

PHARMASCIENCEHUB FUNDING CALL

Strategic Use of Core Facilities for Profiling Research Projects

Background & Objectives

The **PharmaScienceHub (PSH)** is launching a funding programme to promote the **use of Core Facilities (CFs) at Saarland University (UdS)** for research projects that are strategically aligned with [PSH profile areas](#). A key objective of this call is to improve access to newly established Core Facilities, especially for early-career researchers and newly appointed professors, thereby enabling broader and more inclusive use of cutting-edge infrastructure. The programme supports the investigation of novel scientific questions, strengthens research excellence in PSH profiling areas, fosters interdisciplinary collaboration, and paves the way for competitive third-party funding applications (e.g., DFG, BMBF) or translational research pathways (e.g. proof of concept in preparation for later start-ups).

Funding Scope

Total programme budget:	Approx. 150,000 EUR, funding 7-8 proposals
Funding per project:	5,000–50,000 EUR (exceptions possible with written justification)
Project duration:	up to 6 months, experimental work should preferably be completed and invoiced by December 1, 2025.
Eligible Expenses:	CF project costs

Funding Criteria & Evaluation

All submitted proposals will be reviewed in a competitive process by an expert board. The decision and notification will be communicated promptly. Evaluation will be based on the following criteria:

- **Novelty, originality**, and the exploratory nature of the project.
- **Strategic alignment with [PSH profile areas](#)**, clear contribution to one or more areas
- **Scientific excellence** and hypothesis-driven approach: Methodological rigor, clarity of research questions, and coherence of study design.
- **Follow-up potential:** A well-defined plan for either preparing a third-party funding proposal within 1 year after project completion, or translational pathways toward clinical, technological, or industrial application of the research results.
- **Interdisciplinarity:** Integration of multiple research domains or cross-institutional collaboration.
- **Compliance with FAIR principles** and clear plans for open access publishing and data sharing.

Application Requirements

- **Who can apply?** PSH Members. Each PSH Member may submit only one proposal or be involved in only one application under this call.
- **Proposals must not exceed 3 pages** (excluding appendices).
- Proposals should be submitted in **English**.
- **Co-financing:** Applicants are expected to cover 30% of the total project budget as a contribution to Core Facility service costs. Junior research groups may request an exemption by providing a clear and well-justified rationale.
- **Mandatory attachment:** An official service quote or a preliminary cost estimate from the relevant Core Facility must be included in the application. The estimate may account for both consumables and personnel time, with the latter calculated on an hourly basis.

Required Documents:

1. Project outline (max. 3 pages)

Link to the Word template: <https://psh.digital/cf-funding-call-template>

- Applicant Data
Coordinating and participating PIs (name(s), affiliation(s), email(s))
- Involved Core Facility
Which CF is involved? What specific services or measurements are planned?
- Scientific Objective & Hypothesis
Research question, aim of the project, working hypothesis
- Scientific Context & Novelty
Current state of the art, exploratory/innovative aspects
- Planned Work & Methodology
Experimental approach, workflow, CF integration
- Contribution to PSH Priorities
Alignment with PSH goals, profile areas, strategic relevance
- Follow-Up Strategy
Potential for third-party funding or translational applications
- Data Management & Publication
FAIR principles, analysis plan, dissemination strategy
- Timeline
Key milestones, expected duration, CF service periods

2. Mandatory Appendices

- Official Core Facility quote or preliminary cost estimate

Deadlines & Submission

Submission deadline: June 30, 2025 (23:59 CEST)

Earliest possible start of funding: July 15, 2025

Submission: <https://psh.digital/cf-funding-call-submission>

If you are planning to submit a proposal, we would appreciate a brief notice in advance and are happy to assist with any questions (Contact: Kristina Scherbaum, info@pharma-science-hub.com, +49 681-302 701 51).