

FAQs

Lower Saxony – Scotland Research Innovation Scheme: Stream II – Excellence Track

- **What is an existing collaboration?**

Applicants must show that there has been significant history of cooperation or exchange between them. It is encouraged that collaboration projects are supported by a memorandum of understanding between the home institutions of the Lower Saxonian-Scottish research team. If an MoU is not existent, the foundation can be contacted to inquire about the eligibility to apply.

- **Can several applications from one university be submitted?**

Yes.

- **Are there specific requirements for the Scottish partner university?**

Yes, the Scottish University must confirm that it will support the collaboration with 50.000 GBP and specify the in-cash or in-kind contribution.

- **Researchers affiliated to which institutions are eligible to apply?**

Researchers with doctorates from universities in Lower Saxony under state responsibility in accordance with Section 2 of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act (NHG) as well as from regional research institutions primarily financed from state funds are eligible to apply.

Researchers with doctorates from national research institutions with seat in Lower Saxony are eligible to apply in partnership with a Lower Saxonian University as a Co-Pi in addition to the Scottish partner.

- **Is there a requirement for a letter of support by the university management or a formal cooperation contract?**

No, a general letter support or a formal cooperation contact is optional. However, a letter of support is an important indicator of the commitment and sustainability of the partnership.

- **Is it possible to include a third-party as cooperation partner who is neither from Scotland nor from Lower Saxony?**

In principle yes. However, third-party cooperation partners outside these regions cannot be funded. Participation is only possible through personal contributions.

- **Are there any thematic restrictions?**

All topics are welcome, but cooperations on energy (transformation), life sciences, educational sciences, mobility and its transformation as well as security policy are particularly encouraged to apply, since they have been identified as priority topics by the Lower Saxonian State Rectors' Conference and Universities Scotland in their MoU

- **Is it possible to apply for interdisciplinary projects?**

Yes.

- **Is it possible for projects already funded within the programme to apply for an extension of the project's duration?**

A mere temporary extension is not possible. In case there are obviously new research questions or objectives as a result of the funded project the cooperation partners may apply for a new project. The differences of such two projects should be explained clearly in the application. Please take into account in this context that the set-up of new cooperations within the framework of this funding program will be given priority.

- **Is it possible for the PIs to fund their own position?**

No.