

National University of Singapore - University of Toronto

Call for Joint Research Proposals

Introduction

National University of Singapore (NUS) and the University of Toronto (U of T) are committed to supporting collaborative research initiatives through a joint call for proposals. The aim is to provide initial support for research links and catalyze collaboration in the following areas:

- Decarbonization and Sustainability
- AI for Science – Materials Discovery and AI

Preference will be given to proposals with potential for continuation beyond the funding period.

Funding and Duration

Up to five proposals in each theme will be funded for a maximum duration of 18 months.

- NUS: up to SGD \$25,000 per project
- U of T: up to CAD \$25,000 per project

Eligibility

- Proposal must include a PI each from NUS and from U of T
- NUS: PIs must be full-time academic staff with contracts exceeding the project period.
- 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. PIs must be able to hold funds at U of T.

Submission of Proposals

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The full proposal must include the following elements:

1. **Proposal Cover**

A cover page that includes the names of faculty members, their affiliations at each institution, and full contact details.

2. **Project Description**

The project description should address the selection criteria and include the following components:

- a. **Abstract**

A concise summary describing the project.

- b. **Description of Planned Activities**
An outline of the proposed activities (e.g., seminars, short courses, institutional visits, or other research/teaching engagements), including the rationale and timeline.
- c. **Methodology**
A brief description of how the project will be carried out to allow reviewers to assess feasibility. This should clearly explain the distribution of work and the collaboration between the two teams.
- d. **Project Impact**
A description of the expected academic outcomes resulting from the collaboration and mobility, including relevant performance indicators (e.g., publications, blogs, meeting reports).
- e. **Impact of Collaboration**
The anticipated benefits of the collaboration for ongoing research and/or teaching activities, as well as its contribution to strengthening the overall partnership between the University of Toronto and NUS.
- f. **Graduate Student Involvement**
A description of opportunities for graduate student engagement and the expected benefits for both the project and the students.
- g. **Capacity for Future Collaboration**
An outline of potential future initiatives enabled by this collaboration, such as joint publications, co-supervision of PhD students, joint teaching activities, patent applications, reports, or future funding applications.
- h. **Proposed Budget**
A detailed breakdown of projected costs (e.g., travel, accommodation, and related expenses).

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be assessed and recommended for selection by a committee composed of members of both institutions. 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 plan to access external funding?

Expected Outcomes

1. Researchers from one institution should visit the other at least once during the project execution period and participate in the online project report meeting organized by both institutions;
2. At least two of the following outcomes need to be achieved at the meantime:
 - a. At least a refereed publication in a national/internationally recognized journal shall be jointly published based on the content of the cooperative project (the PI or project core member shall be the first, second, or corresponding author of the article); or books/book chapters; or
 - b. Researchers from one institution shall give at least one specialized lecture in the other institution; or
 - c. Jointly hold a physical/online workshop at either institution; or
 - d. Jointly apply for national/international competitive grant or other sources of external funding; or
 - e. Other outcomes of equal value.

Timeline

Applications open	September 1, 2026
Applications close	November 1, 2026
Results communicated	January 15, 2027
Project start	February 15, 2027
Project end	August 1, 2028
Final report	September 1, 2028

Eligible Activities and Costs

1. Proposals may include workshops (face-to-face and virtual), symposia, faculty and graduate student exchanges, research seminars/presentations and formation or development of a collaborative network.
2. Eligible costs include travel and subsistence, consumables and the cost of research assistants which are directly related to the project. Existing staff time including the Co-PIs time cannot be costed to the project. Each institution's contributions will be used exclusively to fund its own researcher and their research expenses and will not be co-

- mingled. The award of any funds from either Institution will be subject, in each case, to the internal processes and procedures of such Institution.
3. All travel activities must comply with the guidelines of the respective universities. All NUS travel must comply with the Travel Guide on staff portal. U of T PIs are required to follow [U of T travel policy guidelines](#).

Eligible Costs	Ineligible Costs
• Travel costs for PIs and co-PIs, including flights, hotels and subsistence • Research costs, including consumables and research assistants (up to 30% of the total requested budget). • Costs associated with organizing workshops and meetings	• Replacement research/teaching costs • Directly incurred staff e.g. teaching assistants • Directly allocated costs including applicants' time • Indirect costs/estates costs • Equipment • Scholarships • Conference attendance • Tuition fees • PhD stipends • Honoraria

Reporting After Project Completion

All awardees must, as a condition of receiving an award under this call, complete a report that describes the outcomes, nature of collaboration, project impact, trainee involvement and opportunities for future collaboration that evolved from their project

Submission Protocol

This is a joint call and a joint application should be submitted by the U of T and NUS PIs. Joint application can be submitted via [UofT Grants Database](#) using the provided template. UofT applicants don't need to submit an MRA for this Call.

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