

KU Leuven Global Seed Fund available to U of T PI's

The University of Toronto has joined the network of universities in the [KU Leuven Global Seed Fund](#) program. The fund is designed to initiate or deepen international research collaborations between KU Leuven (located in Belgium) and a select group of priority global university partners. It supports pilot projects that lay the foundation for future joint applications to major international funding programs, such as Horizon Europe.

KU Leuven is Europe's top recipient of [Horizon Europe Pillar II funding](#)—the EU's €95.5 billion main research and innovation program (2021–2027). It also ranks among the world's top universities, placing 43rd in the 2025 Times Higher Education rankings.

The seed fund supports activities such as research workshops, travel, and the hiring of scientific collaborators, either within a consortium or through bilateral collaboration between U of T and KU Leuven.

Value and Duration

- Funding of up to €30,000 is available from KU Leuven for 1 year; some additional matching funds from U of T may be available.

Duration

- Projects are funded for 1 year, with the possibility of extension to 2 years.

Eligibility

- Open to all scientific disciplines.
- Applications must involve at least one KU Leuven researcher and at least one researcher from U of T. Applications from consortia are possible.
- List of other eligible partners universities, and additional information about this call, is available at KU Leuven's website [HERE](#).

Application Deadline

- October 9, 2025

Matching Support for U of T PIs

Teams selected by KU Leuven that include U of T researchers may be eligible to receive some matching support from the Office of the Vice-President, International. The specific nature and amount of this contribution will be determined following KU Leuven's final selection of successful proposals.

Eligibility for matching funds: U of T faculty members who meet the [University's definition of a Principal Investigator \(PI\)](#) may be eligible for matching funds. 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.

Reporting: As a condition of receiving matching funds 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.

Application Procedure

Applications must be submitted through KU Leuven's online portal by the KU Leuven PI. More information on the application requirements can be found [HERE](#).

Information about this call

Elina Tulla, Regional Lead
Europe Office of the Vice-President, International
elina.tulla@utoronto.ca