



National University of Singapore - University of Toronto First Call for Joint Research Proposals

Introduction

National University of Singapore (NUS) and the University of Toronto (U of T) are committed 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 following research areas:

- 1) AI for Healthcare;
- 2) AI for Science
- 3) Semiconductor/Nanofabrication;
- 4) Healthcare Technology

Proposals with the potential for sustainability beyond the initial funding period will be given preference.

Funding and Duration

In this round, up to five successful proposals will receive up to the following funding for a maximum duration of 18 months:

1. NUS will provide each approved project up to SGD \$30,000 to support NUS applicants.
2. U of T will provide each approved project up to CAD \$30,000 to support U of T applicants.

Eligibility

1. To be eligible, a proposal must include a PI from NUS and U of T, and at least one other researcher on each team.
2. NUS: All NUS Principal Investigators must be full-time NUS academic staff. NUS applicants should have a contract end date which exceeds the project end date. PIs, co-PIs and collaborators should also not be salaried by this research projects if awarded.
3. U of T: Faculty members in continuing U of T appointments who are able to hold research funds at U of T are eligible to apply. We encourage early career researchers¹ (ECRs) to apply. Status-only faculty are not eligible to apply.

Submission of Proposals

The full proposal is comprised of the following elements:

1. **Proposal cover** that includes the faculty member and affiliations from each Institution with contact details.
2. **A project description** that includes the following items (in alignment with the selection criteria listed below):
 - a. **Abstract** that describes the project.
 - b. **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.
 - c. **Methodology**: a short description on how the project will be carried out should be given in order to help the reviewer assess its feasibility. The repartition of work and interplay between the 2 teams should be explained.

¹ University of Toronto: an individual who is within five years of their first faculty appointment. This duration excludes any period of career break.

- d. **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 publications, blog, meeting report etc.
 - e. **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 NUS.
 - f. **Graduate student involvement:** Any opportunities for graduate student(s) engagement and anticipated benefits to the project and the student(s) themselves as applicable.
 - g. **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
 - h. **Proposed budget:** A breakdown of the cost of the activity e.g. flights, travel, hotels etc.
3. **Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae** (not more than 2 pages) of the PIs (and co-PIs if any, although not required) with a selected list of publications.

Evaluation Criteria

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

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 (10 points):** How clearly presented and justified is the basis for, and design of, the project? How do the proposed activities assist in establishing new and emerging research collaborations? What are the anticipated benefits of involving ECRs and/or graduate researchers?
- **Potential impact (10 points):** What desired outcomes do the planned activities set out to achieve? What are the anticipated benefits of the activities to local or international communities? How does your proposal demonstrate strong relevance to strategic priorities of the participating institutions?
- **Trainee involvement (10 points):** What are the opportunities provided for students to engage in the collaboration? What are the anticipated benefits of student engagement to the project and for the students themselves?
- **Capacity for future collaboration/funding (20 points):** What is the potential for this project to foster ongoing collaboration, and through what mechanism(s)? How well does the proposed collaboration plan to access external funding?

Expected Outcomes

1. Researchers from one institution should visit the other at least once during the project execution period and participate in the online project report meeting organized by both institutions;
2. At least two of the following outcomes need to be achieved at the meantime:
 - a. At least a refereed publication in a national/internationally recognized journal shall be jointly published based on the content of the cooperative project (the PI or project core member shall be the first, second, or corresponding author of the article); or books/book chapters; or
 - b. Researchers/students from one institution shall carry out research in the other institution for more than three months in total; or
 - c. Researchers from one institution shall give at least three specialized lectures in the other institution; or
 - d. Jointly hold a physical/online workshop at either institution; or
 - e. Jointly apply for national/international competitive grant or other sources of external funding; or
 - f. Other outcomes of equal value.

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 (about 2 pages).

Timeline

Applications open	July 4, 2024
Applications close	August 1, 2024 (11.59PM SGT in Singapore/11.59AM EDT in Toronto)
Communication of results to applicants	September 2, 2024
Project Start Date	September 16, 2024
Project End Date (up to 18 months)	March 15, 2026
Final Report Submission	July 1, 2026
Online Joint Workshop	Between Project End Date and Final Report Due Date

Eligible Grant Activities

1. Proposals may include workshops (face-to-face and virtual), symposia, staff exchanges, research seminars/presentations and formation or development of a collaborative network.
2. Eligible costs include travel and subsistence, consumables and the cost of research assistants, research associate and technicians which are directly related to the project. Existing staff time including the Co-PIs time cannot be costed to the project. Each Institution's contributions will be used exclusively to fund its own researcher and their research expenses and will not be co-mingled. The award of any funds from either Institution will be subject, in each case, to the internal processes and procedures of such Institution.
3. All travel activities must comply with the guidelines of the respective universities. All NUS travel must comply with the [Travel Guide on staff portal](#).

U of T Eligible Costs	U of T Ineligible Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel costs for PIs and co-PIs, including flights (economy class), hotels and subsistence • Travel costs for PhD students, including flights, hotels and subsistence (up to 30% of total requested budget) • Research costs, including consumables and research assistants (up to 30% of total requested budget). • Costs associated with organizing workshops and meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement research/teaching costs • Directly incurred staff e.g. teaching assistants • Directly allocated costs including applicants' time • Indirect costs/estates costs • Equipment • Scholarships • Conference attendance • Tuition fees • PhD stipends • Honoraria • Entertainment costs

Submission Protocol

This is a joint call and a joint application should be submitted by the U of T and NUS PIs. Please submit at this [link](#) (U of T PI to upload the submission on behalf of the team).

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