



The University of Melbourne-University of Toronto Call for Research Partnership Development Fund 2021

Guidelines for Applicants

Deadline: November 1, 2021

The University of Melbourne (UoM) and the University of Toronto (U of T) are contributing matching funds to support collaborative research initiatives through a joint call for proposals. In 2020, [6 research projects were funded](#) under the inaugural funding round of the Joint Research Program.

The overall aim of the Fund is to encourage and provide initial support for development of high-quality research projects that include Early Career Researchers (ECRs).

Funding is available at both institutions to develop new partnerships that will lead to long-term collaborative research with a view to enabling principal investigators (PIs) to subsequently make joint proposals to external funding sources for the next phase of their research.

The fund is open for proposals across all research areas.

The two universities have recently established an [International Research Training Group for the training of jointly enrolled and supervised PhD candidates](#). Proposals with the potential for sustainability beyond the initial funding period and that aim to provide opportunities for jointly awarded PhDs at a future stage are encouraged.

Activities and Scope

Proposals may include targeted research support such as joint workshops, researcher exchanges, research seminars/presentations and the formation or development of a collaborative network. All proposals should be led by, or include in a significant role, Early Career Researchers, defined as an individual who is within six years of their first academic appointment. This duration excludes any period of career break.

Proposals should fall into one of the following categories: **Peer-to-peer** (ECR–ECR), **Developmental** (ECR–mid/senior career researcher), where the project provides an ECR with research opportunities not otherwise available at their institution, or **Network** (multiple researchers at all career stages, including ECRs on each side). Requested funds should be scaled according to the proposed program of work.

Mutual partner collaborators from other research institutions may participate in the joint research activities at their own expense, where the benefit of their involvement to the Melbourne-Toronto partnership is justified in the proposal.

Costs

The funding provided is intended to support expenses, including but not limited to costs of travel (PIs, post-doctoral fellows, research associates, graduate researchers) between the institutions, and necessary related consumables. Existing staff time including the Co-PIs time cannot be costed to the project.

In the event that COVID-19 travel restrictions persist for the duration of the proposed research project, exemptions to ineligible costs may be requested on a case-by-case basis.

Eligible Costs	Ineligible costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travel costs including flights, hotels and subsistence• Research costs including consumables (up to a maximum of 30% of total budget)• Costs associated with organising workshops and meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replacement research/teaching costs• Directly incurred staff e.g. Research Assistant• Directly allocated costs including applicants' time• Indirect costs/estates costs• Equipment• Scholarships• Conference attendance• Tuition fees• Honoraria

Eligibility

To be eligible, a proposal must include at least one researcher from each institution under one of the three categories specified above. Previous recipients may not currently reapply to the scheme.

Melbourne: Applicants must hold an appointment at the University of Melbourne at Academic Level A (6) or higher and 0.5 FTE or higher at the time of application and for the duration of the award.

Honorary employees whose primary academic affiliation is the University of Melbourne are eligible to lead the application if their primary employer has entered into an agreement with the University for the support of the Australian component of the collaborative activity; or may participate at their own expense if they are otherwise unaffiliated (for example, they hold an emeritus position). The relevant Heads of Department/Units must endorse applications.

Toronto: Applicants who are Faculty members in continuing U of T appointments are eligible to submit proposals. Faculty members in continuing U of T appointments, and students and fellows under their supervision at U of T, are eligible to participate in exchange activities.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Adherence to respective equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) policies are an important feature of this program to ensure that all participants can do their best work, thrive and succeed. Applicant teams should consider how they can take meaningful steps in their future collaborations to foster an

environment that values, supports and respects a diverse range of views, knowledge and experiences. Applicants should consider EDI as it applies to gender, indigenous peoples, disabilities, career stages, and sectors.

Value and Duration

Up to 5 successful proposals will be selected for a funding period of one (1) year and receive up to:

- \$16K AUD from UoM to support UoM applicants.
- \$15 CDN from UofT to support UofT applicants.

Each institution will pay funds directly to its researchers. Approval of expenditure will be governed by each university for the portion of funding provided.

How to Apply

This is a joint call and one joint application per project should be submitted online using [SmartyGrants](#).

The full proposal is comprised of the following elements:

Part A: Administrative Details - includes the lead faculty members and affiliations from each Institution with contact details

Part B: Project Proposal

B1. Summary that describes the project

B2. Project Description (400 words)

B3. Impact (3x 250 words)

B.3.i. Project Impact - Description of the expected academic gains for the project as a result of the proposed cooperation and mobility, and the identification of corresponding performance indicators e.g. a publication, blog, meeting report etc.

B.3.ii. Impact of Collaboration – Anticipated benefits of the collaboration to the faculty member's other active research and/or teaching projects and on strengthening the overall partnership between UoM and UofT.

B.3.iii. Graduate researcher involvement: Any opportunities for graduate researcher engagement and anticipated benefits to the project and the student(s) themselves as applicable.

B4. Capacity for Future Collaboration (250 words) - A description of the potential future collaborations and outcomes that will be possible as a result of having undertaken the current collaboration. For example: joint publications, joint supervision of graduate researchers, joint teaching, joint patent applications, joint reports to governments, joint funding applications.

B5. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (100 words) - Discuss how the proposed project reflects the EDI priorities

Part C: Budget - A breakdown of the cost of the activity e.g. flights, travel, hotels etc.

Part D: Project Team (plain text - no attachments) - Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae of the faculty members with a selected list of publications

Melbourne collaborators will need to complete a Themis Grants Submission for Head of Department approval and email the Themis Submission number to <mailto:res-devschemes@unimelb.edu.au>

Timeline

Call for proposals	September 20, 2021
Deadline for submission	November 1, 2021 (5pm AEDT)
Communication of results	Mid-November, 2021
Start date of awards	December 1, 2021

Evaluation Criteria

A joint review committee will assess each full proposal according to the academic merit and the following criteria (with equal weighting) within each of the three categories (Peer-to-Peer, Developmental, and Network):

- a. **Project design and rationale:** how clearly presented and justified is the design and basis for the collaboration.
- b. **Project impact:** how clearly linked are the academic gains to the planned activities and performance indicators.
- c. **Impact of collaboration:** how strong is the link being between the proposed collaboration and current research or teaching project(s).
- d. **Graduate researcher involvement:** are opportunities provided for graduate researchers to engage in the collaboration? What are the anticipated benefits of graduate researchers engagement in the project and for the individuals themselves?
- e. **Capacity for future collaboration/funding:** What is the extent to which future collaborations are possible as a result of the proposed exchange activities? What is the ability of the proposal to leverage future external funding? What is the potential for the collaboration to lead to the recruitment of [joint PhD candidates](#)?

Consideration will also be given to the involvement of Graduate Researchers – are opportunities provided for PhD researchers to engage in the collaboration? What are the anticipated benefits of the involvement of PhD researchers, for the project and for the individuals themselves? Another factor that will be considered is the potential benefit of the collaboration for other personnel at each institution.

The proposals will be assessed and recommended for selection by a committee composed of members of both institutions appointed by the office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (or delegate) for UoM and the Office of the Vice President International for UofT.

Reporting

All awardees must, as a condition of receiving an award under this call, complete a narrative report (of between 1 and 2 pages) that describes the outcomes, nature of collaboration, project impact, trainee involvement and opportunities for future collaboration that evolved from their project. A single joint report should be submitted to both institutions within three months of the project end date, using the contacts listed below.

Information about this Call

All queries related to this call for joint research proposals should be directed to:

The University of Melbourne:

Kim Turner

Researcher Development Grants

E: <mailto:res-devschemes@unimelb.edu.au>

University of Toronto

Tak Koguchi

International Research Officer

E: tak.koguchi@utoronto.ca