

Frequently asked questions – Call for proposals, Global South Initiative 2026.

Based on the information meeting 25th September at 10:00-11:00

Which countries are defined as Global South?

The link to the low and low middle income countries is available in the call. It's the official World Bank definition of Low-, middle- and High-income countries.

[WDI - The World by Income and Region](#)

What funding opportunities are available?

Four schemes are available: PhD projects, seed funding for external funding applications and dissemination, early career academic networks, and student organization projects.

Can existing collaborations be included?

Yes. Existing partnerships and projects can be developed further as long as the proposed activities create new development and future potential

About the budget. It is written that drift is covered, but often lab work is not included in the expensive. So, is it extra for projects including lab?

Your faculty that will receive the PhD would have to cover extra lab work. What is announced is limited to what is the standard of RSS position. If there's an additional laboratory cost. The practice has been also among the strategic areas that it is covered by faculty.

What is an early career researcher?

A researcher between 2 and 7 years after submitting their PhD.

Who can apply for seed funding for external funding applications?

Permanent academic staff, postdoctoral fellows and certain temporary researchers whose contracts cover the project period.

Who are approved to apply for the funds, is the term “researcher” eligible?

Yes if you have a contract with NTNU for longer than December 2027 for the seed funds. To apply for research project – PhD position, you need an academic permanent position at NTNU. As PI for the project, you need to have a contract longer than the PhD project will last.

Who can apply for seed funding for external funding applications?

Permanent academic staff, postdoctoral fellows, early career (2-7 years after PhD) position and certain temporary researchers whose contracts cover the project period.

For the seed funding call, if a project for example includes partners in both a lower middle-income country and an upper middle-income country, would all the partners be eligible to receive funding as long as there is at least an institution in ONE lower middle income country?

As long as you have one partner from a low or lower middle-income country, which is the minimum requirement, then you can add as many partners as you like. That's up to you to define how you share resources in the network.

The strategy partnership with specific institution has been mentioned. What if we apply with another institution from same country?

If the project gets the same evaluations of the proposals, the strategy partnership project will get extra priority. As so far there has only been sign an agreement with Kathmandu University in Nepal.

I have two ideas where a project could fit for an application, is it possible to send two applications as a PI or can each PI only send one?

One PI can send applications if they support each other. The evaluation of the PhD project application is not going to be done by the internal advisory board. It's going to be done by external reviewers. Seed funding and research projects will be done independently. You don't necessarily gain an advantage by sending two applications, but it's neither forbidden to send two applications. You may send applications, but not more than one to each call.

Can one project apply to more than one call?

Yes, applications can be complementary but must not fund the same activities twice.

What will be the role of the Global South partner in the process?

This is up to the project to define but remember that equitable partnership is important.

What is the maximum ceiling for each of the research projects?

It is 1 PhD position with running costs (defined by your faculty) + 100 000 Nok to activities for applying for more external funding / new projects.

Do we need any kind of "Letter of Intent" from Global South Partner?

Yes, you need some kind of approval from the Global South Institution. This can be an e-mail or letter. The approval can be from the closest leader of collaborating researcher or from the Dean or director from the institution in global south, which you have to upload with the application.

For the PhD project call, should it be new partners or is it okay to have a partner that you have already worked with in the past?

No problem to have a partner that you've already have a good relationship with. To introduce more people to apply, we also recommend looking for new partners. Just explain why and the rationale for the chosen institution.

Can the research project be a part of an already ongoing project?

Yes, but the PhD as such must stand on its own. It's the quality of the PhD that is going to be evaluated. It should be a freestanding, good quality PhD description, first and foremost. You should clearly describe the link to the ongoing project and what is the role of this PhD project.

Is there more information about the scope of the four thematic areas considered in the call?

The information that we have is in the report that is linked to our website, which was made by the committee that established the Global South Initiative. I agree that the report is only Norwegian. Unfortunately, it will require translation, but there are

descriptions of the four thematic areas in that report. The four thematic areas is very broad and should be possible to define a lot of topics into specific themes.

For seed money application for external funding, is it so that we can only apply for these Horizon Europe, Erasmus +, Norhed and Research Council of Norway?

No, that is only examples. You may also, suggest others competitive call that you apply to. You must list what calls that you want to address your project towards. It may be a very preliminary idea and you're using the money to actually develop an application, but some idea of what call would be, I think, an advantage. It would make your application more specific.

Wondering if the PhD that we can apply for can be a practice-based PhD or does it have to be like an academic-based research?

It can be all the models. It can be practice based or in fact, there is an artistic research PhDs as well. Those also qualify, as the Rector's PhD position is a strategic allocation. So there is no limitation.

When recruiting a person to PhD position, trying to recruit from the Global South partner country, or is it simply that the research should be in partnership with the country?

We cannot selectively recruit at NTNU, so the recruitment rules of NTNU will apply. You may develop the application with the Global South partner, you may have co-supervision of the candidate, but it will be the best candidate that can get the position. So, you have to follow the regular recruitment process, but hopefully there is competitive candidates from Global South Institution.