



**Doctoral Mobility Award Program  
between  
The University of Toronto (U of T)  
and  
Université Paris Cité (UPCité)**

### **The Mobility Opportunity**

Université Paris Cité and the University of Toronto are launching a joint call for proposals between the two institutions in order to further develop their research collaboration and doctoral program strengths. This call invites proposals from all disciplines.

**The joint call is intended to fund 12 consecutive months of mobility and living expenses for doctoral candidates in Paris (for U of T students) or Toronto (for UPCité students). The call is open to teams that must involve 1 faculty researcher from each of the 2 institutions, as well as 1 PhD student, who may currently be registered at either U of T or UPCité. Two teams will receive the award, one including a student currently registered at U of T, and one including a student currently registered at UPCité.**

### **Eligibility**

Principal Investigators currently acting as supervisors for a PhD student who will join the applicant team, and who meet the following criteria:

- **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 hold grant funds at an account within the University.
- **UPCité:** Faculty members from doctoral schools or laboratories able to supervise PhD students.
- A PI cannot submit more than one application to this call.
- PIs must be supervising a PhD student who agrees to join the applicant team.

Students:

- **U of T:** a PhD student who will be registered in the first, second or third year of their PhD program in 2026-27.
- **UPCité:** a PhD student who will be registered in the first, second or third year of their PhD program in 2026-27.

## Doctoral mobility and research collaboration

Each applicant team must include one PI from U of T and one PI from UPCité, along with one nominated doctoral student, who is currently registered at either the U of T or UPCité. Each applicant team must include only one student. An application will create a research team of 3 researchers: 2 PI's, and 1 doctoral student. The doctoral student's mobility costs will be covered by the 12-month mobility award.

One team that includes a PhD student currently registered at U of T, and one team that includes a PhD student currently registered at UPCité, will be selected for the mobility funding.

The selected doctoral candidate from each winning team/institution will travel to and stay in the city of the other institution (Paris or Toronto) for a period of 12 consecutive months.

Supervision: During the mobility period, the PhD student will continue to be supervised by their home-institution supervisor, and will also receive supervision from the PI from the other institution. Following the mobility period, the **joint supervision will terminate** and the student will continue to be solely supervised by their home-institution supervisor.

PIs who do not already have a collaborator at the partner institution may consult the UPCité website or the relevant U of T faculty/departmental websites to find information on aligned faculty interests/expertise at the other institution.

## Award Amount

In accordance with respective institutional policies, PhD students are expected to be financially supported by their home institution at the equivalent level of a PhD fellowship/funding package as provided under those policies, including when the student is visiting the host institution during the mobility period.

The award will cover mobility costs for the PhD students participating in the program to spend 12 consecutive months at the partner institution:

- UPCité will provide up to 13 200€ to the UPCité PhD student that will cover one return airfare ticket, as well as contribute to 12 months of accommodation costs in Toronto.
- U of T will provide up to CAD \$15,000 to the U of T student that will cover one return airfare ticket, as well as contribute to 12 months of accommodation costs in Paris.

For clarity, award funding will only be available during a 12-month period, and will only be awarded one time to each team. The mobility must begin within 12 months of notification of the award.

The mobility award must be used to cover the travel and accommodation costs of the PhD student –i.e. a U of T student going to Paris, and a UPCité student coming to Toronto. Expenses such as tuition fees, salaries, equipment, conference attendance, and honoraria are not eligible under this project.

## Program duration

12 consecutive months of mobility

### Number of awards

Two awards will be made. One award will support a team including a PhD student currently registered at U of T, and one will support a team including a PhD student currently registered at UPCité.

### Call date

March 13, 2026

### Submission deadline

June 1, 2026 (16:59 CEST / 10:59 EST)

### Notification date

End of June, 2026

### Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated and ranked by a joint U of T - UPCité committee according to the following criteria:

- Research quality and originality of the project
- Research merit of the teams
- Proposed training environment for the PhD students involved
- Synergy, including interdisciplinary collaboration, between the teams
- Capacity for future collaboration & plans for raising external competitive funding (Horizon Europe, national research agency grants, etc.)

Successful recipients will be formally notified via email of the award and informed of funding conditions.

### Reporting

Three months following conclusion of the mobility year, awardees must submit a brief, plain language report (1-page) to UPCité and U of T. This report should detail the outcomes of the collaboration to date and the ways in which the grant has enhanced or will enhance their research activities and/or leverage larger opportunities – including funding.

As part of this report, PIs will be required to provide information on how the funds awarded for PhD mobility were spent, the total expenditures, and the budget for activities.

### Mode of application

Only one proposal is required and should be submitted by email to [internationalisation.iro@u-paris.fr](mailto:internationalisation.iro@u-paris.fr) and [international@utoronto.ca](mailto:international@utoronto.ca) by one of the PIs in electronic format in pdf and **in English**. A PI cannot submit more than one application in the framework of this call.

The proposal must consist of the following sections, in one single file of up to 5 pages (not including the Title Page, references and the CVs).

**PART A: Title Page**

Title of the proposal, names of the principal investigators and their laboratories, their addresses, telephone, and e-mail. The names of the PhD student must be provided. Please specify on the Title Page of the application "This application is submitted for consideration for the U of T - UPCité Doctoral Mobility Program".

**PART B: Description of the research project**

The current state of the research landscape and how the project contributes to it, description of the project and domains of interest, historical context of application (if applicable), quality and originality of the project, objectives, methodology, expected results and their relevance, future perspectives. Explain how the PhD fellow will be supervised and mentored, and how the collaboration will enable and enhance the project.

**PART C: Benefits of the international cooperation**

Describe the added value of the international cooperation in fulfilling the aims of the project. Describe the expected benefits for the UPCité and U of T teams. Describe the balance between the contributions of the UPCité and U of T teams. If any additional industrial, governmental or community collaboration are involved in the project, please describe their role.

**PART D: Planned activities**

Describe the planned activities in the framework of the project and provide a timetable. Explain how these activities will help achieve the aims of the project.

**PART E: Ethics**

Does the project raise ethical questions? If yes, please describe them and how they will be addressed.

**PART F: Budget**

Proposed budget including a breakdown of the division of funds, separated into distinct budgets for U of T and UPCité. The budget section regarding travel should contain explicit line items for travel of the PhD student.

**PART G: Perspectives & external funding**

Outline any proposed plans for raising external competitive funding (e.g. EU collaborative grants, Canada federal/provincial grants, etc.)

**PART H: Research strength of the teams**

Please attach in an Appendix a list of up to ten detailed (complete) citations for publications related to the project for each team. This list does not count against the page limit. Authors from the respective teams must be clearly indicated in the author lists, with superscript or parenthesized letters corresponding to the respective countries, for example Dupont JP (FR), McFarlane H (CAN).

**PART I: Short (maximum five-page) curriculum vitae of all PIs**

**PART J:** For UPCité only: A letter of support from the director of the laboratory or the doctoral school.

**Enquiries**

U of T applicants: Elina Tulla, Office of the Vice-President, International [elina.tulla@utoronto.ca](mailto:elina.tulla@utoronto.ca)

UPCité applicants: Ana Elisa Calesco Bini, International Strategic Partnerships Manager  
[internationalisation.iro@u-paris.fr](mailto:internationalisation.iro@u-paris.fr)

## APPENDIX

### Supports for PhD students during mobility

To facilitate a successful mobility experience, the host institutions will provide the following supports to the visiting PhD students:

**Visa support:** Assistance with immigration information for the period of mobility, including providing necessary documentation.

**Housing support:** Information on finding accommodation in the host country. For students coming to Paris, this includes orientation toward CROUS services. Note that accommodation cannot be guaranteed.

**Institutional resources:** During the mobility period, visiting PhD researchers at Université Paris Cité may access libraries (following authorization from the host laboratory). The PhD student visiting U of T, upon payment of mandatory incidental fees, will have access to U of T libraries, health and counselling services, sport and recreation services, and student life programs and services.

### Intellectual Property Rights

U of T and UPCité will undertake to protect Intellectual Property rights and share them equitably. The terms governing the co-ownership and protection of Intellectual property rights will be subject to specific agreements between the U of T and UPCité PIs.