



University of Toronto – Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique
Joint Call for Twin Research Scholars
May 2022

University of Toronto (U of T) and Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) have a significant international partnership, which has been strengthened by 11 jointly funded collaborative research projects and 22 PhD research exchanges, within the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding for Scientific Collaboration, which was signed in 2016 and renewed in April 2022. To further develop and expand this scientific cooperation, both institutions are seeking proposals to establish two “**Twin Research Scholars**”. One of them will be oriented toward social sciences and humanities, and the other toward natural and experimental sciences. Cross-disciplinary projects that assemble multiple disciplines will also be appreciated.

The proposals will be assessed and recommended for selection by a committee composed of academic members with experience in community-based research from both institutions appointed by the Vice-Presidents, International or their designate.

1. Projects

- i. To be eligible, a proposal must be jointly led by one PI from U of T and one from CNRS.
- ii. Proposals must outline the creation or enhancement of a collaborative research program between U of T and CNRS and identify activities that will support this work over three years.
- iii. Proposals must identify specific plans for the following types of activities:
 - a. PI/faculty exchange and mobility, including reciprocal involvement in education-by-research activities e.g., graduate/post-graduate seminars, PhD supervision)
 - b. Engagement of early career researchers at both institutions
 - c. Graduate student mobility, including research placements and internships
 - d. Virtual and in-person meetings, seminars and workshops
 - e. Public engagement and outreach, including through seminars and conferences
 - f. New external grant applications for funding to support the sustainability of the program, including national and/or European granting agencies
- iv. Possible collaborations with industrial sector and other methods that facilitates applications of research are encouraged, but not required.
- v. Applications from all disciplines will be accepted.
- vi. The proposals must comply with the universities’ policies on health, safety and international travel. Due to the current and potentially ongoing restrictions on international travel, projects that include elements of virtual engagement are strongly encouraged.

2. Eligibility

- i. Eligibility to submit proposals: faculty members in continuing U of T appointments are eligible to submit proposals, and researchers and faculty members working in a research laboratory formally affiliated with CNRS (i.e. in an “unité mixte de recherche” (UMR).
- ii. Eligibility for exchange activities: faculty members in U of T continuing appointments, students and fellows under their supervision at U of T are eligible to participate in exchange activities, and researchers, faculty members, junior researchers and PhD students associated with an CNRS’s UMR.

3. Value and Duration

Up to two successful proposals will be selected and will receive up to the following funding:

- i. U of T will provide the U of T faculty member up to \$20,000/year for three years.
- ii. CNRS will provide the CNRS researcher up to 13,500€/year for three years.

The research project can be renewed for an additional 2-year period, provided a successful peer-reviewed 3-year progress report.

Salaries and stipends of any participants to the project will not be eligible for the funding.

4. Timeline

Call for proposals opens	May 4 st
Deadline for submission of proposal	June 30 th
Communication of results to applicants	October 31 st , 2022
Start date of awards	January 1 st , 2023

5. Submission of Proposals

This is a joint call and a single application should be submitted online by the French co-PI using the CNRS platform CoopIntEER: <https://www.cooperation.cnrs.fr/>

The full proposal must be comprised of the following elements:

- i. **Proposal Cover** that includes a brief outline and details of the proposed scholars and affiliations from each institution, including contact details ([PIs should use this template](#)).
- ii. A **Project Description**, maximum five (5) pages that includes the following items in alignment with the **Selection Criteria** listed below:
 - a. **Abstract**: A short description of the proposed research program.
 - b. **Planned activities & research coordination**: A description of all research activities, including the example activities listed above, rationale, and

- timeline. The activities must also be specified according to their format (virtual or in person).
- c. **Program impact:** A description of the expected academic gains for the research program as a result of the proposed collaboration and mobility, and the identification of corresponding performance indicators, for example joint publications, external grants, etc. A description of how the proposed program will build on existing strengths to help achieve a critical mass at both institutions.
 - d. **Impact of collaboration:** A description of the anticipated benefits of the collaboration to the research program and scientific field. A description of how the research program contributes to strengthening the partnership between CNRS and U of T in a mutually beneficial and sustainable way.
 - e. **Trainee & Early Career Researcher involvement:** A description of the enhanced experiential learning opportunities for graduate student(s) and early career researcher(s) engagement and the anticipated benefits to the project and the student(s) themselves as applicable.
 - f. **Capacity for future collaboration and project sustainability:** A description of the potential future collaborations and outcomes that will be possible as a result of having undertaken the current collaboration.
 - g. **Explanation of additional or replacement activity which will be undertaken if travel is not permitted:** Preference will be given to projects that mitigate against limits to international travel but still allow the collaboration to proceed.
- iii. **Proposed timeline and budget:** The amount for three years as outlined in Section 3, including a breakdown of the draft timeline and cost of the activity e.g. virtual workshop facilitation, flights, travel, hotel, research assistant stipends etc.
 - iv. **An abbreviated Curriculum Vitae** (maximum 2 pages) of the proposed scholars from U of T and CNRS.

6. Adjudication

- i. Applications are received by the U of T Office of the Vice-President, International and by Direction Générale Déléguée à la Science and DERCI at the CNRS, and forwarded to a respective internal review committee along with a template for ranking applications.
- ii. Selection Criteria: The internal review committee will assess each full proposal according to the academic merit and compelling elements covered by the following criteria:
 - a. **Program design and rationale:** how clearly presented and justified is the design and basis for the collaborative research program? How clearly presented and justified are the planned activities and research coordination?
 - b. **Project impact:** how clearly linked are the academic gains to the planned activities and performance indicators? How clearly articulated are the benefits to the scientific field and/or the broader benefits to society?

- c. **Impact of collaboration:** how strong is the link being between the proposed collaboration and research program? How clearly articulated is the mutual benefit to the partnership and the scientific field?
 - d. **Trainee involvement & early career researcher involvement:** are opportunities provided for graduate student(s) and early career researcher(s) to engage in the collaboration? Will the proposed program enhance the training environment for students and provide experiential learning opportunities? What are the anticipated benefits of graduate student(s) and early career researcher(s) engagement to the project and for the students themselves?
 - e. **Capacity for future collaboration:** how clearly articulated is the plan to build critical mass in the field at each institution? How clearly articulated is the plan to secure external funding to support the collaboration in the long-term?
- iii. Respective reviews are returned to the U of T Office of the Vice-President, International and Direction Générale déléguée à la Science at the CNRS, and results/scores tabulated to rank proposals.
 - iv. Joint Committee convenes to select up to two proposals.

7. Communication

Final results will be announced via email to all applicants.

8. Midterm and Final Reporting

A “mid-term summary” that demonstrates that substantive collaboration is ongoing, and that progress has been made against the goals stated in the original proposal, will be required. The summaries will be due 6-month before the end of the 3-years funding in order to be considered for renewal.

All awardees must, as a condition of receiving an award under this call, complete a final narrative report (of between 2-3 pages) that describes the outcomes, nature of collaboration, program impact, trainee involvement and opportunities for future collaboration that evolved from their project. The final report will be due by 6 months after final year of funding.

9. Information about this Call

All questions related to this Joint Call for Collaborative Projects must be directed to:

At U of T:

Office of the Vice-President, International
kevin.rowley@utoronto.ca

At CNRS:

CNRS Office in Canada
jan.matas@cnrs.fr