

**University of Toronto (U of T) and University of Warwick (Warwick)
Joint Seed Fund: Developing Collaboration in Research and Education**

Purpose

The U of T-Warwick Seed Fund has been established to develop collaborative research and education initiatives between the two institutions, and strengthen or initiate connections, by enabling researchers to jointly undertake preliminary research or pilot initiatives, and organise meetings, workshops and events.

Proposals

To be eligible, a proposal must include a minimum of one faculty member from each university. The call invites proposals in all disciplines that are of mutual interest to the project team and will strengthen the partnership between U of T and Warwick.

Up to five (5) joint proposals will be selected for the 2026-2027 academic year. The funding is intended to enable activities such as, but not limited to:

- the organisation of virtual, hybrid or in-person workshops, conferences, symposia;
- In person meetings to facilitate planning and development of external funding proposals;
- reciprocal or non-reciprocal visits to establish new collaborations;
- preliminary research, experiments and pilot studies.

Applicant eligibility

- **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.
- **Warwick:** The fund is open to staff from all academic Departments and Centres at Warwick. Applications should specify a Principal Applicant who must be a permanent (including probationary) member of academic staff or hold a fellowship awarded by an external funder, the duration of which extends beyond the duration of the award. Inclusion of a Co-I in the project is considered desirable.

Funding amount and duration

Up to five (5) successful joint proposals will be chosen and each will receive up to \$7000 (CAD) of funding from U of T and up to £5000 (GBP) from Warwick. Each institution will provide funds to its own faculty members, and the projects can start on 1 August 2026.

Funding will be provided for projects lasting 12 months. At Warwick, all costs must be incurred before 31 July 2027. Funds cannot be carried over from one financial year to another, and any unspent funds will no longer be available to award holders.

Timeline

Call for proposals	2 March 2026
Deadline for submission of proposal	1 May 2026 (12:00 PM EST/ 17:00 BST)
Communication of results to applicants	29 June 2026
Start date of projects	1 August 2026

Evaluation

Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **Joint capacity:** applicants' academic credentials, joint ability to carry out the project, complementarity of the partners (including why the initiative could not occur at either university on its own, or the additionality achieved through collaboration) **(10pts)**
- **Excellence and meaningful contribution:** 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. **(10pts)**
- **Strategic focus:** the proposal should state how the initiative advances the interests of both U of T and Warwick, and the impact of the proposed activity and expected benefits for the Schools/Departments and the collaboration. **(10pts)**
- **Impact and potential:** a clear pathway to impact and/or external funding. 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. **(20pts)**

Assessment Process description:

1. Applications will be jointly received by the U of T Office of the Vice-President, International and Warwick's International Strategy and Relations Team (ISR).
2. All complete applications will be forwarded to an internal review committee in each institution, along with a template for ranking the proposals.
3. The internal review committees will assess each proposal according to academic merit and the evaluation criteria below.
4. Respective reviews will be returned to the U of T Office of the Vice-President, International, and the International Strategy and Relations team at Warwick, and results/scores tabulated to rank proposals.
5. A joint committee will convene to select up to five successful proposals.
6. The outcome of the results will be announced by email to all applicants.

Application process

1. Only one proposal should be submitted per project on behalf of the team at U of T and Warwick.
2. An online application must be submitted through University of Toronto's [OVPI's Application Portal](#) by 1 May 2026, 12:00 PM EST/ 17:00 BST. The complete proposal must include the following elements and be uploaded as a single PDF document under section 7A:
 - **Initiative overview** that includes a brief outline, details of the lead applicants and affiliations from each institution/organization with contact details, and any additional partner details
 - **Initiative description** that includes the following elements:
 - i. Project summary and strategic focus

- ii. Articulation of joint capacity/complementarity of the project team
- iii. Description of the planned activities, rationale, and timeline
- iv. Expected academic theoretical or practical outputs, and the potential impacts and benefits for stakeholders
- v. Description of how the partnership may evolve over time and the potential for long-term sustainability beyond the proposed timeframe.
- vi. Budget: details and justification of costs
- vii. Abbreviated two-page CV from the Principal Applicant at each institution.
- viii. Warwick Requirements Form (Warwick PI only): The Warwick PI must complete the Warwick Requirements Form, which includes an ethics and export control check, and ensures that activities align with Faculty/Department priorities.

The full proposal should be no longer than 1000 words (not including the CVs and Warwick Requirements Form).

Costs

Eligible costs include travel and subsistence, consumables and the cost of research assistants, research associates and technicians which are directly related to the project. Existing staff time, including the Co-PI's time, cannot be costed to the project. The fund does not support equipment, scholarships, conference attendance, PhD stipends, or tuition fees. All expenditure will require receipts.

Eligible Costs	Ineligible Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasonable travel costs including flights, visas, accommodation and subsistence (evidenced by receipts) • Research costs, including consumables and research assistants (up to 20% of the total requested budget). • Costs associated with organizing workshops and meetings that are directly related to the project's development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement research/teaching costs • Directly incurred e.g. teaching assistants • Directly allocated costs including applicants' time • Indirect costs/estates costs • Equipment • Scholarships • Conference attendance • Tuition fees • Per diems • PhD stipends • Gifts • Honoraria • Salaries of permanent and fixed term staff • Costs already incurred prior to submission of the proposal

Reporting Requirements

All successful applicants will be required to provide a brief report within four months of the end of the funded project (before 1 December 2027). This report should detail the use of the funds; achievement of outputs and outcomes from the award; future plans to build on the work done, and further funding applications made or planned.

Warwick PI only: International Strategy and Relations will also request follow-up reports for three years following the completion of your project, in order to gauge the longer-term impact of the funding. A report proforma will be provided, and progress reports should be completed and returned by email to isr@warwick.ac.uk, prior to the established deadlines.

Contact

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