

TRA Sustainable Futures: Open Call

Deadline March 6, 2026

The Transdisciplinary Research Area “Sustainable Futures” (TRA 6) promotes cross-faculty sustainability research in the domains of Agriculture, Climate and Ecosystems and Sustainable Healthy Diets as well as in the cross-cutting research areas Transformative Technologies and Societal Change and Innovations

The main goals of TRA Sustainable Futures are to establish an internationally visible, interdisciplinary and cross-faculty research portfolio with a focus on the before mentioned thematic areas, to identify and recruit excellent scientists, to support/initiate collaborative research projects as well as to open up new, future-oriented fields of research with potential for sustainable transformation and transition processes.

In this sense, we invite applications for seed funding for innovative, transdisciplinary research projects or other measures with a clear relation to the goals and themes of the TRA.

Funding can be requested for example for

- Staff
- Workshop/events
- Guest researcher visit
- Stipend
- Travel

Requirements

- Members of the TRA “Sustainable Futures” are eligible to apply
- PIs from at least two faculties or one faculty and a strategic non-university partner
- For further details see TRA 6’s guide on finance and internal allocation of funds

Proposal format

(Funds application form available on webpage and attached to the distribution email)

- A. Support fund application form
- B. Proposal concept (not more than 3 pages)
- C. Budget plan (how will the money be spent? / funding period within the financial year 2026)

Financial guideline

- Due to the annuality of the TRA budget, funding is limited to project expenditure that falls within the 2026 financial year. Only projects whose budget planning provides for the funding to be spent in the current financial year 2026 can be funded.
- As accountings of travel expenses may take long processing times in the University’s administration, any trips funded through this call must be completed no later than end of September 2026.

Selection process

The proposal will be evaluated by internal and/or external reviewers. The TRA steering committee will make the final selection based on these reviews.

Selection criteria will be

- Quality of the proposed project
- Innovativeness
- Inter-/transdisciplinary character
- Expected output: Chances of success/Probability
- Contribution to goals of TRA Sustainable Futures as well as the EXU

Timeline

The funding decisions are expected to be announced at the end of April 2026. Please prepare your project plan accordingly and take into account the lead times within the university administration (e.g. for recruitment procedures).

A final report will have to be submitted at the latest three months after the end of the project to the TRA office.

Application (in one PDF file) can be submitted until March 6, 2026 to tra6@uni-bonn.de.

For questions, please contact the TRA manager Hanna Zimmermann (tra6@uni-bonn.de).