Call for Proposals: 2026 Healthy Future Seed Grants €10,000 – €50,000

1. **Purpose and Scope**

The University of Amsterdam (UvA) wishes to encourage collaboration between disciplines on complex societally relevant themes. These themes are described in the UvA Strategic Plan 2027-2032. The four themes are:

1. Healthy Future
2. Responsible Digital Transformations
3. Fair and Resilient Societies
4. Sustainable Prosperity

Creating a healthy future requires more than disciplinary expertise alone. Healthy Future brings together knowledge, people, and perspectives to address some of the most pressing health challenges of our time. Healthy Future encompasses the urgent and complex challenges of public health in the 21st century, such as the growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCD's); the rise in mental health concerns; an ageing population; persistent and growing disparities in health outcomes; climate-related health risks; escalating health care costs and the sustainability of the health care system, the implementation and (ethical, legal and social) implications of (AI-based) medical technologies and the transition from curative care to prevention.

In handling these challenges, Healthy Future adopts a systems-thinking perspective, recognizing that health is shaped by dynamic interactions across social, cultural, economic, and environmental systems rather than by isolated factors. Its ambition is to stimulate interdisciplinary collaboration within the UvA and transdisciplinary collaboration within societal stakeholders beyond the UvA.

The Seed Grants are intended as a flywheel to continue our work and jumpstart collaborations for the coming years: a low-threshold instrument that keeps generating new transdisciplinary collaborations while also giving existing ones the momentum to grow further. The Seed Grants range from €10k-€50k and can be spent on bringing together UvA scholars from different faculties — and partners beyond the UvA — to work on, e.g., small innovative transdisciplinary projects, grant proposal preparations, education plans or impact and dissemination. Depending on the number of applications and the requested budgets, we expect to award between 12-15 grants. Both new collaborations and existing ones looking to build further momentum are welcome to apply.

Individuals can apply as a main applicant for maximum one Seed Grant and as a co-applicant for maximum one Seed Grant.

The deadline for submitting proposals is Thursday 19 November 2026, 12.00 noon CET, intending for projects to start as early as possible in 2027.

A matchmaking and grant writing event is to facilitate those interested in finding partners from other faculties to apply with.
Details:
Thursday, 29 October 2026 from 13:00-16:30
Location: Allard Pierson Museum

RSVP via this link: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/Mba3wWyLxB

Purposes of the Seed Grant
A Seed Grant proposal should fall under one of the following four purposes:

1. **Small-scale research** — providing time and/or sources to undertake small transdisciplinary research projects, for example developing new methods, generating pilot results, or writing a joint paper.
2. **Flywheel for external funding** — encouraging new and existing inter-/transdisciplinary collaborations that create momentum toward external funding, for example by providing time to prepare and write a grant proposal or organising a meeting for consortium members to collaborate.
3. **Education development** — providing time to develop ideas for education in relation to the Healthy Future themes, including interdisciplinary courses or collaboration in professional education.
4. **Impact and dissemination** — developing and implementing ideas for the impact and dissemination of inter-/transdisciplinary work related to the Healthy Future themes.

2. Requirements for the Seed Grant Proposals

The proposal must be written in English and should not exceed 1.000 words, including Tables or Figures, and excluding title, applicants and budget sheet. Please use the form provided in the Appendix.

The proposal needs to address the following points:

1. Scope of the Seed Grant project
   Seed Grants are intended for small-scale projects that serve as a first step towards a longer-term initiative, if successful. Applicants need to clearly outline the long-term perspective of the project. The project can focus one of the four purposes outlined above: (1) small-scale research, (2) flywheel for external funding, (3) education development, (4) impact and dissemination.

   Ideally, the proposed project should establish a new research or teaching initiative. It may build on existing collaborations if applicants can convincingly demonstrate the additional collaborative, inter-/transdisciplinary, methodological scope.

2. The proposal should clearly explain how the project contributes to the Healthy Future themes mentioned in section I.

   Proposals must:
   - Address physical NCDs and/or mental health;
   - Focus on at least one of the following areas: prevention, AI-based health technologies, or health care systems.
   - Integrate health equity as a cross-cutting principle;
   - Apply a systems-thinking perspective (as defined above);
   - Use an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach (see 3 below)

3. The proposal should clearly explain the societal relevance of the project. A minimum of one co-applicant from another UvA faculty and at least one societal partner is required. Thus, the project must involve at least two UvA faculties, and one societal institution/stakeholder. The contribution of each applicant should be concretely described.

4. The project proposal must specify at least one concrete output or deliverable, including its intended form, completion date, and criteria for determining whether it has been

completed (e.g., a joint paper submitted to a scientific journal, a transdisciplinary research proposal, a joint grant proposal, an education plan or dissemination strategy ready for implementation, a proof of concept, a data model). Evidence that the deliverable has been completed must be included in the final report.

5. The proposal needs to demonstrate how this adds to the overall knowledge base of the UvA and does not copy what is being done at the UvA or other institutions in the Amsterdam region.

6. The proposal must include an estimated budget specifying how the funds will be spent, as well as a timeline of the project with a starting and end date.

7. The project should run for 6-12 months; if the proposal concerns a travel grant than a minimum of two weeks at another institution is required.

3. Budget, Eligible Expenses & Duration

Seed Grants can range from €10.000 to €50.000 for a period of 6 to 12 months; for travel and accommodation costs a minimum of two weeks is required (conference attendance cannot be budgeted). The project must start no later than 1 May 2027 and be completed no later than 1 May 2028. Budgets must be approved by the department or faculty controller.

The budget can be used to cover the following expenses:

- Personnel costs, research assistance
- Data access and collection, data infrastructure
- Research travel and accommodation

Based on the number of applications and the requested budgets, we expect to fund 12-15 grants in this call.

4. Who can apply?

The call is open to all tenure-track assistant, associate and full professors, lecturers and professors by special appointment from the UvA, AmsterdamUMC-UvA and ACTA, for applications that fit the Seed Grant criteria as defined in this call. Members of the Programme Board are not eligible to apply.

5. More information

Before applying, we strongly advise prospective applicants to consult the Healthy Future website. There you will find:

- Contact details of the Programme Board
- Contact details of the Programme Manager
- Information on the Seed Grants and Midsize Projects already awarded

Also, we encourage applicants to attend the matchmaking and grant writing workshop on 29 October from 13.00-16.30 at the Allard Pierson Museum to address questions regarding their application and find potential co-applicants.

Do you have general questions about this call? Please contact us for more information via healthyfuture@uva.nl.

6. Applying

Please send your submission form per email to healthyfuture@uva.nl **before Thursday 19 November at 12.00 noon CET**.

A format for applying for a Seed Grant is made available in Appendix I.

7. Assessment procedure

Assessment will be based on a lottery system. Proposals will first be checked against the eligibility and formal requirements listed under "Requirements" above (including fit with one of the four purposes of the Seed Grant (see section 1) and the scope of Healthy Future as described in the requirements). Proposals that fulfil these requirements will then be entered into a lottery, and grants will be awarded to the proposals drawn, up to the number of grants (budget) available. Healthy Future reserves the right to weight the lottery based on, for instance, grant purpose (e.g. research, flywheel, education and dissemination) depending on the number of applications received for each purpose. The Healthy Future Programme Board will oversee this procedure.

Assessment criteria

- Fulfilling the requirements as listed above.
- Alignment of the objectives of the Seed Grant with the Healthy Future theme and with one of its four purposes.
- Proposals meeting these criteria proceed to the lottery draw described above; relevance to the chosen focus of the theme is used only to confirm eligibility, not to rank proposals against one another.

Appendix I: Seed Grant application format

To be sent in via healthyfuture@uva.nl no later than 19 November**, at 12.00 noon CET**.

The proposal must be written in English. The length of a proposal is a maximum of 1000 words, including Tables or Figures, and excluding title, applicants and budget sheet. A proposal addresses the following matters:

1. TITLE AND APPLICANTS

- Title
- Applicants
- Faculties involved
- Societal partner(s)
- Roles and contributions of applicants/partners

2. PURPOSE OF THE SEED GRANT (MAX 150 WORDS)

- **Select one of the four purposes:**
    - Small-scale research
    - Flywheel for external funding
    - Education development
    - Impact and dissemination
- Briefly explain the aim of the project and why the project fits the selected purpose and how it serves as a first step towards a longer-term initiative

3. THEME OF THE SEED GRANT (MAX 150 WORDS)

- Select one of the three focus areas:
    - Prevention
    - (AI-based) health technology
    - Health systems
- Briefly explain how the project addresses physical NCDs and/or mental health, and how this relates to the selected focus area.
- Briefly explain how equity and a systems-thinking perspective are incorporated into the project.

4. SCIENTIFIC CASE (MAX 300 WORDS)

- Scientific case / impact: What does the scientific or educational innovation consist of?
- What method(s) will be used? Please specify how equity is included as a cross-cutting principle and how a systems-thinking perspective is taken into account.
- What makes this project an interfaculty collaboration?
- How does the project add to the knowledge base, expertise, methods, education or societal engagement of the UvA?
- If the project builds on an existing collaboration, what is the additional collaborative, interdisciplinary or methodological scope of this project?

5. Societal Case and Inter/transdisciplinary work (max 150 words)

- Societal case / impact: How does the project contribute to the Healthy Future theme? What social impact is intended? How is the societal partner involved?

6. Expected output and longer-term perspective (max 150 words)

- Expected outputs and success indicators: What products or other outputs will be created? How do they relate to the objective of the project?
- What do you want to achieve with this Seed Grant? Please describe the longer-term initiative or follow-up that the project is intended to enable.
- Potential follow-up and financing: How does this project tap into potential follow-up funding? Particularly relevant if applying under purposes 1 or 2.

7. Practical matters and potential for follow-up (max 100 words excl. budget sheet)

- Staff, organisation and institutional context: How is the Seed Grant organised?
- Timeline: Please specify the desired start date, end date and total duration of the project (6–12 months), and briefly indicate the key project milestones.
- Budget: How much funding is applied for (€10k–€50k)? What will it be spent on (e.g. staff, organisation, support)? Budgets must be approved by the department or faculty controller.