

**National Tsing Hua University - University of Toronto
Joint Call for Research Proposals
Deadline: February 3, 2026 (10:59 a.m. EST / 23:59 TWT)**

National Tsing Hua University (NTHU) and the University of Toronto (U of T) are jointly contributing matching funds to support collaborative research initiatives through Joint Call for Research Proposals. The purpose of this fund is to provide initial support for the development of research links and to catalyze further collaboration.

1. Projects

- i. To be eligible, a proposal must include at least one PI from NTHU and one PI from U of T.
- ii. Up to five (5) successful joint proposals will be chosen and each will receive up to CAD\$15,000 (up to NTD\$300,000) of funding from NTHU and up to CAD\$15,000 of funding from U of T.
- iii. The fund mainly supports travels and costs associated with the organization of seminars, workshops, events as well as mobility, in order to help faculty in both institutions to deepen their understanding of complementary interests and strengths.
- iv. Proposals will be assessed and recommended for selection by a joint review committee composed of members from NTHU and U of T.
- v. The fund is open to proposals in, but not limited to, the following areas: 1) Materials Science, 2) Urban Innovation, 3) Sustainability, and 4) Cultural Heritage, Community, and Social Justice.
- vi. Projects will be funded beginning April 1, 2026, and ending on November 30, 2026 for NTHU and on March 31, 2027 for U of T.
- vii. Proposals with the potential for sustainability beyond the initial funding period are encouraged.

2. Costs

The funding will cover costs for workshops (face-to-face and virtual), symposia, staff exchanges, research seminars/presentations and formation or development of a collaborative network.

- i. NTHU: Eligible costs mainly include international travel expenses, relevant international collaboration expenses, research running costs, and stipend for foreign, non-NTHU scholars. The fund does not support equipment, scholarships, conference attendance, student stipends, or tuition fees. This subsidy must be processed in accordance with the government regulations. Please find the regulations below:

Eligible Costs	Ineligible Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel Costs: NTHU faculty and students research abroad • Costs associated with organizing workshops, seminars and joint meetings in Taiwan • Remuneration and living expenses for foreign scholars' work days in Taiwan • Research related costs, including consumables 	<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 for research • Personnel expenditure, including full-time or part-time assistants • Scholarships, student stipends, tuition fees • Conference attendance • Honoraria

- ii. U of T: Eligible costs include travel and subsistence, research running costs, and costs associated with workshops/meetings. Existing staff time including the Co-PIs time cannot be costed to the project.

The fund does not support equipment, scholarships, conference attendance, PhD stipends, or tuition fees.

Eligible Costs	Ineligible Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel costs including flights, hotels and subsistence • Costs associated with organizing workshops, seminars and joint meetings (excluding research assistants/administrative staff) • Research costs, including consumables (up to 15% of total budget) 	<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, graduate stipends, tuition fees • Conference attendance • Honoraria

3. Eligibility

- i. **NTHU:** The lead applicant must be tenure-track faculty
- ii. **U of T:** 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 maintain their funding at an account within the University.

4. Value of Funding

- i. Up to five (5) joint projects will be selected.
- ii. NTHU will provide per selected project up to CAD\$15,000 (up to NTDS\$300,000) to support NTHU applicants.
- iii. U of T will provide per selected project up to CAD\$15,000 to support U of T applicants.
- iv. The actual amount of funding and number of projects funded in each call will be reviewed and determined annually by mutual agreement between NTHU and U of T.

5. Timeline

Call for proposals opens	December 8, 2025
Deadline for submission	February 3, 2026 (10:59 a.m. EST / 23:59 TST)
Communication of results to applicants	End of March, 2026
Start of funding date	April 1, 2026
End of funding date	November 30, 2026 (NTHU) / March 31, 2027 (U of T)

6. Submission of Proposals

A single application in English should be submitted to the [OVPI Application Portal](#) by the deadline: **February 3, 2026 (10:59 a.m. EST / 23:59 TST)**. The [application form](#) will request you enter or upload the following required elements. Once complete, the full application must be uploaded as a single PDF document under section 7A.

1) Research Proposal (max 3 pages)

- a. **Title of research project**
- b. **Investigators** – include abbreviated CVs for each Co-PI (with a selected list of publications)
- c. **Abstract** – a brief description of the project (200 words)
- d. **Project timeline and planned activities** (200 words)

- e. **Complementarity** (250 words) – describe how the proposed activities combine mutual areas of interest and strength, and the added value of this combined expertise.
 - f. **Research proposal** (up to 1000 words)
 - i. Specific aims of the project (up to 200 words)
 - ii. Innovation/novelty of the project (up to 200 words)
 - iii. Research plan (up to 600 words)
 - g. **Rationale and potential impact** (3x 250 words)
 - i. **Scholarly impact** – describe expected academic gains resulting from the cooperation, and identification of corresponding performance indicators (e.g. a publication, blog, meeting report etc.).
 - ii. **Broad impact** – alignment with the participating institutions’ strategic priorities and anticipated benefits of the project to local or international communities.
 - iii. **Early career and graduate researcher involvement** - opportunities for their engagement and anticipated benefits to the project and to the early career and graduate researchers themselves, as applicable.
 - h. **Capacity for future collaboration** (250 words) - a description of future potential collaborations that will be possible as a result of receiving the funding.
- 2) **Budget** – provide a breakdown of activity costs (e.g. flights, travel, hotels etc.)
- 3) **Project Team** – list project participants (CVs not needed.)

7. Reviewing Process

A joint review committee consisting of members from NTHU and U of T 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 with establishing new and emerging research collaborations? How does the project demonstrate a level of innovation and interdisciplinarity?
- **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? What are the anticipated benefits of your proposal's contribution to a global vision?
- **Early career researchers (ECRs) and student engagement (10 points):** What are the anticipated benefits of involving ECRs and/or graduate researchers? 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?

Note: U of T aims to increase tri-agency ‘market share’ and the associated allocation benefits that accrue. When evaluating closely ranked proposals, preference will be given to U of T PIs who currently hold tri-agency funding or have an active application in progress for a tri-agency funding opportunity.

8. Award Expectations

- i. 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).
- ii. All awardees must comply with all relevant laws and university regulations, including those relating to intellectual property, codes of conduct, etc.

9. Contacts

National Tsing Hua University

Flora Chen, Administrative Assistant
Office of Global Affairs

hsjchen@mx.nthu.edu.tw

University of Toronto

Luke Li, Regional Lead, East Asia, Middle
East, and North Africa

Office of the Vice-President, International
luketx.li@utoronto.ca