

Connecting
Switzerland and
South Asia

Leading House South Asia

Call for Connect & Collaborate Grant (CCG) 2025

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Purpose

The Connect & Collaborate Grant (CCG) is one of the Leading House's instruments to support Swiss-based researchers in conducting collaborative activities such as workshops, symposia, teaching activities, and more.

We are convinced that tackling the world's most pressing challenges requires the sharing of knowledge, exchanging findings, and establishing long-lasting ties based on shared experiences.

We are further convinced that collaboration across different scientific fields is essential. Cross-disciplinary collaboration allows for synergies to emerge and findings to have a broader impact, addressing not only technical but also social, ethical, and policy-related dimensions. Holistic approaches increase the likelihood of long-term, sustainable effects. This interdisciplinary and cross-sector collaboration is critical for translating scientific knowledge into action, ensuring that it addresses real-world challenges, and fostering global cooperation. Therefore, it is at the core of all activities supported by the Leading House South Asia.

What activities are supported by this grant?

The grant supports activities such as conferences, workshops, symposia, as well as training and teaching initiatives, or similar events that span different scientific fields and are organized in collaboration with research partners and/or institutions in our partner countries¹.

Applicants may request consecutive funding in their proposal, which, if approved, will be confirmed in the grant agreement. Activities with strong potential for long-term collaboration and a clear vision for evolving into recurring events may be eligible for up to **two years of funding**, confirmed at the time of the grant award. A **one-year extension** may be considered if reasonably justified, while the decision on a **third year of support** will be made at a later stage.

Please note that only a limited number of projects will be granted consecutive funding. Proposals requesting consecutive funding will not be given priority over those seeking one-time funding, and all applications will be evaluated based on their overall merit.

Eligibility

This grant is open to Swiss research staff, including PhD students, professors, and postdocs from Swiss universities, universities of applied sciences, universities of teacher education, and research institutes, including federal laboratories and centers of technological excellence (referred to as "applicant" and "research institutions").

For eligible institutions, see [here](#).

Eligible activities

Conferences, workshops, symposia, training/teaching activities, COIL activities, capstone projects.

- The projects/activities can take place in Switzerland, in the partner country, or be conducted in a hybrid or online format. They must lead to the strengthening of bilateral connections between Swiss scientists and their scientific partners or communities in the partner country.

Requirements for the applicant

- The applicant must be a Swiss-based scientist officially employed at a Swiss research institution at a minimum of 40%.
- The applicant must be active in a research domain related to the topic of the event.
- The applicant must participate in a virtual kick-off and a final virtual meeting with all CCG 2025 grantees and a mid-term virtual call with the Manager of the Leading House South Asia.

Requirements for partner/partner institution

Eligible partners include:

- Scientists (professors, postdocs, PhD students)
- Institutes of higher education
- Research institutes

Partners must be affiliated with and active in a field related to the event.

Financial and/or in-kind contributions

A financial or in-kind contribution is mandatory. If no financial contribution is provided, an in-kind contribution is required. Examples include:

Venue

- Providing a venue free of charge or at a significantly reduced cost.

Equipment and technology

- Use of audio-visual tools, projectors, computers, or hybrid event platforms without rental fees.

Staffing support

- Administrative support (event planning, coordination, registration) without additional fees.
- Technical support staff for managing online components or technical equipment.

Logistical support

- Covering local transportation or coordinating travel logistics.
- Providing volunteer staff or students to assist with organizing the event.

Publicity and promotion

- Covering or assisting with marketing and promotion costs.

Accommodation

- Providing accommodation for participants or speakers through institutional housing.

Catering

- Offering meals, snacks, or coffee breaks.

Materials and supplies

- Donating or providing essential materials such as workshop kits, conference printing.

Local expertise

- Providing experts, researchers, or speakers without charging fees.

Transportation within partner country

- Covering or subsidizing local travel costs.

Start and duration of the project/activity

- The project/activity must take place within 12 months after approval of the grant application.
- The activity must last a minimum of two days.

Grant amount and allocation

Total grant

The funding request must range between **CHF 5,000** and **CHF 15,000**.

Disbursement of grants

Grants will be disbursed in two instalments: 80% after signing the grant agreement and 20% after approval of the final report and financial statement. Prior to the disbursement of grants, grant recipients will be required to sign a grant agreement provided to them by the Leading House South Asia.

Any grant money that was not spent by the grant recipient will have to be returned to the Leading House

Eligible costs

The grant may cover expenses for both Swiss and partner-country participants, unless stated otherwise.

Eligible expenses include:

- Venue rental and conference materials
- Speaker fees (excluding the Swiss applicant and partner)
- Tuition fees
- Travel costs for a return trip (train, economy-class flights, airport transfers, visa fees)
- Accommodation & subsistence (flat rate: up to CHF 200 per night in Switzerland, CHF 100 in partner countries)

For online/hybrid projects/activities, additional eligible costs include:

- External service fees
- License costs for online software
- Technical staff support (CHF 25/hour, max. CHF 200/day)

For Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS) and Universities of Teacher Education (UTE):

- Up to 20% of the requested grant can be budgeted for institutional costs (salary costs), excluding the work of the Switzerland-based applicant.

For all other institutions of higher education:

- Coordination & reporting costs in Switzerland up to max 10% of total grant (excluding the applicant's work)

Application and proposal content

- Please note that **PDF applications will not be accepted**. All applications must be submitted via the [Good Grants](#) platform.
- The information below serves as a **guideline** for the details required when completing your application directly on the platform.

Persona details

- Full name of the Swiss-based applicant
- Institution/Institute and department
- Signing parties of a potential grant agreement
- Partner(s)/ partner institution(s) in partner country

Project proposal

- Summary of planned activity (max. 300 words)
- Interdisciplinarity (max. 400 words):
 - Describe how your project combines different fields of research and/or involves different stakeholders (e.g. academia, industry, policy makers, NGOs).
 - Explain how this interdisciplinary approach will contribute to bridging knowledge gaps and solving complex challenges.
 - If applicable, provide examples of previous interdisciplinary collaborations that have inspired this project.
- Impact & Relevance (max. 400 words):
 - What are the scientific, societal and practical benefits of the project/activity?
 - Clearly articulate the expected impact for Swiss and partner country stakeholders.
 - Alignment with societal challenges: How does your project contribute to broader societal challenges such as sustainability, health, or innovation ecosystems?
- Potential for long-term collaboration (max. 500 words):
 - **Graded section:** All proposals must answer the following questions:
 - How will this project/activity lay the foundation for a long-term relationship?
 - What is your vision for future collaborations, follow-up projects, or recurring events?
 - **Only if consecutive funding is requested:** Applicants applying for consecutive funding must provide a brief overview addressing:
 - How continued funding would enable the project/activity to grow.
 - How consecutive funding could lead to a recurring, long-term collaboration.
 - Any co-funding strategies, institutional commitments, or alternative funding plans that could help sustain the initiative beyond the Leading House's support.

Note: Only a very limited number of projects will be selected for consecutive funding over two years, which will be confirmed in a grant agreement. And as mentioned earlier in this document: Proposals requesting consecutive funding will not be given priority over those seeking one-time funding, and all applications will be evaluated based on their overall merit.

- Innovation (max. 250 words):
 - How does your project/activity encourage creative approaches or explore emerging topics?
 - Are you introducing new formats, tools, or ideas to address interdisciplinary challenges?
 - If applicable, provide examples of past projects/activities inspiring this new approach.
- Feasibility & Organization (max. 400 words):
 - Timeline & milestones: Provide a detailed timeline, including preparation, execution, and evaluation phases.
 - Risk assessment & mitigation strategies: Outline potential risks (e.g. participation issues, logistical challenges) and mitigation strategies.
 - Budget: Fill in the [file](#) provided and upload it separately.

Timeline

- Launch of this call: March 6, 2025
- Applications will be accepted until: April 6, 2025
- Evaluation and funding decision: End of April 2025
- Notification of applicants: End of April 2025
- Project start date: No later than July 2025
- Project duration: Up to 12 months
- 1st payment (80 %) After signature of grant agreement
- 2nd payment (20 %) After receipt and acceptance of final report

Reporting

- The Swiss-based applicant is responsible for fund management and reporting.
- A **final financial and qualitative report**, including a summary, reflections, and financial documentation, must be submitted within one month after the closure of the project/activity. The final reports need to be handed in via the platform Good Grants. Templates will be provided later this year.
- The final 20% of the grant will only be released after submission and approval of the final reports.

Export control

Activities under this grant may be subject to **export control regulations** (State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO). The Swiss-based applicant and their home institution are responsible for compliance.

Important note

The LH has the right to modify the terms of this call according to the circumstances related to e.g. pandemics, environmental issues or any decision made by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI).

Additional documents

→ All relevant documents can be found on our [webpage](#).

ⁱ Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.