

The University of Manchester-University of Toronto 2021 Call for Joint Research Proposals

The University of Manchester (UoM) and the University of Toronto (U of T) are contributing matching funds to support collaborative research initiatives through a joint call for proposals. The aim of the fund is to provide initial support for the development of research links and catalyze further collaboration. In the longer term, the goal is to build international teams who are well positioned to apply for external funding to develop their partnerships.

This is the third round of funding. A list of the projects supported in previous rounds is on the [Manchester-Toronto Research Fund](#) page.

Proposals will be assessed and recommended for selection by a committee composed of members of both institutions.

1. Projects

- i. To be eligible, a proposal must include a PI from UoM and U of T, and at least one other researcher on each team. We encourage early career researchers to apply.
- ii. The funding envelope comprises £50,000 from UoM and CAD\$85,000 from the U of T. Up to ten (10) joint projects will be selected.
- iii. The fund is open for proposals across all research areas.
- iv. Projects will be funded for a period of 12 months and should aim to start by June 2021 at the latest. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic some flexibility around start and end dates will be allowed (subject to approval from both UoM and U of T).
- v. Proposals with the potential for sustainability beyond the initial funding period are encouraged.

2. Costs and proposal

- i. Proposals may include workshops (face-to-face and virtual), symposia, staff exchanges, research seminars/presentations and formation or development of a collaborative network. Proposals with the potential for launching an international doctoral cluster (IDC) or developing a collaborative digital teaching model between the two universities are particularly encouraged.
- ii. Eligible costs include travel and subsistence, consumables and the cost of research assistants e.g. PhD students, research associates and technicians which are directly related to the project. Existing staff time including the Co-PIs time cannot be costed to the project. The fund does not support equipment, scholarships, conference attendance or tuition fees.
- iii. UoM only – A fEC costing is not required. Please note that only directly incurred costs are allowed and not directly allocated.

Eligible Costs	Ineligible costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel costs (including flights and subsistence) • Directly incurred staff (for example a Research Assistant) • Research costs (including consumables) • Costs associated with organising workshops and meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement research/teaching costs • Directly allocated costs (including applicants' time) • Indirect costs/estates costs • Equipment • Scholarships • Conference attendance • Tuition fees

3. Eligibility

- i. **Eligibility for UoM participants within the scope of this call:** Academic staff members from all disciplines and at all levels are welcome to apply. The lead applicant must be a permanent member of staff. We encourage early career researchers to apply. Post-doctoral staff are eligible to apply on the condition that the end of their post-doctoral contract is after the end of the proposed project.
Emeritus and honorary staff are not eligible to apply as Co-PI but may be members of the project team.
- ii. **Eligibility for U of T participants within the scope of this call:** 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.
- iii. **Previous applicants:** Co-PIs who have previously been awarded a project from this seed fund are not eligible to apply as a Co-PI again, but can be a member of a project team.

4. Value and Duration

Up to 10 successful proposals will receive up to the following funding:

- 1) UoM will provide each approved project up to GBP5,000 per year to support their researchers.
- 2) U of T will provide each approved project up to CAD\$8,500 per year to support U of T applicants.

5. Timeline

Call for proposals opens	Tuesday 8 December 2020 (noon Toronto time)
Deadline for submission	Monday 18 January 2021 (noon Toronto time)
Communication of results to applicants	Late February 2021
Project start date	From early March 2021

6. Submission of Proposals

This is a joint call and a single application should be submitted online using [SmartSurvey](#). It is possible to preview the form without filling in details here.

The full proposal is comprised of the following elements:

- i. Proposal cover that includes the faculty member and affiliations from each Institution with contact details
 - ii. A project description that includes the following items (in alignment with the selection criteria listed below):
 - **Abstract** that describes the project
 - **Description of the planned activities** (for example, seminars, short courses, visits to other institutions that carry out research/teaching activities in cognate areas, etc.) including rationale and timeline
 - **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.
 - **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 U of T and UoM.
 - **Graduate student involvement:** Any opportunities for graduate student(s) engagement and anticipated benefits to the project and the student(s) themselves as applicable.
 - **Capacity for future collaboration:** 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 PhD students, joint teaching, joint patent applications, joint reports to governments, joint funding applications
 - **Proposed budget:** A breakdown of the cost of the activity e.g. flights, travel, hotels etc.
 - iii. Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae (not more than 2 pages) of the Co-PIs with a selected list of publications.
 - iv. A letter of support from your Line Manager or Head of Department to apply for the grant, including an explanation of how the project aligns with your Faculty's research strategy (UoM only).
- i. A joint review committee will assess each full proposal according to the academic merit and compelling elements covered by the following criteria:
- **Project design and rationale:** how clearly presented and justified is the design and basis for the collaboration (15% of the evaluation score).
 - **Project impact:** how clearly linked are the academic gains to the planned activities and performance indicators (15%).
 - **Impact of collaboration:** how strong is the link being between the proposed collaboration and current research or teaching project(s) (30%).

- **Graduate student involvement:** are opportunities provided for PhD researchers to engage in the collaboration? What are the anticipated benefits of PhD researchers engagement in the project and for the individuals themselves? (10%)
- **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? (30%)

7. Reporting After Project Completion

All awardees must, as a condition of receiving an award under this call, complete a narrative report that describes the outcomes, nature of collaboration, project impact, trainee involvement and opportunities for future collaboration that evolved from their project.

8. Information about this Call

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