

UTS Key Technology Partnerships Seed Funding Scheme 2026 Guidelines

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The UTS Key Technology Partnerships Seed Funding Scheme supports collaborative projects between UTS staff and their counterparts from Key Technology Partner institutions, in **categories other than travel**.

The Seed Funding Scheme provides up to A\$10,000 to enable long-term goals, support scalable projects and foster sustainable relationships aiming to tackle global environmental, economic and social challenges.

This program supports collaboration in the following areas:

- Research and research training
- Teaching and learning
- Enterprise and innovation

Program benefits

- Complement UTS and partner expertise
- Enhance the reputation of UTS and partner institutions
- Expand UTS's international networks
- Enable access to international funding and industry projects outside Australia
- Build cross-cultural understanding and interdisciplinary experience
- Contribute to excellence in research, teaching and innovation

Program outcomes

- Produce joint academic publications
- Recruit high-quality collaborative PhD students
- Co-develop joint degree programs
- Attract external funding
- Create opportunities to generate revenue
- Support the development of student start-ups
- Develop joint initiatives for mutual benefit
- Establish significant Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) programs

Collectively, these benefits and outcomes strengthen UTS's global engagement and impact through its Key Technology Partnerships.

Applications related to critical technologies

In line with recent changes to Australian Government regulatory changes, UTS has been advised that research collaborations involving critical technology areas require enhanced due diligence. This process helps identify risks associated with foreign interference and reduces the potential for unintended critical technology transfer

The following research areas have been identified by the Australian Government as a critical technology areas:

- Advanced manufacturing and material technologies, for example 3D printing and advanced composite materials
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies, for example machine learning and AI algorithms
- Advanced information and communication technologies, for example data analytics and 5G and 6G networks
- Quantum technologies, for example quantum computing and post-quantum cryptography
- Autonomous systems, robotics, positioning, timing and sensing, for example advanced robotics, drones, and

sensor technologies

- Biotechnologies, for example genome and genetic sequencing and analysis, vaccines, and novel medicines
- Clean energy generation and storage technologies, for example emissions reduction, renewable energy, and energy storage

Applications involving certain high-risk or sensitive areas may not be eligible for approval.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligible applicants

- The UTS host must be employed at UTS in an ongoing role with the intention to remain at UTS. The KTP collaborator must be employed on an ongoing basis at one of the Key Technology Partner institutions. This requirement supports the development of sustainable, long-term collaborations.
- Candidates may participate in only **one application per funding round**.
- The program is open to all academic staff at all career stages, including early, mid-career, and senior academics. Applications are also open to non-academic staff.
- Applications must be developed in collaboration with counterparts from one of the Key Technology Partner institutions.
- To support broader participation, applications will not be accepted from UTS staff or KTP collaborators who have received Key Technology Partnership funding in the previous two years, covering 2024 and 2025. Priority will be given to proposals from applicants who have not previously been awarded KTP funding.
- Applications seeking to build on a previously funded project must demonstrate progress against existing milestones and clearly articulate how the proposed funding will enable project growth and deliver significant outcomes, such as access to external funding, revenue generation, development of joint programs, or demonstrable impact.
- Applications are prepared jointly by UTS staff and KTP collaborators and must be submitted by UTS staff.
- Applications in critical technology areas may be subject to additional review and approval processes in accordance with UTS risk and compliance requirements.

Priority will be given to applications that:

- Demonstrate strong multidisciplinary collaboration, including involvement from multiple UTS faculties and complementary expertise from the partner institution. Foster collaboration across UTS and the partner at scale, with the potential to engage more than one discipline, school, or faculty on each side.
- Introduce new collaborations or meaningfully expand existing ones across disciplines and institutions.
- Include PhD students, Early and Mid-Career Researchers.

Key Technology Partner Institutions

Joint activity proposals must involve collaboration with counterparts from the following UTS Key Technology Partner universities:

1. Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM), India
2. Institut Mines-Télécom (IMT), France
3. Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (UC I Chile)
4. Shanghai University (SHU), China*
5. Technical University of Berlin (TUB), Germany
6. University of Arizona (UA), United States
7. VinUniversity (VinUni), Vietnam

* **Please note:** Collaborative projects and visits with Shanghai University will be considered only if they align with one of the following priority areas:

- Creative Industries, as outlined in the [UTS Creative Industries Strategy](#).
- Environmental engineering / sustainability.
- Health technologies.

FUNDING CATEGORIES

Funding categories may include academic/research collaboration with UTS Key Technology Partners listed above to undertake:

- Joint virtual events (conference, workshop, webinar, forum, symposium)
- Data collection
- Publication support/Literary review
- Generation of preliminary data
- Experiments to develop proof of concept
- Initiatives that promote the development of industry and government linkages
- Initiatives that have a strong likelihood of delivering competitive external funding applications
- Access to necessary software
- External project website or other multimedia production and development
- Development and implementation of survey instruments
- Access to online databases
- Consumable equipment costs for the sole use of the project, such as primers, probes, reagents, pipettes.
- Equipment items up to A\$5,000
- Prototype production
- The development and production of dissemination reports
- Develop significant Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) programs

The following expenses **are not supported by this scheme:**

- Travel-related expenses (inbound or outbound). To apply for inbound travel funding, for a KTP counterpart to visit UTS, please visit the [UTS KTP Visiting Fellow Program web page](#). To apply for outbound travel funding from UTS to a Key Technology Partner, please visit the [Programs offered by our Key Technology Partners web page](#).
- Costs related to attending conferences (travel expenses or participation). Check for funding available at UTS Faculties/Institutes.
- Research assistant salaries. Instead, UTS encourages academics to consider support from Higher Degree Research students.
- Salaries for the time spent on the project.
- General management/overhead fees.
- Fees for open access journals.
- Equipment items exceeding A\$5,000.

FUNDING DETAILS

- Total funding requested per application must not exceed A\$10,000.
- Funds will be released in June and must be fully spent by 4 December 2026. This deadline is set a few days earlier than the Finance Service Unit deadline to allow sufficient time to address any delays or finance related queries.
- Funds will be transferred to the Faculty or Institute (ISF/IPPG) of the UTS collaborator.
- Any finance related questions should be directed to the relevant UTS Faculty or Institute Finance Partner.
- Funding awardees must submit an Activity Report before the end of 2026.
- Funding awardees will also be required to submit a Progress Report in June 2027.

Please note that UTS and the Key Technology Partners jointly fund successful proposals. Reviewers from both institutions assess applications collaboratively and agree on which institution will cover each budget item.

Considerations for project proposals:

When considering an international collaboration, collaborators are expected to make informed decisions based on a proportionate assessment of the risks involved. Applicants are encouraged to refer to the [UTS International Collaboration and Engagement Portal](#), available to UTS staff, to ensure that the proposed joint project is aligned



with UTS’s international engagement framework.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Identify collaborators at one of the Key Technology Partners listed above, who are interested in submitting a joint proposal.
- Download the [application form PDF](#) to preview the questions. Discuss and prepare the proposal with your collaborator. *Please note that the application form includes embedded logic and will display questions relevant to the selected program and partner.*
- Submit the [online application form](#) by **15 April 2026, 11pm AEST**.
- The Global Partnerships team will seek feedback and endorsement from relevant internal stakeholders.
- Applicants will be notified of outcomes via email after **5 June 2026**.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- A Review Committee will be responsible for assessing all grant applications.
- Applications must meet the eligibility requirements and will be assessed against the evaluation criteria set out below.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

<p>Strength of the proposed collaboration (30%)</p> <p>Outline the strengths of your proposed collaboration, the benefits for UTS and the KTP, budget feasibility and alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p>
<p>Outputs, Outcomes, Impact (40%)</p> <p>Articulate the outputs, outcomes and impact of your collaboration.</p>
<p>Interdisciplinarity - actual and/or potential involvement across multiple Faculties and disciplines (10%)</p> <p>Elaborate on the interdisciplinary nature of your collaboration, listing all the Faculties, Schools, and staff from both UTS and the KTP that will be involved.</p>
<p>Student engagement (10%)</p> <p>Describe the engagement of students in your collaboration and/or the potential it holds for creating opportunities for coursework and/or research training at both universities.</p>
<p>Vision for the future (10%)</p> <p>Outline the short, medium, and long-term goals of the collaboration.</p>

POST-AWARD

- **Funding must be spent by 4 December 2026.** All funds must be expended within the awarded year. UTS does not permit the rollover of unspent funds. Please note that the deadline for the acquittal of expenses is due a few days earlier than the faculty finance deadlines, to allow sufficient time to address any delays or finance related queries.



- With support from the Global Partnerships team, establish a simple project page on the UTS website to share your collaboration story.
- Funding awardees must formally acknowledge support received from UTS in all publications and presentations arising from the funded project.
- Funding awardees must submit an Activity Report by the end of 2026.
- Funding awardees must submit a progress report in June 2027.

CONTACT US

For further information or enquiries, please contact the UTS Global Partnerships team at globalpartnerships@uts.edu.au