



# U of T-ZJU JOINT SEED FUND

## University of Toronto and Zhejiang University

### Call for Proposals 2021

#### Overview

The University of Toronto (U of T) in Canada and Zhejiang University (ZJU) in China are issuing a joint call for proposals on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aligned with their institutional priorities, complementary strengths, and track record of cooperation.

Proposals from all fields are welcome, and innovative projects with a clear intention to advance progress towards the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) will be the focus.

It is hoped that, besides tangible academic outcomes such as the submission of co-authored publications, and contributions to the SDGs, projects will result in long-lasting, substantial collaborations that are maintained beyond the initial funding period and will be supported in the future by governmental, philanthropic, industrial, or other external funding.

#### Grant:

Up to five proposals will be funded. **Each successful proposal may receive up to CNY 120,000 for ZJU expenses and \$20,000 CAD from U of T over two years**, with each university funding its own faculty members in its own currency. Funding does not have to split evenly between the two years.

#### Eligibility:

Faculty from all disciplines/fields are welcome to apply at ZJU and U of T. Faculty (or their PDF) must have participated in a joint workshop (held on 20<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct, 2021) to be eligible to apply. The U of T lead investigator must have a continuing appointment and have SGS Graduate Faculty Membership at U of T.

#### Duration:

The ZJU PI will be able to spend first year funds between March, 2022 and November, 2022; second year funding will be spent between March, 2023 and November, 2023. The grants will be effective for U of T PI between March 2022 to March 2024. For U of T PI, any extension will require written approval from U of T's International Office.

#### Application Timeline:

Applications open	November 5, 2021
Applications close	January 11, 2022 by 11:00 am EST time / 12:00 pm

	China time
Successful applicants notified by	March 25, 2022

### Supported Activities:

The initiative will support not only the expansion of existing collaborations relevant to the SDGs between academics at the two universities but also the development of new collaborations in order to build a meaningful and productive partnership between the two institutions.

The following expenses are allowed but not limited to:

- Research-related mobility
- Project-related joint meetings and workshops, both in-person and virtual
- Limited expenses for research materials/supplies

### Application Submission:

1. Your proposal must be jointly prepared by the lead investigators (primary applicant) from both institutions in English and submitted to both institutions at the same time, via email:
  - Zhejiang University: Ms. CAO Lu ([luchristiecao@zju.edu.cn](mailto:luchristiecao@zju.edu.cn)), Office of Global Engagement
  - University of Toronto: Ms. Rikki Zhao ([international@utoronto.ca](mailto:international@utoronto.ca)), Office of the Vice-President International
2. The joint application form should include the following components saved as one PDF document: a coversheet, proposal narrative, project budget, project timeline, and CVs.
3. All applications require endorsement by the relevant ZJU Head of School on the China side. The ZJU Principal Investigator must complete their endorsement coversheet.
4. Only completed proposals submitted to the email of both institutions by the deadline will be accepted.

### Selection Criteria:

Proposals will be reviewed by faculty reviewers from both institutions, with final award decisions made jointly by program leadership, who reserve final authority over the selection of projects taking into account university strategic priorities and the availability of funds.

Proposals will be read by an interdisciplinary faculty review committee and should be understandable to researchers outside your field(s). Final selection of the projects will consider the distribution of the topics across disciplines and the alignment with SDGs.

Each proposal will be assessed according to the selection criteria described below.

- All projects need a direct connect to the SDGs and their subthemes: [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#)

- Quality: the academic merit of the proposed work
- Impact: expected impact of the research
- Innovation: the extent to which the project will contribute to novel thinking and/or new technology in its field.
- Sustainability: the likelihood that the project will lead to sustainable results and long-term international relationships and generate significant external funding.
- Team Strength: participants demonstrate high levels of commitment, enthusiasm for collaboration, relevant experience, and joint planning
- Design of proposed activities, milestones, metrics of success, and budget (reasonable expenses for anticipated results)

### **Forfeiture of Grant:**

Extensions must be sought for any grants not spent by the project end date or the grant must be returned so that unspent balances can be re-allocated.

### **Reporting Obligations:**

Each awardee should submit an annual report to their home institution, demonstrating activity on the grant and need for second year funding.

1. Grant recipients are expected to submit a final report within one month of the project end date.
2. Grant recipients should acknowledge the U of T International Office and the Office of Global Engagement at Zhejiang University in all project products (reports, publications, presentations, etc.) that were made possible, in whole or in part, through this grant.

### **Administrative Contacts**

For further information, please contact the Program Coordinators:

for ZJU, Ms. CAO Lu (luchristiecao@zju.edu.cn, 86-571-88981877);

for UofT, Rikki Zhao (rikkizhao@utoronto.ca, 86-10-85261820 ext.23).