



TORONTO - MELBOURNE RESEARCH TRAINING GROUP 2021/22 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The University of Toronto (U of T) and the University of Melbourne (UoM) continue to develop their strategic partnership through [the Toronto – Melbourne Research Training Group](#), offering opportunities for research collaboration and engagement. In the 2020/2021 inaugural call for joint PhD proposals, U of T and UoM funded 12 PhD projects across multiple Faculties and departments.

In 2021, U of T and UoM are calling for project proposals from all research areas to establish new joint PhD projects.

Each of the successful supervisory teams will access funding that includes tuition fee waivers/remission scholarships, a full living allowance, health insurance, and relocation support. Recruited PhD candidates will be enrolled at, and will meet the academic standards and requirements of, both institutions. They will be co-recruited and co-supervised by collaborative teams through an arrangement known as a *jointly awarded PhD through joint education placement* (this mechanism is aligned with the existing policies of both institutions). All candidates will work towards submission of a single thesis that meets the requirements of both institutions and undertake a final oral examination. Upon completion, the candidates will be eligible to graduate with two testamurs/parchments – one from each University, noting the partnership with the other – and participate in the convocation ceremonies at both universities, should they choose to do so.

All prospective PhD candidates must meet the eligibility requirements to successfully enrol in the relevant PhD course at both universities.

Priority for this call will be given to **cluster applications**, which are proposals that include 3 or more primary supervisors/Primary Investigators (PIs) across both institutions, who will supervise *at least* 2 joint PhD candidates. Calls that involve 2 primary supervisors/PIs (one from UoM and one from U of T) supervising one joint PhD candidate will still be considered as **individual projects**.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The supervisory team must comprise of at least two Principal Investigators (PIs), one from U of T and one from UoM. The PIs must have capacity to serve as primary supervisors for jointly enrolled PhD candidates.

UoM PIs must be registered to supervise as per the [Supervisor Eligibility and Registration Policy](#). Primary supervisors should be employed at UoM beyond the envisaged submission date of their PhD candidates

(2027). If their employment contract does not extend beyond the candidates' submission date, then alternative arrangements must be in place, by either having:

- a) A named co-supervisor employed at UoM beyond the envisaged submission date of their PhD candidates (2027); *or*
- b) A letter of support from the respective Head of Department/Head of School detailing the arrangements in place to ensure continuity of supervision.

For more information, including forms for supervisor registration, please consult the [information for supervisors section on the Graduate Research Hub](#).

Honorary employees whose primary academic affiliation is with UoM are eligible to lead an application as a PI if they are a registered Principal Supervisor at UoM, and either:

- a) Their primary employer has entered into a written agreement for this call to fund the Melbourne cash component of the collaborative activity; *or*
- b) They participate at their own expense if they are otherwise unaffiliated (for example, they hold an emeritus position).

U of T PIs must be Faculty members in continuing appointments, eligible to hold research funds at U of T and have [Full School of Graduate Studies \(SGS\) Graduate Faculty Membership](#).

Adherence to respective equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) policies are a core 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, race, ethnicity, indigenous peoples, sexual orientation, disabilities, career stages and sectors.

Applications from PIs who do not satisfy these criteria will **not be eligible**. Previous recipients may not reapply to the scheme as a PI but may participate in a project as a co-investigator.

PROJECT STRUCTURE AND FUNDING

Each project must identify U of T or UoM as the Home/Lead Institution, defined as the institution where the majority of research is undertaken during the PhD.

Each candidate must:

- Commence at U of T in Fall (September) 2022 to complete mandatory coursework and comprehensive exam requirements; AND
- Spend at least 12 months at U of T of which 6 months must be dedicated only to research; AND
- Spend at least 12 months at UoM; AND
- Spend a maximum of 24 months at the Host/Collaborator institution.

Below are some examples of training program timelines:

UoM Home/Lead Institution

Up to 18 months Toronto (including coursework and exams which can vary by dept./program to obtain U of T candidacy)
 6-12 months Toronto (research only)
 24-30 months Melbourne (research only)

U of T Home/Lead Institution

Up to 18 months Toronto (including coursework and exams which can vary by dept./program to obtain U of T candidacy)
 12-24 months Melbourne (research only)
 12-24 months Toronto (research only)

Candidates should aim to submit their thesis by the end of 4 years, and no later than 4.5 years, regardless of which institution is Lead/Home.

Summary of funding for each project:

University of Melbourne	University of Toronto (See *FAQ for details of Department / Supervisor required contributions)
Tax-free scholarship (stipend) for each candidate when at Melbourne. See the Graduate Research Scholarship page for full details.	Scholarship/other forms of stipend funding for each candidate when at U of T from U of T supervisor and up to 15,000 CAD in top up from U of T’s Office of the Vice President International (OVPI)*
Tuition-fee waiver/scholarship for each candidate	Tuition-fee waiver/scholarship for each candidate, including for incidental fees while at U of T from U of T supervisor.
<i>Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)</i> Single Membership for any candidate who is an international candidate and requires a student visa to study in Australia, and <i>Travel insurance</i> while on Study Away.	While at U of T, and not covered under the UoM travel insurance, the U of T supervisor will provide funding for health insurance for any international candidates.
Relocation allowance for all candidates to travel to Melbourne after commencing in Toronto – up to \$3,000 AUD.	Relocation/travel allowance for candidates to commence or continue at U of T, or to conduct research in an overseas location, excluding Melbourne, up to \$10,000 CAD from U of T’s Office of the VP International (OVPI)
Support to each UoM PI for relevant activities: \$10,000 AUD lump sum. Relevant activities can include PI travel, workshop costs, graduate recruitment, and virtual collaboration expenses.	Support for each U of T PI for relevant activities: up to \$9,000 CAD (including up to \$4,000 CAD for PI travel to Melbourne) from U of T’s Office of the VP International (OVPI). Relevant activities can include PI travel, workshop costs, graduate recruitment, and virtual collaboration expenses.
Cluster applications will receive additional financial support of \$5,000 AUD lump sum for relevant activities. Relevant activities can include PI travel,	Cluster applications will receive additional financial support of \$5,000 CAD to support additional workshop activities.

<p>workshop costs, graduate recruitment, and virtual collaboration expenses.</p> <p><i>To be eligible for UoM's additional cluster application funding, the two (or more) PhD project proposals will need to have at least 2 different UoM PIs with one or more U of T PIs.</i></p>	<p><i>To be eligible for U of T's additional cluster application funding, the two (or more) PhD project proposals will need to have at least 2 different U of T PIs with one or more UoM PIs.</i></p>
---	---

* See FAQ for U of T Faculty: Contains information tailored to U of T PI applicants to help them navigate the financial and other considerations to develop a proposal.

PROJECT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

- Two types of proposals can be submitted as part of this call and must be submitted jointly by at least a pair of PIs, one from U of T and one from UoM.
 - Individual PhD project – submitted jointly by a pair of PIs, one from U of T and one from UoM. If successful, these PIs will recruit at least one PhD candidate who will be enrolled at both institutions and co-supervised by both supervisors on a joint project.
 - Cluster applications – **prioritised as part of this call** – including 3 or more PIs across both institutions, supervising at least 2 joint PhD candidates on related, but not interdependent, PhD projects. In other words, the PhD projects can be on a similar research topic or theme, but the candidates cannot rely on each other's results or thesis work to progress in their own candidature.
- PhD projects should be designed to be completed in 4 years, with possibility to extend to a maximum of 4.5 years for PhD submission.
- Proposals must use the provided application form for the submission of the joint application by UoM and U of T PIs. The application form will ask for PI details, an outline of the project, a timeline and budget, and an overview of current and potential future research collaborations.

For proposals involving a PI from UoM's Faculty of Arts: You must also provide a statement addressing how the candidate/s will meet the Faculty's PhD coursework requirements in your application. Please refer to the [Faculty's guidelines](#) for additional information. It is recommended to contact the Associate Dean (Graduate Research) for any further guidance.

Key dates:

- Submissions open: 16 June 2021
- Deadline for submissions: 16 August 2021
- Outcomes released and projects advertised for candidate recruitment: Mid-September 2021
- PhD candidates to commence: September 2022

REPORTING AND OTHER CONDITIONS

UoM recipients will be required to provide regular updates on project progress during the candidature of their joint PhD candidates. These updates will be requested quarterly by the International Research

Training Group (IRTG) Academic Lead. Recipients who fail to participate in regular reporting mechanisms for this IRTG may be found ineligible for participation in future Researcher Development Schemes.

The information shared with UoM will be utilised by Office of the VP International at U of T to assess progress and flow funding committed in the new U of T fiscals.

EVALUATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS

UoM and U of T will rank the proposals in order of meeting the selection criteria and agree on the top-ranking projects to award funding. Priority will be given to cluster applications (those include three or more PIs supervising at least 2 joint PhD candidates).

Selection Criteria

- **Collaborator complementarity** – What is the added value of a new collaboration or building on an existing research relationship? How does the collaboration combine mutual areas of interest and strength?
- **Quality of supervision** – Do the PIs have a track record of supervising PhD candidates to completion? Do the PIs have experience of co-supervising PhD candidates internationally? How will the PIs work together effectively in jointly supervising their shared PhD candidates? What are the beneficial learning outcomes and experiences for the joint PhD candidates?
- **Project design and rationale** – How clearly presented and justified is the basis for, and design of, the joint PhD project? What are the anticipated benefits of involving joint PhD researchers in the collaboration for the project, the PhD researchers, and PIs? What is the benefit of the candidate spending a minimum of 12 months at each institution?
- **Potential impact** – What is the level of originality and innovation in the research proposal? To what extent does the research proposal plan to address significant challenges and what is the anticipated benefit to local or international communities?
- **Capacity for expanded collaboration** – What is the extent of the planned collaboration between the PIs beyond joint supervision? How well does the proposal plan to leverage external funding? To what extent are future collaborations made possible as a result of the proposed activities?

SUBMISSION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Projects can only be submitted as either an *individual PhD project* or as part of a *cluster application*.

If the PhD project proposal is part of a cluster application, then it should be submitted as **one** combined application, together with all other *PhD Project Proposal Forms* and the *Cluster Application Cover Form*. If the PhD project proposal is an individual PhD project, it should be submitted jointly with the *PhD Project Proposal Form*.

All applications must attach endorsement from the respective Head of School/ Department and Associate Dean (Graduate Research) [UoM] and Department Chair [U of T].

For UoM applicants, the endorsement must endorse all involved PIs and acknowledge their support in line with the stipulated terms and conditions. A copy of email correspondence is sufficient.

For U of T applicants, a letter or email from the chair of the U of T department where the PhD candidate will be enrolled should confirm:

- The Primary Supervisor can hold research funds at U of T and the department will assist with setting up accounts to flow funds if the applicant is awarded funding
- The Primary Supervisor can supervise the PhD candidate with a Melbourne counterpart. If the U of T Primary Supervisor does not have full SGS membership, the chair's letter will need to reference how this is being addressed.
- If there is any coursework after candidacy, how the department will assist The Primary Supervisor to ensure the mobility of the PhD candidate is not impacted by this.
- The U of T department/Primary Supervisor will cover U of T tuition for the duration of the PhD for a candidate who chooses U of T as the home institution and non-academic incidental fees, Universal Health Insurance Program (UHIP) and stipend (divisionally mandated minimum graduate funding package less U of T tuition, fees and UHIP) when the candidate is located at U of T.
- The department will help the Melbourne co-supervisor obtain status-only appointment and SGS membership at the U of T department for the co-supervision of a PhD candidate and for the duration required to fulfill that co-supervision.

When reaching out to the U of T chair requesting their support, please copy in the departmental Associate Chair Graduate and relevant admission staff.

A single, jointly prepared application must be submitted using the appropriate application form(s), in English to tak.koguchi@utoronto.ca by 5 PM EDT on 16 August 2021.

UoM contact details:

Emma Randles

International Research Project Officer
Chancellery, Research and Enterprise
The University of Melbourne
randlese@unimelb.edu.au

Submission and U of T contact details:

Tak Koguchi

Research Officer, International
Office of the Vice-President, International
The University of Toronto
tak.koguchi@utoronto.ca