units are expressly encouraged.

The International Relations Division will be pleased to advise you on developing concepts for your projects and, where appropriate, connect you with other experts or resources at Saarland University.

We recommend that you consult the Welcome Center team to find out which services and support packages are already available for incoming international students and staff. Initiatives and activities already offered by the Welcome Center are not eligible for funding. Examples of existing activities include the 'Information Bazaar' in the Aula assembly hall or general orientation events for students who have just arrived in Germany.

Eligibility: Funding applications can be submitted by all members of the university's faculties, central institutions and central administration. Applications from central institutions should focus on measures of relevance to all university faculties. The Internationalization Committee welcomes joint project proposals involving cooperation with one or more faculties.

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- To what extent does the proposal foster internationalization? What added value is created for international students, doctoral research students, researchers and employees?
- To what extent will the proposed project help to increase the number of international students?
- Does the proposal serve as a model for others and is it transferable to other departments or areas of the university?



- Is the project designed to be sustainable? What effects are expected in the medium and long term? How can these be measured? In the case of longer-term activities, how can the long-term funding and/or continuation of the activity be achieved?
- In the case of proposals involving collaboration with T4EU university alliances or UniGR partners: How does the measure being proposed strengthen the UniGR or Transform4Europe alliance? What effects are expected in the medium and long term?
- Are other co-funding sources being used (external funding, other central funds, other funding programmes)?

Eligible costs

- Personnel costs (for a maximum of 12 months)
- Project costs (including teaching assignments, research assistants)
- Travel expenses
- Grant towards project costs
- Project duration: maximum one year

Funding from the Internationalization Fund will only be provided if standard funding options are not available and funding from other central funds or from external budgets is not possible.

Selection process

- Applications must be submitted to the International Relations Division (intfonds@uni-saarland.de) using the ([application form](#)) via the Dean of the faculty or the management of the institution or organizational unit applying.
- Applications may be submitted in German, French or English. If you wish to submit an application in French or English, please enclose an abstract in German with your application (max. length: 2,000 characters incl. spaces). The abstract should contain a brief description of the proposed measure or project and should explain how it will contribute to strengthening internationalization at Saarland University.
- **Application deadlines: 31 July 2024 and 15 October 2024 and 10 March 2025**



- Decisions on whether a funding application has been approved or denied will be issued within one month of the application deadline.
- All publications produced in association with the funded project (e.g. posters, flyers, websites) should include the words "funded by the Internationalization Fund of Saarland University" together with the Saarland University logo. Any such material should also be made available to the [Welcome Center in the International Relations Division](#).
- The department making the application is required to submit a project and financial report to the International Relations Division no later than three months after completion of the project. The report must provide details of project implementation and of how the funds were used. (A report form will be provided.)
- The department submitting the application should inform the university's Press and Public Relations Office about the project and its content and should provide further information for reporting purposes as required. Information may also be made available and shared via the Instagram accounts of the International Relations Division.