

FAQs – Call for Proposals: Bavaria-Western Cape Mobility Grant for Biotechnology, 2026

Eligibility

1. Persons of which organisations in Bavaria (Germany) are eligible for funding?

Staff of any nationality (advanced PhDs during the last year of their dissertation, postdocs, professors, coordinators, group leaders, PIs) of the thirteen universities and universities of applied sciences in Bavaria, which signed the MoU of the Biotech Initiative Bavaria-Western Cape (University of Augsburg, University of Bayreuth, Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg, University of Applied Sciences Munich, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, Technical University Munich, Neu-Ulm University of Applied Sciences, University of Regensburg, Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences, Julius-Maximilians-University Würzburg). Furthermore, staff at UnternehmerTUM and TUM Venture Lab, staff and project leaders of TUM International GmbH, and staff and tenants of Innovation and Start-Up Center Biotechnology (IZB) are eligible for funding.

2. Persons of which organisations in the Western Cape (South Africa) are eligible for funding?

Staff of any nationality (advanced PhDs during the last year of their dissertation, postdocs, professors, coordinators, group leaders, PIs) of the four universities in the Western Cape, which signed the MoU of the Biotech Initiative Bavaria-Western Cape (Cape Peninsula University of Technology, University of Cape Town, University of the Western Cape, Stellenbosch University). Furthermore, the staff of Enrich in Africa are eligible for funding.

3. How can I find a partner for the application?

On our WKS Bavaria-Africa website, we have published a stakeholder map of research projects and a list of research centres that have collaborations between Bavaria and Africa ([link](#)), which you can use, among others, to search for possible partners for the Biotechnology Initiative Bavaria-Western Cape.

4. Can I apply if I have already received funding from BayIntAn or a mobility grant from WKS Bavaria-Africa?

If you have already received BayIntAn funding for 2026 or a mobility grant from WKS Bavaria-Africa, you are not eligible for the Bavaria-Western Cape Mobility Grant for Biotechnology 2026. If a previous application for a BayIntAn project or a WKS mobility grant for a research stay in Africa was rejected, you can apply. Please be aware that the current call is only open to biotechnology research and innovation, and for staff of the 18 member organisations in Bavaria and the Western Cape.

5. What is considered double funding?

The mobility grant is intended for staff of the participating organisations who lack funding for a research and networking trip to Bavaria or the Western Cape. The grant will not be provided if double funding exists. For example, the project does not receive funding from BayFOR if the applicant has other sources to fund the costs of travel or the planned activities, e.g. through university or institute funding, project money, a scholarship, etc. If you also apply for funding elsewhere, you need to mention that in the application form. In case your application is approved by WKS Bavaria-Africa and the other organisation, you must decline one of the grants to avoid double funding and inform us.

Application Process

6. Which documents do I need to submit?

The application consists of Part A and Part B of the application form, which are to be filled out and signed. In addition, a short CV of the applicant (max. 3 pages) and a support letter from the host need to be added. All four single documents (as Word or PDF files) need to be submitted in one email to biotech@bayfor.org

7. When will the funding decision be communicated?

The application deadline is 10 August 2026, 11:59 pm (CET), and applicants can expect a decision within the course of September/October 2026.

8. What does the support letter from the host need to contain?

The support letter is ideally written by the person who hosts the applicant at the partner organisation and is the main cooperation partner. The letter can also be issued by a unit or department head. During the trip, additional partners can be visited and do not need to provide supporting letters. The support letter should confirm the willingness to collaborate with the applicant and to facilitate the stay and joint activities. It should contain the application title, the planned time and duration of the trip and whether access to the necessary facilities, which might be needed for the planned activities, such as access to the laboratory, equipment, etc., is provided.

9. What qualifies as activities to initiate and strengthen collaborations?

The trip should initiate new collaborations and/or strengthen and enlarge existing collaborations on an individual and institutional level. Activities can include, for instance, visits to research institutes, SMEs, start-ups, and political actors with whom a collaboration appears promising. Furthermore, joint laboratory work to explore opportunities for knowledge exchange and transfer, as well as work meetings and workshops to prepare joint programmes and grant proposals, are welcome. Networking workshops, conferences and fairs can be visited to enlarge the network. Mere conference trips are not funded, since the Biotech Initiative aims at strengthening sustainable collaborations which bring together individuals and institutions to support both ecosystems. During your trip, the activities should be balanced between attendance and active contribution. At least one active contribution, such as a presentation or lecture, is requested by each applicant.

10. How will the application be evaluated?

A team at the Bavarian Research Alliance will evaluate the applications based on standardised evaluation criteria regarding the quality of the proposal and its objectives, as well as the sustainability of the collaboration and benefit for the Biotech Initiative Bavaria-Western Cape.

If more proposals of good quality are submitted than the budget is available, the grants with a similar rating will be distributed as evenly as possible among the members of the Biotech Initiative.

The names of the (successful) applicants, their project title, cooperation partners, travel time and duration might be shared among the coordinators of all member organisations of the Biotech Initiative for networking reasons.

11. What happens if the time, duration or major activities and the main cooperation partner need to be changed or adjusted after the approval of the application?

If the applicant needs to make substantial changes concerning the travel time, duration, planned activities and cooperation partners or if they can no longer travel, the applicant needs to inform the coordinators of the Biotech Initiative at WKS Bavaria-Africa as soon as possible. It will be decided on an individual basis how the grant can be adapted and whether the whole grant or parts of it need to be paid back. Major changes need prior approval by WKS Bavaria-Africa and are not approved if communicated after they have been made. If you shorten your stay, you need to pay back the allowances for the days on which you did not travel. If you extend your stay, this is at your own cost. No additional costs can be covered beyond the mentioned allowances in Part B and the approved budget in the Grant Agreement. For administrative reasons, the travel grant cannot be used after 30 April 2027.

Financial planning

12. Which costs can be covered by the grant?

The Biotech Mobility Grant pays a travel allowance for the trip abroad and per diems for the duration of the stay abroad. These allowances follow the DAAD lump sums and shall cover costs such as international flights, transport to and from the airport, accommodation, in-country transportation, and food. These rates need to be used to cross-finance additional spending for visa, vaccination, medicine, travel and liability insurance, local phone and internet fees, conference fees, research equipment, etc. Costs for collaboration activities in your country of residence/employment will not be funded.

After your trip, proof of use of the budget will be demanded in the final report (copy of flight ticket, boarding passes, receipts of major expenses, etc).

13. Can I apply for additional funding for accompanying children or special needs?

Additional support for children below the age of 18 who need to travel with their parents can be requested on an individual basis. Please explain in your application why the child needs to travel with the parent and how the planned activities will be combined with child care. Please list and explain what additional costs you expect in Part B.7.

If you have additional costs for special needs, e.g. travelling with a handicap, please briefly explain and list the additional costs in Part B.7.

14. Who covers my insurance during the trip?

Contact your organisation's travel department to check if insurance coverage is available through your organisation's travel policies. Otherwise, you need to get private insurance. Ensure that you have appropriate health, liability, and travel insurance for the duration of your trip abroad and that the prerequisites to get a visa and enter the country are met.

15. Which timeframe does the grant cover?

Each trip needs to cover a duration of at least 5 days and at most 30 days. Applicants can prolong their stay at their own expense (see next FAQ). Should a stay last less than 5 days, this has to be explained in the application. Each trip must start after the grant agreement has been signed and be completed by 30 April 2027.

16. Is it possible to prolong the stay beyond 30 days?

Yes, cost-neutral extensions are possible, which means you can extend your stay at your own cost. If you plan to extend your stay, indicate this in Part B of your application. If you decide to extend your stay after receiving the grant, inform us by email. The deadline for submitting the final report is not extended when you prolong your stay.

17. What is needed for the final report and the proof of costs?

The final report needs to be submitted to WKS Bavaria-Africa no later than three weeks after the end of the trip. In the case of a cost-neutral extension, the last day with per diems of the Biotech Mobility Grant counts as the start of the three-week submission period.

The report requires proof of use of the budget, such as copies of flight tickets and receipts, boarding passes, and copies of major expenses. A template for the final report will be shared in due time.

18. What do I need to consider for a trip to Bavaria and to South Africa?

Application deadlines for visas, appointments at embassies, issuance of required documents, finding accommodation, etc., can require time. Plan well in advance and prepare yourself and all needed documents (valid passport, health insurance, obligatory vaccinations, etc) to realise your project in time.

19. Will this call for Biotech Mobility Grants be opened again next year?

It is the first time that we have opened this Biotech Mobility Grant Bavaria-Western Cape. Depending on the experiences, needs of the members of the Biotech Initiative Bavaria-Western Cape and available budget, we plan to repeat it next year.

Is your question not listed?

Please contact the coordinators of the Biotech Initiative Bavaria-Western Cape at the Scientific Coordination Office Bavaria-Africa: biotech@bayfor.org