

NTU - Warwick Research Seed Fund
Guidelines for Principal Investigators
Round 2 - 2026

NTU – Warwick Collaboration

The international partnership between NTU and Warwick has a rich history, spanning over two decades since the early 2000s, and has cultivated a robust framework for collaboration in research, education, and student exchange initiatives. United by a shared passion for innovation, entrepreneurship, and creating positive societal impact, the two institutions have established a range of joint academic programs, including the Dual Master's degree between RSIS and Warwick's Department of Politics and International Studies, a Joint PhD Degree (MSE, CCEB, SPMS, NBS and ERI@N), and numerous research projects at the school level. Additionally, the partnership has facilitated active student mobility between the two universities.

Against this background and to support new collaborative efforts in the fields of Business, Computing and Data Science, Science and Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, a NTU – Warwick Research Seed Fund Round 2 will continue to facilitate mobility and encourage deeper collaboration/exchanges. Collaborative efforts will be evidenced by outputs during or immediately after the project ends and should include, but not limited to, joint publications, funding application and / or new research project.

The NTU-Warwick Seed Fund coordinators are:

- At Warwick by the International Strategy and Relations (contact: isr@warwick.ac.uk)
- At NTU by the Office of International Engagement (contact: International@ntu.edu.sg).

The fund supports the pursuit of new research or innovation collaborations between NTU and Warwick on specifics set out in paragraph 1 below.

Specifics of the Warwick - NTU Research Seed Fund

Warwick Principal Investigators (PIs) can come from any department, school or centre. In addition to Warwick's open approach, NTU has identified a select group of Schools and College whose PIs are eligible to participate.

1. **List of NTU Colleges and Topics of Interest**
 - a. **Business**

**This is University of Warwick.
This is Beyond.**

warwick.ac.uk



Sustainability, Entrepreneurship, Finance, AI and business, Leadership, Accounting, Marketing and other Business-related topics

b. Computing and Data Science

Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Digital Trust, AI Safety, Algorithms and Complexity, Statistical Machine Learning and Generative AI

c. Science

Natural, Mathematical and Physical Sciences

d. Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences

- Animation, Art History, Culture and Heritage, Photography, Product Design, Filmmaking, Interactive Media, Foundation, Visual Communication
- AI and Humanities, Environmental Humanities, Gender and Diversity Studies, Medical Humanities, Religion, Society and Trust, Singapore Studies, South Asian Studies
- Aging, Inclusion and Healthcare, Cognitive and Behavioural Science, Environment and Sustainability, Policy and Society
- AI and Virtual Communities, Culture and Media, Information and Misinformation, Health and Science Communication, Social Media and Society

Within these overarching fields, an interested researcher from one of the partners should connect with Principal Investigator(s) (PI(s)) at the other partner.

2. Funding Amount

a. Total fund allocated to the Warwick - NTU Research Seed Fund:

- i. Business fund: up to SGD50K (or GBP equivalent) from each partner
- ii. Computer and Data Science: up to SGD50K (or GBP equivalent) from each partner
- iii. College of Science fund: up to SGD25K (or GBP equivalent) from each partner
- iv. Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences fund: up to SGD25K (or GBP equivalent) from each partner

b. Amount per successful applications:

- i. It is anticipated that for the Business, Computing and Data Science and Science funds, each project shall be allocated up to SGD25K (or GBP equivalent) by each partner (total up to SGD50K (or GBP equivalent) per project). For the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences fund, each project shall be up to SGD12.5K (or GBP equivalent) by each partner (total up to SGD25K (or GBP equivalent) per project). Notwithstanding the above provision, each college and / or institution shall have sole and exclusive ownership and control over its own funding, and such funds shall be allocated and utilised solely for the benefit of its designated faculty and / or researchers, unless otherwise expressly provided.

3. Use of Funds

- a. The Seed Fund may be used for the following purposes
 - i. Travel costs (including accommodation) incurred by applicants or researchers from their labs and costs associated with hosting PhD students and researchers
 - ii. Hosting of local symposiums and/or workshops
 - iii. Small pilot studies
 - iv. Research activities costs such as data collection, software, database, publication, and consumables. In the case of consumables, this should not exceed 20% of the total budget.
 - v. Conference fees for student researchers (Masters and PhD) and post docs engaged on the joint project.
- b. The Seed Fund may NOT be used for the following purposes:
 - i. Salaries, honorarium, equipment, scholarships, conference attendance fees for faculty members, and tuition fees.
- c. The College of Science (CoS) seed fund aims to initiate collaborative research between NTU/CoS and Warwick. The funds may be used for hosting local symposiums and/or workshops, including the travel costs and accommodation, with the expectation of research outputs in the form of joint papers from such workshops, and/or the establishment of joint PhD supervision arrangements for specific projects.

4. Eligibility

- a. A minimum of one Principal Investigator from each university per application is required.
- b. Principal Applicants on each side must be tenure-track or tenured faculty member of NTU or permanent / fixed-term academic staff of Warwick. For fixed-term staff, the duration of their contract must extend beyond the end date of the funded project to ensure continuity and successful completion. Adjunct/Honorary staff members whose home university is neither NTU nor Warwick are not eligible to be lead-investigators but can be listed as further co-investigators.
- c. Each initiative will normally be eligible for only one round of seed funding.
- d. Activities already fully funded via other sources are not eligible for support.

5. Expected Outcomes

Researchers are encouraged to achieve at least one of the following outcomes by the end of the project period:

- a. Jointly hold a physical/online workshop at either Institution; or

- b. Jointly apply for national/international competitive grant or other sources of external funding; or
- c. The submission of at least one joint co-authored refereed publication in a national/internationally recognised journal; or
- d. Other outcomes of equal value.

6. Project Duration

12 months from the date of the project award.

7. Joint Seed Fund Timeline:

Stage	Key Date
Application open	24 March 2026
Application close	22 April 2026
Advice to successful applicants	w/c 29 June 2026
Projects start	1 August 2026
Grants to be utilised	31 July 2027
Projects finish	31 July 2027

8. How to Apply

- a. Applications for proposals will be accepted if they are signed and submitted by two lead PIs, one from Warwick and one from NTU, using the “NTU – Warwick Joint Seed Fund Application Form” (attached).
- b. Any PI may submit only one project proposal per cycle, with no exceptions for multiple submissions.
- c. Each application must include the following information and supporting documents, where applicable
 - i. NTU – Warwick Joint Seed Fund Application Form
 - ii. CVs of the two lead PI(s) and their selected publications
 - iii. Warwick Requirements Form (for Warwick PI only) which includes a detailed budget breakdown and ethics check
- d. The application documents should be compiled into a single consolidated file and submitted to both International@ntu.edu.sg and isr@warwick.ac.uk with the subject title “NTU-Warwick Seed Fund Round 2 Proposal Submission”.

9. Evaluation Criteria of the Warwick - NTU Research Seed Fund

- a. Projects will be evaluated on the following criteria (Criterion ii carries double the weighting of Criteria i and iii):
 - i. Technical Merit: i.e. the importance/novelty of the project within its field or in terms of the challenges it seeks to address.
 - ii. Strategic merit/alignment: The selection committee will be guided by these considerations:
 - 1. How the project advances the interests of both institutions;
 - 2. A clear case of complementarity/synergy between the proposed applicants (the whole project outcomes being greater than the sum of its parts);
 - 3. Funding potential (the ability to produce a convincing roadmap for future funding);
 - 4. Potential for the project to include relevant third parties (e.g. commercial, governmental and non-governmental organisations) for greater impact.
 - 5. Extent of PhD students and early-career researchers' involvement in the project.
 - iii. Joint capacity: i.e. the standing and track record of the academics involved, and the evidence of their shared commitment to achieving the aims of the project.

10. Evaluation Process of the Warwick - NTU Research Seed Fund

General: The evaluation process is structured into several key stages, including 1) eligibility screening, 2) reviewers' evaluation (NTU/Warwick internal review), and 3) joint panel selection.

- a. Initial Screening:
 - i. On receipt of proposals, the International Partnerships Officer (Warwick) and OIE (NTU) conduct an initial screening to ensure all applications meet the basic eligibility criteria outlined in this call.
- b. Reviewers Evaluation (NTU/Warwick Internal):
 - i. Each institution will appoint internal reviewers to review the proposals. NTU Reviewers will be appointed by the Head of the unit providing the funding.
- c. Scoring and Ranking:
 - i. At Warwick, proposals are reviewed by Joint Seed Fund Reviewers from the applicant's own Faculty. The reviewers will provide scores and constructive comments within four weeks via the online review form.
 - ii. At NTU, each proposal is reviewed by [three] NTU Reviewers, who will provide scores and constructive comments within four weeks using the scoring template provided

- d. Exchange Reviewers' Ranking and Scores:
 - i. The Institutions will exchange the reviewers' ranking and scores on an agreed date. Warwick will collate the data and mark the recommendations for the Joint Panel before the Panel meets.
- e. Joint Panel Meeting (final Award jointly by NTU and Warwick):
 - i. The Joint Panel meets online to discuss the top-ranked proposals. Panel members provide additional insights and may adjust scores based on the discussion.
- f. Final Selection:
 - i. The proposals to be funded will be based on the Panel's recommendations.
- g. Notification and Feedback:
 - i. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their proposals. If requested, provide constructive feedback to unsuccessful applicants to help them improve future submissions.

11. Monitoring and Reporting:

Funded projects are required to submit periodic progress reports as a condition of this award. Successful applicants are required to submit a progress report on the completion of the awarded project, as well as for an additional two (2) years following its completion. International Strategy and Relations (Warwick) / Office International Engagement (NTU) will provide the report proforma (A Report Form template is provided in Schedule 2) to the award holders towards the end of their projects and periodically after that. The progress reports should be completed and returned by email to isr@warwick.ac.uk / international@ntu.edu.sg prior to the established deadlines.

Conduct a final evaluation of the project outcomes and impact.

This procedure ensures a fair and transparent evaluation process, fostering high-quality research collaborations.

12. Acknowledgements

Applicants will be required to engage with dissemination of the outcomes of their initiative, including presenting at a colloquium or other event organised by NTU and/or Warwick following the completion of the initiative, as required.

Upon publication or presentation of any research or materials funded by the grant, the PIs shall ensure that all necessary acknowledgments and credits are made to the relevant parties, including without limitation the following for each of the PIs:

- a. Principal Investigator (PI)
- b. Schools
- c. Institution
- d. University

Schedule 2

Joint Seed Fund Report Form

A final report on the initiative is to be submitted within one month from the end of the initiative or funding period and will be reviewed by one of the members of the selection panel for the fund.

Project Title		
Actual Start Date	Click or tap to enter a date.	
Actual End Date	Click or tap to enter a date.	
	Nanyang Technological University	University of Warwick
PRINCIPAL GRANT HOLDERS		
Title		
Name		
Position		
Faculty / School		
Department		
Email		
Telephone		

FINANCE SUMMARY		
Please complete the table, and provide any additional comments regarding unplanned expenditure/underspend		
	Nanyang Technological University (NTU PI to attach SAP statement)	University of Warwick £GBP
Total Funding Awarded	<i>SGD</i>	£
Total Spent	<i>SGD</i>	£

SUMMARY OF KEY OUTCOMES

Please provide an overview of the key outcomes of this project.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Please comment on any significant changes that occurred compared to what was outlined in the proposal (e.g., changes in activities, changes in timeline, changes in participants, budget changes).

FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Please detail any funding applications emerging from this project that have been made to external organisations

NB: Please be sure to include full details of the project title, funding agency, amount requested and status (i.e. indicate whether these have been funded, not funded or are under consideration by the relevant funding body)

RESEARCH OUTPUTS

Please detail any publications emerging from this project

NB: Please include any publications in progress or submitted for review

PLANNED FUTURE COLLABORATION

Please outline planned collaborations and the anticipated timeframe for these.

ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK (Optional)

Please provide any additional feedback on your experience with this fund so that we may improve it for future rounds.

Once completed, this form should be submitted by email to: isr@warwick.ac.uk and international@ntu.edu.sg