

Call for Applications: Beyond Research Award “Thinking Outside the Box” (10,000 EUR)

The University of Bayreuth is committed to fostering innovative research, teaching and third mission that address the most pressing questions of our time. To support visionary researchers and staff members in driving forward groundbreaking ideas, we are pleased to announce the “Beyond Research Award: Thinking Outside the Box”.

This award aims to recognize and support members of the University of Bayreuth who are seeking to develop and pursue innovative projects that link research, teaching, or third mission with at least two of the following cross-cutting topics: internationalization, digitalization, equal opportunities, and sustainability. We are looking for visionary ideas that work on disruptive new solutions to overcome the major challenges of our time.

This research grant, funded by the University of Bayreuth Foundation, has a maximum funding volume of €10,000 and supports the development of a novel project that has the potential to have a significant impact at the chosen interfaces. We encourage applicants to think creatively and propose projects that are truly transformative.

We invite members of the University of Bayreuth to submit applications with a bold and innovative project concept that addresses a critical challenge or opportunity for cross-disciplinary solutions. The award is open to researchers and staff from all faculties and disciplines.

The deadline for applications is **January 31, 2026**. We look forward to receiving your innovative ideas and supporting you in “Thinking Outside the Box”!

Requirements for submitting an application:

- The proposed project is carried out by a UBT member
- The proposal relates to a specific project (*i.e. not an ongoing topic or a process that cannot be clearly defined in terms of time and scope*)
- Visionary ideas are presented that work on disruptive new solutions. The aim: to find the best way to tackle the major challenges of our time
- The link of at least two cross-cutting issues is anchored in the basic concept of the project and is presented in the proposal in a coherent and comprehensible (*i.e. in particular not merely generic*) manner

Key selection criteria in terms of content:

- High degree of innovation of the project that addresses current, socially relevant issues
- The project provides impetus beyond its own sphere of influence for the strategic further development and sharpening of the linked areas at UBT
- The applicant and the proposed project give reason to expect a successful outcome

Key formal selection criteria:

- Clear argumentation for the timely implementation of the project
- Clearly argued justification for the timely use of funds (2 years after approval)
- Online form with attachments:
 - Description of the project (max. 2 pages)
 - Budget plan for the use of funds including information on any other sources of funding

Applications are submitted by self-application via our online portal.