

TURBO Programme

Background and objective/aim

Following the partnership agreement between the University of Twente and Radboudumc, in 2017, a new collaborative grant program was launched, named the Twente University RadBoudumc Opportunities (TURBO) programme. After 6 successful rounds, both institutes have committed to another round for 2024, and likely another for the 2025 round.

Annually, the two institutions will jointly supply four TURBO grants of 80K€ each. These project-based grants will be awarded to four (preferentially) new collaborations between researchers from the University of Twente and Radboudumc. This pre-seed subsidy aims to support a joint grant application of a researcher of the University of Twente with a colleague of the Radboudumc. Typically, this concerns a collaborative grant application for the EU, NWO (e.g. cross over or TTW-grants), NWA routes, EFRO, Interreg etc. The grants can be spent freely, for example, to hire (new) scientific personnel, purchase equipment, arrange networking events for the set-up of new consortia, or realize participation of industrial parties/companies for a joint grant application.

Focus: In December 2022, the boards of Radboudumc and the University of Twente have indicated the wish to further strengthen the collaboration between both institutions. A Task Force is investigating current options around different social and technological areas (such as AI, organ-on-chip, imaging, robotics, HTA), different disease areas (such as movement and other neurological disorders, cancer, CVD, kidney disorders, and rare diseases).

Criteria

- The project is a collaboration between a researcher from the University of Twente (scientific staff or tenure track) and a researcher from Radboudumc who is supported by his/her Research Group Leader.
- The focus of the project and the envisioned external grant application should be integrated in a Radboudumc Research Program and on the interface of unmet need conditions, health and/ or medical technologies, building on existing data sources/ infrastructures. A researcher is allowed to submit only one project as applicant or team member. Those who received a TURBO grant as main applicant in last year's round cannot apply in this round. Those who received a TURBO grant in any previous round, can apply if they fulfilled the conditions of TURBO, .e. applied to an external grant.
- The joint project is of high (scientific) quality. When projects are assessed as equal excellence, a newly set-up collaboration is favored above a pre-existing one.
- According to the TURBO grant budget plan format, the project represents a value of 80k€ and has to be supported by a clear budget plan.
- The project is feasible with the funded subsidy (80k€) and within the proposed time span of max. 1 year. The project includes the finalization of an external grant application within the project time span.

- The proposed external funding body is known, and accompanying application deadlines are within max. 15 months after the project start. This can be international, national or regional funding.
- Collaboration between the two parties is evident both in the research proposal and the budget plan. The project's aim cannot be met without the joint expertise from the applicants from both Institutions.
- Collaboration with additional applicants is possible, but the TURBO resources remain internally at UT and Radboudumc. Other partners can bring in additional resources for the project.
- Projects should be innovative and can be fundamental, applied or implementation science. At least one of the awards will go to a valorisation project, which is defined as a project with a TRL or SRL 5 or above. The projects could concern SSH innovation with technology (in collaboration with the domain of care & wellbeing). In all cases, the project brings together health and technology (in the broadest sense).

Evaluation committee

- The evaluation committee is chaired by an external representative working outside of academia
- There are two permanently appointed members; one from each institution
- There are two scientific experts taking a seat on the committee, representing the reviewers.
- Grant advisors of both institutions are represented.

Every proposal is evaluated by at least two independent scientific experts (reviewers) and a grant advisor from each institution according to the criteria: (scientific) quality (50%), feasibility of project and likelihood of obtaining additional funding (20%), innovativeness (15%) and (societal) impact (15%). Projects that do not fulfil the general criteria and required focus will not be taken into consideration by the evaluation committee. The combined scores of both institutions are the basis for a final ranking by the evaluation committee.

The evaluation committee must come to a unanimous agreement. If no consensus can be reached, the chairman will make the final decision.

Time schedule

June 2023	Announcement TURBO round 2024
15 September 2023	Deadline full proposal TURBO grant
15 Sept – 15 Oct 2023	Applications evaluated by reviewers and the committee
15 November 2023	Granting meeting (online or live)
Not later than 1 Jan 2024	Start of projects
31 December 2024	End of projects and draft grant proposal written
1 April 2025	Submitted grant application at external funding body at the latest

For more information

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Programme manager at Radboudumc: Dr. Clasien Oomen (Clasien.oomen@radboudumc.nl)

Submit your application documents to m.a.g.wiehink@utwente.nl

Attachments

- 1) Application form TURBO programme
 - 2) Budget plan format TURBO programme
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