

Université Paris Cité – University of Toronto Call for Joint Research Proposals 2026

Université Paris Cité (UPCité) and the University of Toronto (U of T) are contributing matching funds 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.

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

Projects

- To be eligible, each institution must have at least two participants, one of whom must serve as the Principal Investigator (PI). A PI must be designated by both UPCité and the University of Toronto. We also encourage early career researchers (ECRs)¹ to apply.
- Up to five (5) joint projects will be selected with budgets of up to 10,000 € from UPCité and CAD\$15,000 from the U of T. The total funding envelope comprises 50,000 € from UPCité and CAD\$75,000 from the U of T.
- This call is open to applications from the humanities and social sciences, engineering and applied sciences, and all natural science fields. In the health sciences, eligibility is limited to proposals in the areas of pediatrics and pharmacy/pharmacology, based on the priority interest areas of the two institutions.
- Projects will be funded for a period of up to 18 months from September 2026 to February 2028.
- Proposals with the potential for sustainability beyond the initial funding period are encouraged.
- Priority will be given to the projects aimed at preparing a [Horizon Europe application](#).

Costs and proposal

Eligible Costs	Ineligible Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs associated with organizing workshops, meetings (face-to-face and virtual), symposia, research seminars/presentations, and formation or development of a collaborative network that are directly related to the project's development • Travel costs including flights, hotels and subsistence • Research costs, including consumables and research assistants, research associates, and technicians directly related to the project • Staff directly incurred for the project (e.g., research assistants, research associates, technicians) — but not existing staff time such as Co-PIs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement research/teaching costs • Directly incurred staff e.g. teaching assistants • Indirect costs • Equipment • Scholarships • Conference attendance • Tuition fees • PhD stipends • Honoraria

¹ UPCité: Up to 5 years after obtaining a doctorate or after a first faculty appointment without excluding research engineer.

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

Eligibility

1. **UPCité:** Academic staff members from all disciplines and at all levels are eligible to apply (excluding emeritus and honorary staff). The lead applicant must be a permanent member of staff. Furthermore, the members of the Joint Research Units of UPCité are eligible to apply to this call.
2. **U of T:** U of T faculty members who meet the [University's definition of a 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 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.

Value and Duration

Up to five (5) successful proposals will receive up to the following funding:

1. UPCité will provide each approved project up to 10,000€ to support their applicants.
2. U of T will provide each approved project up to CAD\$ 15,000 to support U of T applicants.

Timeline

Call for proposals opens	25 March 2026
Deadline for submission	13 May 2026 (16:59 CEST / 10:59 EST)
Communication of results to applicants	July 2026
Project start date	September 2026
Project end date	February 2028
Final report	June 2028

Submission of Proposals

This is a joint call, and a single online application per project should be submitted on behalf of the team at UPCité and U of T through [Move on application portal](#) by 13 May 2026. All applicants will receive confirmation for your submission after the end of the deadline for submission.

The full proposal must comprise the following elements and should not be longer than five (5) pages (not including the CVs and Letter of Support):

1. A project description that includes the following items (in alignment with the selection criteria listed below):
 - a. The title of the project.
 - b. Project summary that describes the project (200 words max).
 - c. Research plan with the elements below:
 - i. **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.
 - ii. **Methodology:** A short description of 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.
 - iii. **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 publication, blog, meeting report, grant proposal for an external funding competition etc.
 - iv. **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 UPCité, including alignment, if any, with Horizon Europe upcoming funding opportunities

- v. **Graduate student involvement:** Any opportunities for graduate student(s) engagement and anticipated benefits to the project and the student(s) themselves as applicable.
 - vi. **Equity, diversity and inclusion:** An assessment on how EDI issues are considered in the proposal (e.g. how it will benefit to under Trainee and Early Career Research Involvement) will be positively considered in the evaluation.
 - vii. **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
2. Timeline of the project
 3. Budget: A breakdown of the cost of the activity e.g. flights, travel, hotels etc.
 4. Abbreviated two-page CV of each PI
 5. UPCité PIs only: A letter of support from your Line Manager or Head of Department to apply for the grant.

Review process

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 align with future external funding, including (but not exclusively) Horizon Europe?

Reporting After Project Completion

All awardees must submit a final report by the end of June 2028. This report should include the outcomes, nature of collaboration, project impact, trainee involvement and potential opportunities for future collaboration (about 2 pages).

Intellectual Property rights

U of T and UPCité will undertake to protect the 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 U of T and UPCité.

Information about this call

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