



# International Partnership Fund 2026-27 Call Guidelines

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## Background and summary

The University’s International Partnership Fund (IPF) is designed to both establish and strengthen collaborations between Warwick academics and their peers at leading international universities and institutions. By bringing together complementary expertise, the fund aims to support the development of projects with the potential for global impact.

The IPF is intentionally broad in scope and supports partnership development across all global regions. It aligns closely with the University’s international strategy by encouraging meaningful engagement with institutions that demonstrate research excellence, strategic relevance, or strong potential for impactful collaboration.

Warwick’s international strategy is focused on growing our reputation as one of the world’s exceptional universities through global recognition of our research and education excellence.

We especially welcome proposals with partners in our priority regions and encourage you to discuss your proposal with the relevant Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor or Academic Directors prior to submission.

- Prof [Dan Branch](#) and Prof [Franklyn Lisk](#), Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellors for Africa
- Prof [Sai Gu](#), Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor for East and South East Asia
- Prof [George Christou](#), Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Europe
- Prof [Mohan Balasubramanian](#), Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the Americas
- Prof [Virinder Kalra](#), Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor for South/Central Asia and Middle East



Your proposal should:

- Articulate the challenge the team is seeking to address and how they are placed within the broader research/educational landscape to do this;
- Clearly define the objectives, outcomes and impact – including external funding targets;
- Demonstrate why neither university could tackle the challenge alone – or the additionality achieved through collaboration;
- Articulate what the funding will enable and why it is an appropriate funding source for the activity;
- Be balanced in benefit and be of strategic interest to Warwick;
- Reflect the most efficient and effective means to achieve the project objectives.

## Partner eligibility

The IPF aims to support projects in partnership with international universities or institutes from around the world.

Warwick already supports collaborations with [Monash University](#), [Stellenbosch University](#), [Shanghai Jiao Tong University \(SJTU\)](#), [Fudan University](#), [National University of Singapore](#), [Nanyang Technological University](#) and the [University of Toronto](#) through discrete joint funding schemes and as such, collaborations with these institutions are not eligible for this funding.

## Applicant Eligibility

- The International Partnership Fund invites applications in the following two categories:
  - New: scoping activities for a new collaboration
  - Early stage: collaborations which are seeking to develop beyond their current activities
- The International Partnership Fund is open to staff from all academic Departments and Centres, with particular encouragement given to proposals that are likely to promote sustained collaborative activity beyond the end of the award period.
- Applications should specify a minimum of one applicant (a Project Lead) from each university is required and a co-applicant from each university is recommended (for project continuity in the event the Project Lead cannot complete the project)
- The project lead must be a permanent or fixed-term, full or part-time member of academic staff (including probationary). For applicants on fixed-term contracts, the duration of the award or contract must extend beyond the project completion date.
- Graduate research students can be included in the application as a co-applicant but not as Project Leads. Adjunct appointments can be co-applicants but not Project Leads. Please note that adjunct appointments are not allowed to undertake travel for the project.
- No more than one application will be considered from a Project Lead in an application round
- Applicants who have received funding in the past are eligible to apply provided the proposed Proposed project is new or significantly different.
- Applicants whose applications were not successful in the past are eligible to apply. You should revise your application based on any feedback previously provided.



## Criteria

There will be four main criteria used to evaluate applications to the International Partnership Fund. The proposal should demonstrate:

- **Joint capacity:** applicants' academic credentials, complementarity of the partners, joint ability to carry out the project.
- **Innovation and excellence:** the novelty of the project must be articulated for a non-specialist audience, clearly demonstrating how the proposed project will contribute to disciplinary innovation. The project must demonstrate its relevance and potential to make a meaningful contribution to tackling the challenges it seeks to address.
- **Strategic focus:** the proposal should state how it aligns with the University strategy. If available, this should be enhanced with information to demonstrate synergy with the partner organisation's international ambitions. Applicants should also illustrate how their proposal supports departmental and/or faculty priorities.
- **Long-term potential:** priority will be given to applications that demonstrate the highest potential to develop long-lasting and productive partnerships. Applicants are advised to clearly indicate:
  - how they envisage the collaboration developing beyond this project (e.g. student opportunity, building links with industry, using preliminary data collected to scale-up the project)
  - which external funding sources are available, or in development, to sustain the collaboration

## Project Duration

Applicants are able to request funding for Financial Year (FY) 26/27 only or for FY 26/27 and FY 27/28. All awards will begin on 1 August 2026.

## Eligible Costs

Awards are usually made up to the value of £5,000 (Europe) or £7,000 (rest of the world) per Financial Year.

As part of the application, a budget will be requested for each **financial** year of the project.

All costs for FY 26/27 should be incurred before 31 July 2027 and all costs for FY 27/28 (if applicable) should be incurred between 1 August 2027 and 31 July 2028.

Funds cannot be carried over from one financial year into another and any unspent funds will no longer be available to award holders.

Please note that funds for FY 27/28 are released following an interim meeting with the International Strategy and Relations team at the end of FY 26/27, as well as satisfactory evidence of progress set aims and objectives.

### Eligible costs will typically include:

- Reasonable travel costs including flights, visas, accommodation and subsistence ( Please see [University Travel Hub](#) and [Financial Regulations](#))
- The organisation of virtual, hybrid or in-person workshops, conferences, symposia;
- In person meetings to facilitate planning and development of external funding proposals;



- Research/educational support (e.g. access charges, consumables, transcription costs) (limited to 20% of the total budget)

Below are some examples of activities which will be considered for funding. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list and applicants are encouraged to be innovative:

- Planning meetings for a new collaboration or writing of major grant proposal;
- Workshop or symposium to advance an existing collaboration;
- Small joint experiments to generate preliminary data;
- Follow-up meetings to advance an existing collaboration;
- Organising or holding symposia, lectures, performances, seminars, workshops, public engagement events.

### Items not eligible for funding

- Infrastructure and equipment
- Overhead/ Central support charges
- Salaries and honoraria
- Per diems (expenses must be based on receipts)
- Car Hire
- Conference registrations for staff members
- Scholarships or course fees for students
- Costs already committed or incurred prior to submission of the proposal.

The University has committed to reduce its carbon emissions with the aim of achieving net zero carbon for both direct and indirect emissions by 2050. Staff applying for funding through the International Partnership Fund should consider the carbon cost of the activities proposed and use alternative communications technologies where possible, such as following up with virtual workshops. Proposed travel plans should align with the [University's financial regulations](#).

We do not expect that any budget to be transferred directly to external partners; it is necessary for the Warwick budget holder to pay for any associated project costs directly.

Please note, costs relating to the award will be charged to a profit centre within International Strategy and Relations. This means departmental budgets will remain unchanged

## Research Integrity and Ethics

Warwick researchers are advised to complete a Research Integrity online training module: [www.warwick.ac.uk/ritraining](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/ritraining).

### Ethics

Research projects that involve human participants, their data or tissue, or animals **will** require appropriate ethical review. Research involving secondary analysis of publicly available data e.g. systematic reviews does **not** require ethics review, but secondary analysis of other data that are not publicly available does. Please note, data taken from social media, does **not** count as publicly available.



Ethics approval does not need to be applied for until funding has been awarded but **must** be obtained **before** projects can begin. Further information about ethics and other approvals, and how to apply for these is available on the [Research & Impact Services](#) webpages.

Please note that it is the researcher's responsibility to ensure the ethics application is submitted and approved before the project begins.

### **Export Control Due Diligence**

As part of your application, you are strongly encouraged to undertake the Epigeum Research Integrity Training, including the Export Control Training Module, which can be accessed [here](#).

The PI is responsible for ensuring that the research complies with the UK Export Control Legislation. Follow [the guidance](#) by R&IS to determine whether export controls apply to your proposed research.

## Declaration of support

Applications must be endorsed by the Principal Applicant's Head of Department. This can be done by completing the Declaration of Support section of the application form. Applications that do not include a statement from the Head of Department will not be supported.

The Applicant's Department must detail what contribution they will make to the costs of the project and must also confirm that the costs requested from the International Partnership Fund cannot be met from existing individual or departmental discretionary funds.

The Declaration of Support should also include:

- Confirmation that the project/activity is not already being supported by funds from existing individual, group or departmental budgets.
- How the application reflects the strategic plans of the Department/Centre/Unit.
- If other, additional sources of internal funding are being sought to support this activity.

## How to Apply

Applications for the International Partnership Fund should be made via the [online application form](#). The deadline for applications is **27 April 2026**. All enquiries should be directed to the [International Strategy and Relations Team](#).

An Application Form and an application form template are available from the [online application form](#) page.

Not more than ONE application will be considered from each Principal Applicant.

Applications should be submitted to the [online application form](#).

Submissions must include:

- Completed [Project Summary and Case for Support](#) document;
- Two short CVs - one from each of the Warwick Principal Applicant and the Lead Partner;
- One statement of Support (an e-mail from the Warwick Head of Department/School/Centre)

Please merge the documents into one PDF for submission via the [online application form](#).



The deadline for submissions to this funding round is **27 April 2026**.

## Review process

A review panel comprising members of the International Strategy Group will review applications, and a panel chaired by Professor Michael Scott, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International), will take the final decision.

The outcome of the call will be communicated to applicants, via email, in June or July 2026.

## Reporting Requirements

- For projects lasting two years, a brief mid-project report is to be submitted halfway through your project and should include a revised budget for year 2 (a template will be provided).
- A final report on the project is to be submitted within one month from the end of the project or funding period (a template will be provided). This report should detail the use of the funds; achievement of outputs and outcomes from the award; how the activities have contributed to the University' International Strategy; future plans to build on the work done, and further funding applications made or planned.
- If requested by International Strategy and Relations, you will be expected to present the outcomes of your project at events organised by International Strategy and Relations following the completion of your project.
- The International Strategy and Relations team will contact you for up to three years after the completion of your project in order to gauge the longer-term impact of the funding.
- Successful applicants may be invited to assist with the evaluation of future International Strategy and Relations award applications.

For further information please contact Laura Townsend ([l.townsend@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:l.townsend@warwick.ac.uk))