



University of Toronto – Hebrew University of Jerusalem Research & Training Alliance Call for Joint Proposals

March 15, 2024

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJI) and the University of Toronto (U of T) are issuing a call for proposals for a Research & Training Alliance. Principal investigators from each institution are invited to jointly submit proposals for the development of a collaborative research focus and the exchange of graduate and undergraduate students and researchers, as well as one post-doctoral fellow.

The Hebrew University and University of Toronto Research & Training Alliance funds proposals in Medicine, Engineering, Science, Social Sciences, Humanities, Law, and Social Work. One new joint research & training proposal will be funded annually for a period of four years.

This is the fifth cycle for this Research & Training Alliance, scheduled to run from 2024–2028. For this cycle, we are inviting proposals from **Life Sciences, Natural Sciences, Engineering and Bio-medical Sciences**; multidisciplinary engagement is encouraged in cases where it will strengthen the proposal.

The expectation is that these initial projects will lead to or continue long-term collaborations, institutional and research relations, and generate publications, applications for third party funding and/or joint supervision of graduate students.

Calls will be issued for projects in the Social Sciences, Humanities, Law and Social Work disciplines in subsequent years.

Funding

It is expected that three or more PIs from U of T will jointly apply with a group of three or more HUJI PIs to launch a project that includes the mobility and joint supervision of master's and doctoral students (research track Masters/Doctoral), or post-doctoral research fellows (PDF) in alignment with the International Doctoral Cluster (IDC) framework at UofT). The Alliance will also fund undergraduate participation of University of Toronto students on their home campus on the research team.

U of T and HUJI will each provide the approved joint project with up to **CDN \$75,000/year (for a total of \$150,000/year) for up to four years** to support U of T and HUJI researchers and trainees. The Alliance will jointly train at least six PhD and/or masters students at a time and one or more co-supervised (by one U of T and one HUJI PI) PDF over the course of the four-year funding period, for a total of at least seven trainees. Undergraduate engagement in the project is also encouraged.

The joint project budget envelope of \$150K/year should include \$50K CDN/year for a postdoctoral fellowship (PDF) or fellowships for doctoral students under joint supervision (such as those on [Joint Educational Placement](#)) with the remaining \$100K/year dedicated to costs related to funding travel for the exchange of researchers (undergraduate and graduate students, PDFs, research associates and/or PIs) between the institutions; costs associated with collaborative workshops/ symposia; and minor research costs associated with the project.

Application Deadline

May 9, 2024 5:00 pm Toronto time (12:00 midnight Jerusalem time). Applications may be submitted via email to both luketx.li@utoronto.ca and almal@savion.huji.ac.il.

Notification to Successful Applicants

End of July, 2024. Applications will be assessed by a joint committee of HUJI and U of T.

Eligibility

Projects must include research team participants from both U of T and HUJI. U of T applicants must have a faculty appointment with U of T and be eligible to hold research funding. HUJI applicants must have a faculty appointment (tenure track) with HUJI and be eligible to supervise research students.

Proposal

In proposing the alliance, a joint team of co-Principal Investigators will articulate an academic rationale and statement of commitment:

1. **Academic case.** The team will articulate an academic rationale for the collaboration, describing area(s) of complementary research strength. The team will identify which strengths reside at each institution, and the advantages of working together within a single research cluster. The team will discuss how these strengths result in an alliance that is more than the sum of its parts
2. **Synergy and critical mass.** The team will list and explain the expertise and synergy among co-PIs (at least 3 per institution). The team will discuss complementarity among the co-PIs, and indications that the co-PIs are indeed committed to transforming the IDC into an active, co-supervisory collaboration.
3. **Budget.** The co-PIs will build a budget to support the cluster. Eligible expenses include: personnel expenses such as a PDF salary or fellowships for doctoral students under joint supervision of up to \$50,000 CAD per year; funding travel for the exchange of researchers (undergraduate and graduate students, PDFs, research associates and/or PIs) between the institutions; costs associated with collaborative workshops/symposia; and minor research costs associated with the project. The overall annual budget should not exceed \$150,000 CAD, with a maximum of \$75,000 CAD/year in costs for each university. Please use the attached [budget table](#).
4. **Implementation plan.** The case will include a description of the implementation plan for the proposed cluster:
 - a. How will U of T and HUJI PIs raise awareness of, and participation, in the IDC amongst students?
 - b. How will U of T and HUJI PIs jointly recruit a PDF and/or doctoral students to the cluster?
 - c. How will PIs jointly utilize the alliance to recruit new/highly qualified doctoral students into the program, benefiting each of the collaborating institutions?
 - d. How will the co-PIs ensure ongoing collaboration?
5. **IDC model.** The PIs will summarize briefly the academic requirements that meet the existing PhD degree program requirements of the U of T and HUJI collaborators. This will establish the conditions for a Joint Educational Placement for qualified doctoral students, including the duration of the students' residency at each institution. PIs should also detail details regarding the proposed collaboration such as sharing of labs, beamtime, exchanges for doctoral, masters and undergraduate students, co-teaching of graduate courses or short courses, field work, etc.
6. **Path to sustainability.** The proposal will include key milestones at the 2, 3, and final year anniversaries for the submission of grant proposals to national and international funding agencies, corporations, and philanthropic sources, and will show a path to building a sustained funded partnership that leverages the initial funding.

Selection Criteria

- Proposed academic focus including scientific quality, design, and rationale
- Demonstrated collaboration and complementarity amongst all PIs
- PDF and PhD training opportunity
- Opportunities for student exchange
- Expected results, outcomes, and project impact
- Impact of international collaboration on research project



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Timelines

- Alliance Call for Proposals Opens: March 15, 2024
- Alliance Proposal Deadline: May 9, 2024
- Selection & Notification of Successful Applicants: End of July 2024
- Anticipated Alliance Launch: September 2024

Considering the current situation in Israel, some flexibility will be allowed regarding travel from Canada to Israel, depending on the latest restrictions on travel.

Reporting

Upon completion of the project, HUJI and U of T PIs are required to complete a questionnaire detailing the outcomes, with a specific focus on joint publications, applications for third-party funding and/or joint supervision of graduate students.

Contact

If you have questions, please contact the University of Toronto's Office of the Vice-President, International (international@utoronto.ca) or Hebrew University's International Office (almal@savion.huji.ac.il).

FAQs: HUJI - U OF T JOINT CALL FOR PROPOSALS

1. What length should the proposal be?

The proposal should not be more than 10 pages excluding a short CV for each PI.

2. Where do I submit my application?

Applications must be submitted via email to both luketx.li@utoronto.ca and almal@savion.huji.ac.il.

3. What should be in the proposal?

The proposal should contain the following:

- **Proposed project title**
- **Information on applicants:** Names of the participating PIs, department/institute/faculty affiliation, SGS membership status (U of T PIs). Preference will be given to proposals that include a minimum of 6 PIs, with 3 from each institution. The lead PIs from each institution should be clearly identified. All 6+ participating PIs should include a short CV (2-3 pages each)
- **Academic case, synergy and overall project scope:** The team will articulate an academic rationale and scope of research for the collaboration, and describe anticipated research outcomes, planned deliverables and timelines, as well as area(s) of complementary research strength. Further, the team will identify which strengths reside at each institution, and the advantages of working together within a single research cluster. The team will discuss how these strengths result in an alliance that is more than the sum of its parts. Any existing ties between the PIs at U of T and HUJI on which the collaboration will be built should be enumerated.
- **Implementation plan** including addressing the following considerations:
 - How will U of T and HUJI PIs raise awareness of, and participation in, the alliance amongst students?
 - How will U of T and HUJI PIs jointly recruit a PDF and/or doctoral students to the alliance?
 - How will PIs jointly utilize the alliance to recruit new doctoral students into the program, benefiting each of the collaborating institutions?
 - How will the co-PIs ensure ongoing collaboration?
 - How will the PIs train undergraduate, graduate & PDF students? Please see response to question #4.
 - PIs should share a mobility plan for graduate students and/or PIs for this alliance.
- **Milestones & Path to Sustainability:** The proposal will include key milestones at the 2, 3, and final year anniversaries including demonstrating a path to building a sustained funded partnerships (research grants, corporate funding and or philanthropic sources) that leverage the initial funding

4. What are the eligible expenses?

Each approved project is eligible to receive up to 150,000 CAD/year in total from both institutions. 50,000 CAD/year could be used from this award for a postdoctoral fellowship (PDF) or fellowships for doctoral students under joint supervision.

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The remaining 100,000 CAD/year awarded by both universities should be dedicated to costs related to funding travel for the exchange of researchers (undergraduate and graduate students, PDFs, research associates and/or PIs) between the institutions; costs associated with collaborative workshops/symposia; and minor research costs associated with the projects.

Applicants may invest additional funding from other sources to cover any eligible expenses that exceed the 150,000 CAD/year in joint funding or other expenses that are not deemed eligible under this program for the collaborative project.

5. This is not enough money to fund 6 graduate students and a pdf. How can we have such a large-scope partnership on this budget?

The annual budget of \$150,000 CAD is meant to supplement graduate student and academic research base funding in order to enable face-to-face collaboration through travel expenses in addition to providing the base salary for one shared PDF.

Base funding for graduate student salaries and other research-related expenses can be provided by the participating PIs through external or internal grants.

6. Are there other internal funds that I can use to supplement and strengthen my application?

Collaborative teams are encouraged to connect with their home departments/faculties to see if there are any internal matching opportunities. If a department/faculty commits to co-funding the alliance proposal, please include that letter of support with your application, quantifying each division's committed contributions.

7. I'm used to having 1:1 collaborations with colleagues at other universities. How can I manage a 3:3 collaboration (or greater)?

The alliance between U of T and HUJI aims to tackle problems that exceed the expertise of a single collaborative pair of PIs. When putting forward a proposal, consider a problem space within your domain that can be subdivided into several smaller collaborative efforts, but which, when taken together, represent the potential for transformative impact in the field.

8. Is prior demonstrated collaboration (through co-publications or co-application to external funding) with my collaborative counterpart necessary?

Having some established working relationship with your collaborative counterparts is considered desirable, but is not necessary. It would be highly unlikely that all 6 PIs have a demonstrated track record of collaboration.

9. There are 6 PIs and only 1 PDF. How is that PDF's time allocated?

The PDF will be co-supervised by the lead PIs at each institution. The PDF's research and project management duties will be determined by those two supervisors in consultation with the PDF including how much time is spent on each of the constituent sub-projects.

FAQs: HUJI - U OF T JOINT CALL FOR PROPOSALS

10. I have a question that was not addressed in this FAQ. Who can I ask for guidance?

U of T inquiries can be sent to luketx.li@utoronto.ca and HUJI inquiries can be sent to almal@savion.huji.ac.il.