

## Horizon Europe Partnership Development Seed Grants

### Introduction

The Office of the Vice-President, International (OVPI), in collaboration with the Division of the Vice-President, Research & Innovation (VPRI), is launching a seed grant competition to assist U of T Principal Investigators (PI) establish or enhance international partnerships that can lead to the development of successful Horizon Europe (Pillar II) applications.

Funding supports U of T PIs from all disciplines to collaborate in developing Horizon Europe proposals with researchers from [European member states](#) and [Horizon Europe associate countries](#). Collaborating researchers can be employed by universities, industry, and/or non-profit and charity sector.

This grant can be used as matching funds for the Government of Canada's SSHRC [Destination Horizon Grants](#) of up to \$15,000.

### About Horizon Europe Pillar II

[Horizon Europe](#) is the European Union's (EU) main research and innovation program and the world's largest, with a total budget of €95.5 billion (2021-2027). Canada joined Horizon Europe in July 2024 as an associate country under Pillar II: Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness.

Pillar II grant sizes typically range from €4-15 million.

[Pillar II](#) is organised into 6 clusters (i.e., themes); within each cluster are a number of calls for proposals with corresponding topics, which have unique criteria and deadlines. All applications must involve projects developed by a consortium (partnership of organizations across different nations, including a [European member](#) state and Horizon Europe [associated country](#)). For more information on Horizon Europe, see resources linked at the end of this document.

### Value and Duration

The maximum seed grant amount that can be applied for is \$10,000 CAD, which must be spent within two (2) years of the award date. The amount could also be used towards the institutional match for a SSHRC [Destination Horizon grant](#) of up to \$15,000.

Funds from this grant must be used to support U of T PIs to build or strengthen international partnerships that are intended to build towards a Horizon Europe proposal/collaboration. U of T PIs' international partners are expected to fund their own partnership-development costs.

### Eligibility of Applicants and Costs

U of T faculty members who meet [the University's definition of a Principal Investigator \(PI\)](#) are eligible to apply. PIs must hold an appointment for the full duration of the grant's funding period plus one year. Successful status-only PIs must hold grant funds at an account within the University. U of T PIs who are collaborating on a proposal should submit one joint application.

Proposals from all disciplines will be accepted.

The following activities are eligible for funding:

- Travel costs including flights and hotels for the U of T PI(s) and/or the PI's U of T team to meet with proposed Horizon Europe international collaborators.
- Costs associated with organizing workshops or meetings to develop the Horizon Europe partnership and/or a Horizon Europe proposal. This includes venue and catering costs, and can be a contribution to a partner who is hosting.
- The OVPI Seed Grant can be used to match funds of up to \$15,000 for the Government of Canada's SSHRC [Destination Horizon Grants](#).

**Note:** Existing staff time cannot be costed to the project. The fund does not support equipment, scholarships, conference attendance, PhD stipends, or tuition fees.

### **Application Procedure & Deadlines**

Proposals must comprise:

- A. An online application submitted through [OVPI's Application Portal](#) with project team details.
- B. Submission of a completed application as a single PDF document, including the following information:
  - Names, institutions, and expertise of the U of T PI(s) and their proposed international collaborators.
  - Description of the planned partnership activities – including the anticipated Horizon Europe Pillar II [Cluster](#). If the applicant intends to apply for the 2025-2026 Work Programme, indicate [cluster and theme](#)).
  - Budget and budget justification
  - Timeline of the activities
  - Confirmation of interest from the proposed international collaborator(s). (e.g. email)
  - Abbreviated CVs of the researchers (U of T and the Partner)

The application must not exceed 5 pages (not including the CVs) and must be uploaded to the OVPI's Application Portal.

There are four application deadlines:

- Deadline 1: Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 11:59 PM (EST)
- Deadline 2: Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 11:59 PM (EST)
- Deadline 3: Thursday, August 28, 2025, at 11:59 PM (EST)
- Deadline 4: Thursday, November 27, 2025, at 11:59 PM (EST)

The applicants shall be informed about the decision of the assessment committee within six (6) weeks of submission.

### **Key Assessment Criteria**

1. Complementarity of Research Partners or Team: The collaboration should leverage the strengths and expertise of each partner, forming a well-rounded and highly competitive research team able to submit a strong Horizon Europe application.
2. Potential of proposed team to lead a strong Horizon Europe Pillar 2 application.

## Reporting

As a condition of receiving an award under this call, all awardees are required to submit a one-page narrative report at the end of the grant period, detailing the funded activities, including a breakdown of costs and the outcomes of the collaboration.

## Information About This Call

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## Useful Resources

2025-2026 Work Program Summaries - [UofT Horizon Europe: Pillar II | Research & Innovation](#)

U of T Centre for Research & Innovation:

- [Let's talk International Partnerships session on Horizon Europe](#) (requires UTORID)
- [Horizon Europe - University of Toronto Information Session](#)

Existing U of T International Partnerships:

- OVPI collaborates with various partners across Europe and other countries that are associate members of Horizon Europe. We encourage applicants to visit our website regularly to explore other [seed funding opportunities](#). If you need assistance in developing a partnership, please feel free to reach out to our office for support.

Additional funding:

- [Destination Horizon Grants](#) - Government of Canada, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)