

“Life and Health”- Research Prize 2026

The University of Bonn Transdisciplinary Research Area “Life and Health” aims to support highly innovative, transdisciplinary research projects addressing new and relevant questions related to the topics of life and health. With this Research Prize we aim to provide impetus and seed funding particularly to novel ideas that cross traditional research boundaries. The innovative and cross-disciplinary nature of the proposal is the most important requirement for funding. **The project has to connect strategically to existing or planned consortia at the University of Bonn.**

A continuation of already established projects, or projects well within past research trajectories will not be funded.

Each successful proposal will be funded with **25.000€**. This funding can be freely used within DFG funding regulations.

Application deadline is **March 24, 2026**.

Guidelines for application

Who can apply?

- Principal Investigators who are members of the TRA Life and Health (with main affiliation University of Bonn) as well as Postdocs from their groups.
- We encourage joint applications from two TRA members from two different research fields. An application together with a TRA member/postdoctoral scientist from a cooperating institution is possible.

Questions regarding eligibility? Please contact Dr. Meike Brömer, life-and-health@uni-bonn.de

What can be funded?

- Funds can be used flexibly within DFG funding regulations.
- Funds cannot be transferred to external institutions. In case of collaborative projects, the administration of funds will have to be carried out by the Bonn university partner.
- The budget needs to be spent **by 31st October 2026**. Exceptions or carryover of budget to the following year will not be possible.

If you plan to purchase instruments, please contact Dr. Meike Brömer, life-and-health@uni-bonn.de, before applying. Basic lab equipment cannot be funded.

How to apply

- The application should contain a convincing and conclusive description of the planned project and its innovative and transdisciplinary character (strictly 2 pages A4, font size 11, including figures and references, + cover sheet with personal data). Please use our **application form**.
- Applicants should make clear how the project connects to planned or existing consortia at the University of Bonn.
- The proposal should be concise and should be understandable without additional resources.
- It should contain a brief account of how the prize money will be used.
- Please attach a **short** CV of the applicant(s) incl. list of **up to five** publications relevant for this proposal (max. 2 pages).

Selection process/criteria

Selection criteria will be:

- Integration of the project into a (future) third party funding initiative at the University of Bonn (e.g. SFB, FOR, etc.)
- Innovativeness
- Transdisciplinary character
- Quality of the proposed project
- Qualification of the applicant(s) for this project
- Potential to create impact for future research within the TRA “Life and Health”

Negative criteria are:

- Projects that are within one narrow discipline.

The Steering Committee of the TRA Life and Health and further internal reviewers will evaluate the proposals. Committee members with conflict of interest will be excluded from decisions.

A short final report will have to be submitted at the latest four months after the end of the project to the TRA manager. Presentation of results in a seminar for TRA members is expected.

Please submit your application **in one PDF file** to life-and-health@uni-bonn.de until 24.03.2026.