

Call for proposals - Healthy Brain Team Science Subsidy

The aim of this Healthy Brain Team Science Subsidy is to support researchers from the entire Radboud campus for developing a grant-proposal (EU, national, regional) to fund a research project based on new collaborations crossing disciplines.

Background: Healthy Brain and the Healthy Brain Study

Healthy Brain (HB) aims to make a unique leap forward in understanding the human brain within the biological, social, and environmental contexts it lives in. This challenge will only be met successfully if researchers from alpha, beta, and gamma disciplines join forces. Moreover, it can only be done at a place where excellence in the contributing research fields is available. The Radboud campus – with the Radboud University, the Radboud University Medical Center and the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics – is such a place.

As a first step, we set up the Healthy Brain Study (HBS). The HBS is examining a population-based sample of 1,000 healthy participants (age 30-39) who are thoroughly and dynamically studied across an entire year. Data are collected through cognitive, affective, behavioral, and physiological testing, neuroimaging, bio-sampling, questionnaires, ecological momentary assessment, and real-world monitoring using wearable devices. These data will become an accessible resource for the scientific community enabling the next step in understanding the human brain and human behavior in daily life and how this relation is influenced by biological, social, and environmental factors.

Broadening the Spectrum: The present Team Science Subsidy

We encourage researchers from all faculties to become an active part of Healthy Brain by submitting a HB team science proposal. Collaborations need to contribute to the aim of HB and connect to the HBS results, but could pertain to a wide range of questions across different disciplines present on Radboud campus. These disciplines go far beyond neuroscience and include, amongst others, nudging behavior, behavioral economics, futuring scenarios, societal implications, language, communication, etc.

- A first example pertains to the association between income and positive affect. It was found among US residents that higher income is associated with more happiness and enjoyment, and less sadness and worry, but only up to a point — precisely, \$75,000 per year (above that, there is no relationship between income and emotional wellbeing). By examining affect, decision-making and choice behavior, social and biological data, the HBS resource may help explaining why this turning point exists.
- A second example of a complex interaction is the fact that sedentary behavior is associated with poor health and high mortality. Merely standing up from time to time, e.g., to walk around a bit, protects against part of that health risk. Existing research on this topic has mainly focused on the consequences of prolonged sitting and has overlooked the key question of why people choose to stand up (when they sit) or sit down (when they stand), in the first place. In other words, what psychological processes (e.g., related to effort, reward, affect, and fatigue) are associated with healthy and unhealthy sedentary behavior? How do social and environmental factors influence these relations? Answering this question will pave the way for the development of novel, targeted interventions that will improve (occupational) health.

On the practical level, this start subsidy can be used flexibly, for instance for consortia building, for validation of interdisciplinary research methods, for analysis of HBS bio-samples and data required for the external grant application, or for support in grant writing for collaborative projects. For example, calls for the National Science Agenda would include routes like ‘towards resilient societies’ or ‘quality of the living environment’ or calls for Horizon Europe would include the Health cluster or a Synergy grant. Regardless, it is important that the subsidy supports new or intensified collaborations across campus and leads to a competitive submission of a proposal to an external grant provider.

What can the money be spent on?

E.g.:

- participation in matchmaking/brokerage events, information days.
- participation in relevant platforms, networks or committees (working groups, boards, etc.)
- analysis of HBS bio-samples and data required for the intended grant-application
- interdisciplinary comparison and validation of HBS data
- organization of workshops, consortium-meetings, etc.
- visits to (potential) consortium-partners
- project development activities for collaborative proposals

Costs can include salary, consultancy (e.g. for grant application), subcontracted work, conference costs, travel expenses, etc.

The money must be spent before the deadline of the call for external funding.

Criteria

- A researcher is allowed to only join one start subsidy.
- The collaboration includes researchers from at least three disciplines working on Radboud campus, usually in different faculties.
- Collaboration between disciplines is evident. The project's aim cannot be met without the joint expertise of all team members.
- The project and the envisioned external grant application build upon/connects to the HBS.
- The application is of high (scientific) quality. When proposals are assessed as of equal quality, a newly set-up collaboration is favored over a pre-existing one.
- The subsidy represents a value of up to 25k€ and has to be supported by a clear budget plan. If analysis of bio-samples and data collected by the HBS is required, a maximum of 25k€ can be requested additionally.
- The proposed external call is known and accompanying application deadlines are clear or at least indicated.
- The project is feasible within the proposed time span. The project plan includes the steps towards a successful external grant application and maximizes the chance of obtaining external funding for the continuation of the project idea.
- The project is innovative, can be both fundamental or applied and requires team science.

Evaluation and Selection

The scientific board of the HBS reviews all proposals and submits a ranking to the HB steering committee, which selects the to-be granted pre-seed subsidies.

Every member of the scientific board evaluates the proposals according to the following criteria: scientific quality (50%), feasibility of project and likelihood of obtaining external funding (35%), new collaboration across disciplines (15%). The following criteria for scientific quality are applied: challenging content, originality of the topic, innovative elements, potential to make an important contribution to the advancement of science, effectiveness of the proposed methodology, and scientific embedding of the research. Projects that do not fulfill the general criteria and required focus will not be taken into consideration. The evaluation committee must come to final ranking based on individual rankings and discussion of proposals in the committee.

Time schedule

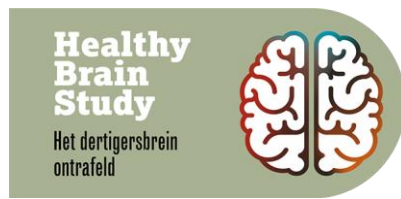
December 1, 2020: call open

April 1, 2021, 23.59hr: Deadline for the submission of the proposal

June 2021: Announcement of winning proposals

Before the end of 2021: Start of pre-seed projects

Submitted grant application at external funding body in 2021 or 2022



For more information

Lucy Overbeek, project manager Healthy Brain Study, lucy.overbeek@radboudumc.nl

Attachment

1) Application form

APPLICATION FORM

Healthy Brain Team Science Subsidy

PART 1 - SUMMARY

1. Applicant (name, affiliation, email address):
2. Other team members (name, affiliation, email address):
3. Title of project:
4. Envisioned external funding call and size of subsidy (€) (add link to webpage, if available):
5. Deadline submission external subsidy (or indication):
6. Project summary (max 200 words):
7. Link to HB focus on team science (explain why your research question requires a new collaborative team effort, max 150 words):

PART 2 – PROJECT PROPOSAL (total max. 3 A4, incl. figures and references, Calibri 11)

1. Project description (background, aims, description and planning of proposed work including networking, steps towards external grant application, potential outcome):
2. Last 5-year research achievements of the applicant:
3. Last 5-year research achievements of team members:
4. Key publications of the team members relevant to the proposed research (max 6 per team):
5. Substantiate the novelty of the collaboration:
6. Substantiate the innovative approach and urgency for HB grant 2020 (why this grant is essential for obtaining external funding and how this project and its applicants fit the specific call):
7. How will the project connect to relevant regional-, national- and European networks?:

PART 3 – BUDGET PLAN

1. Budget plan up to 50 K€. Costs for personnel are according to the [NWO salary tables](#). Please be as detailed as possible

PART 4 - SUBMISSION

I declare that this project is new, not previously awarded by another grant agency, nor currently under review by another grant agency.

I am an employee of RU, Radboudumc or MPI and have a contract at least until 2022.

I have completed this form truthfully.

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Date:

Date:

Name and signature of applicant:

Names and signatures team members:

Proposal must be submitted as one PDF file to Lucy Overbeek via e-mail: lucy.overbeek@radboudmc.nl
The **deadline for submission** April 1, 2021, 23.59 hr