

## Application Guidelines for MCID Project Funding

Applications are invited for the 2024 project funding call of the Multidisciplinary Center for Infectious Diseases (MCID). Call opens 16th September 2024.

The deadline for submission of project funding applications is **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025, 17.00 CET.**

An emphasis is placed on scientific excellence as well as on different disciplines joining forces to tackle infectious disease threats and their consequences. Importantly, with this call, the MCID aims towards a well-balanced allocation of funding across gender and career stages. These objectives are very important to the MCID since support of a diverse cohort of excellent researchers is a key goal for the center. Please read the MCID Funding Call Text for more information on the MCID and this call for project funding.

### 1. Outline of MCID Project Funding (funding period 2025-2028)

- For this project funding call, the MCID requires that all project funding application are in the form of **multi-applicant submissions** (minimum two co-applicants).
- Although we do not have a dedicated funding modality for early-/mid-career researchers, we do ask applicants to provide information on their career stage to allow fair comparison of applicants during the reviewing process.
- Each applicant can only be included in **one application**.

**Please contact the MCID management office if you'd like to participate in this call but are unsure as to your eligibility and/or career stage.**

### 2. Multidisciplinarity of project funding applications

Multi-applicant projects are intended to reflect the aims of the MCID in promoting multi- and interdisciplinarity. To ensure that applicants within a multi-applicant project have distinct profiles in terms of expertise and research profile, applicants:

- must represent different scientific disciplines (be members of different faculties) **and/or** have research interests and expertise that are distinct from each other, ideally by spanning more than one of the MCID academic discipline clusters, and be clearly complementary.

- from the same research group cannot appear as applicants on the same multi-applicant project submission.

### 3. Eligibility requirements

- All applicants must be employees of the University of Bern, Bern University Hospital (Inselspital) or associated institutes or will enter employment at the aforementioned institutions at the latest by September 2025.
- It is expected that all applicants remain employed at the University of Bern, Bern University Hospital (Inselspital) or associated institutes for the duration of the project funding period.
- Applicants must either already lead independent research groups or be on a path towards academic independence.
- Applicants must fulfil at least one of the criteria below:
  - Have a PhD, generally acquired **at least two years prior** to the submission of the application for project funding
  - Have a medical or veterinary exam (state examination or equivalent) **AND**, since this examination have acquired:
    - at least three years of clinical work experience
    - at least two years of research experience

### 4. Permitted / non-permitted expenditures

#### 4.1 Permitted expenditures

The following are permitted expenditures:

- *For those applicants classified as early-/mid-career researchers, up to 50% of own salary coverage (including proportional social benefits): **early-career researchers are those whose PhD defense (or equivalent qualification) occurred 2-5 years prior to the submission deadline. Mid-career non-tenured researchers who do not lead independent research groups will have obtained their PhD (or equivalent qualification) 5-9 years prior to the submission deadline.***
- Salary support for research personnel on time-limited contracts (e.g. PhD student or postdoctoral research assistant) working on this project
- Salary support for technical staff, data managers and student assistants
- Occupational and project-related training costs associated with personnel employed on this project
- Consultation / sub-contracting fees (e.g. biostatistical)
- Costs associated with legal requirements for project approval (e.g. animal license, ethical approval)
- Consumables
- Laboratory animal purchase and maintenance
- User fees for MCID Core Activity services and other non-MCID Core Services and Facilities

- Computers / computing infrastructure required for the project
- Software purchases required for the project
- Access to data
- Conference / meeting expenses, including travel for project co-applicants and for personnel directly linked to the project
- Publication costs for articles directly linked to the submitted project proposal
- Printing of posters for presentation of work or other outreach material (flyers) directly linked to the submitted project proposal
- Costs associated with workshops integral to and anticipated in, the project proposal

## 4.2 Non-permitted expenditures

The following are **non-permitted** expenditures:

- *Salary coverage (and social benefits) for applicants **not considered to be** early-/mid-career researchers*
- Secretarial / administrative personnel
- Laboratory equipment purchase and maintenance/service costs
- Office furniture and supplies
- Construction, or renovation or maintenance of buildings/laboratories
- Rental of laboratory or office space
- Purchasing or binding of periodicals and books, printing of re-prints
- Dues and membership fees for scientific societies

## 5. Scope of projects

### 5.4 Project funding volume

- The maximum budget per applicant is 200'000 CHF
- The maximum total budget for multi-applicant projects is 500'000 CHF (400'000 CHF for two-applicant projects)
- All applicants featuring in the project funding application must contribute significantly to the project and must have a budget representing **at least 10%** of the total budget.

### 5.5 Project duration

- Projects are intended to have a planned duration of maximum 36 months
- Within the permitted project duration of maximum 36 months, **it is not required** that all individual components within a multi-applicant project have the same duration.

## 6. Project funding application submission

The application should be submitted as a single pdf file containing the following documents, in this order:

- Completed application form
- CV and publication list for all applicants (each applicant CV to be immediately followed by the list of publications for that same applicant)
- Project description
- Project budget using the provided template
- Any letters of host institute support required for early/mid-career applicants, using the provided letter template.

Please see the sections below for further details on each item listed above

### 6.1 Application form

- Please do not modify application forms other than to fill in information where required: additional sections can be added if the number of applicants exceeds four.
- Please identify one applicant who shall serve as corresponding applicant.

#### MCID Cluster selection

When requested to provide the name of an MCID cluster to which applicant expertise and proposed project most closely match, please select one of the following (more details provided in the funding call text document and online at [www.mcid.unibe.ch](http://www.mcid.unibe.ch)):

- Immunity
- Patient-Focused Research
- Epidemiology
- Microbiology
- Neglected Diseases
- Society and Law
- Economics

#### Funding call theme selection

When requested to provide the name of the research theme(s) to which your proposed project mostly closely matches, please select one (or more) of the following (name in bold only, more details provided in the funding call text document):

- **Investigation** of infectious threats and underlying factors for susceptibility using an integrated One Health vision.
- **Development** of surveillance and preparedness strategies and tools for current, emerging, and future infectious disease risks
- **Solutions** to address the impact of infectious diseases on animal life, human life and livelihoods, considering the multifaceted nature of infectious disease events and their larger impact on communities.

## 6.2 *Curricula vitae* of applicants

- Please include a CV for each applicant.
- Each CV should have a maximum length of 3 pages (excluding publications, minimum font size 10), containing the following information:
  - Personal information including OrcID, ResearcherID or Google Scholar ID)
  - Clearly stated year and month of completion of PhD, or for clinicians and veterinarians, year and month of state examination if no PhD.
  - Employment history including current position(s)
  - Institutional responsibilities
  - Approved third-party funding
  - Supervision of junior researchers at graduate and postgraduate level (summary information, the names of the junior researchers should be indicated)
  - Prizes, awards, fellowships
  - Career breaks (provide justification)

## 6.3 List of publications

- For each applicant, please include a list of publications most relevant to this application.
- Each list of publications should have a maximum length of 2 pages (minimum font size 10). This list should **only include publications from the last 5 years** and should not include manuscripts in preparation or submitted but not yet accepted. Please list peer-reviewed original research papers separately from reviews/commentaries/editorials.

## 6.4 Project description

- All project descriptions should adhere to the following requirements:
  - Maximum length of 10 pages (excluding references)
  - Minimum font size of 11
  - Line spacing of 1.5
  - All margins set to default Microsoft Word setting 2.54 cm
  - Include page numbers.
- Project descriptions should include all the following sections, in the order shown:
  - Summary (200 words maximum)
  - Background
  - Current status of own research (separate statement for each applicant)
  - Hypotheses and aims
  - Project plan including methods
  - Individual contribution of each applicant to the project
  - Multi/interdisciplinary character of the research project and the added value of the collaboration
  - Role for Core Activities in the proposed research plan
  - Significance of the proposed research with respect to the MCID mission statement

- A timeline with yearly milestones in funding period.
- References (not included in 10-page limit)

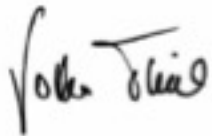
### 6.5 Project budget

- Budgets, including proposed costs and corresponding explanations, should be itemized based on terms presented in the table of permitted expenditures in section 4. Please prepare your budget using the provided budget template for this call.

### 6.6 Letters of host institute support

- Letters of host institute support are only required for those applicants who declare their status as non-tenured researchers (early-career, mid-level academic staff) who do not (yet) lead their own independent research groups. Please use the provided letter template.

Sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Volker Thiel  
Co-Chair of the MCID Directorate



Prof. Dr. Carmen Faso  
Co-Chair of the MCID Directorate