

# 2025 WUN RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT FUND LETTER OF INTENT (LOI) SUBMISSION FORM

## INTRO

### Introduction

UTS has opened a call for Letters of Intent (LOI) for the 2025 WUN Research Development Fund. This LOI is only for prospective applications where UTS will be the lead institution.

### Research Development Fund

The WUN Research Development Fund (RDF) is an annual competitive fund aimed at bringing together researchers to undertake innovative, high quality, sustainable research that addresses global challenges. The WUN RDF provides grants of up to £10,000 (approx. A\$21,000) for one year to foster research collaborations among academic staff at WUN member universities. UTS will contribute up to A\$5,000 towards each successful UTS application, where necessary and justifiable.

The project must engage at least three WUN member universities (including UTS) in at least two regions. Projects may include non-WUN universities and external partners but must have an active core of WUN member universities. Projects led by early career researchers are especially encouraged.

### WUN RDF 2025 Focus

In line with the WUN Strategic Plan 2023-2026, we encourage proposals that address problems in one or more of the following areas within the context of sustainable development:

1. Social justice and human rights; inequality
2. Sustainable world: cities and urbanization; energy transitions; water, and food security
3. Mental health; child and maternal health; ageing
4. Responsible and ethical applications of Artificial Intelligence

### Application Process

This LOI submission is part of the initial UTS internal review that takes place prior to a formal application submission to the WUN. LOI submission deadline is **Tuesday 2 September 2025**.

The UTS WUN Coordinator will approve two LOIs to develop into full proposals. Applications, submitted online through the WUN online application portal, are due by **11pm AEST on Friday 17 October 2025**.

Privacy notice: This online application form has been developed by the Global Strategic Partnerships team at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). Information is being collected for the purpose of assessing Letters of Intent for the 2025 WUN RDF. The information collected will be stored on behalf of UTS by Qualtrics and extracted for use by UTS and the collaborator's institution. Any personal information will not otherwise be disclosed unless you have provided express consent or where required or permitted by law. Further information on privacy can also be found in the Qualtrics privacy statement. If you wish to access the information held about you in relation to this application or withdraw the application, please contact the Global Partnerships team.

☐ I have read the Privacy notice and shared this information with my collaborator(s).

### Program guidelines

☐ I have read the [2025 WUN RDF guidelines](#) and shared this information with the collaborator(s).

## 1. UTS STAFF DETAILS

### UTS staff details

Title (e.g. Mr, Ms, Dr, Associate Professor, Professor, Distinguished Professor)

Full name (First and Last name)

Gender

☐Female

☐Male

☐Non-binary/other

Position title

UTS Faculty or Institute (e.g. ISF, IPPG)

Work email

Mobile / Work phone

If you are an academic, at what stage of your academic career would you classify yourself:

☐Early Career Researcher (WUN definition: a researcher who is in the final year of their terminal degree program (e.g., PhD) or has completed fewer than seven years of their first appointment as a member of faculty/academic staff.)

☐Mid-Career Researcher

☐Senior Academic

Have you previously participated in the WUN Research Development Fund as a Principal investigator or a Co-investigator?

☐Yes

ONo

Please provide details of previous involvement with the WUN Research Development Fund (year of application, project title, etc.)- *Will be displayed if answered "yes" to previous question*

WUN collaborator details

A project must engage at least **three WUN member universities** across at least **two regions** (regions are defined in the 2025 WUN RDF [Guidelines](#)).

**Please select the WUN member universities involved in this project.**

*Note: this survey will automatically generate a question block for each university you select.*

- ☐University of Alberta
- ☐University of Auckland
- ☐University of Bristol
- ☐University of Cape Town
- ☐Chinese University of Hong Kong
- ☐University of Exeter
- ☐University of Ghana
- ☐Griffith University
- ☐University of Lausanne
- ☐University of Leeds
- ☐Maastricht University
- ☐Mahidol University
- ☐Makerere University
- ☐Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais
- ☐Tecnológico de Monterrey
- ☐National Cheng Kung University
- ☐University of Pretoria
- ☐The University of Queensland
- ☐University of Rochester
- ☐Ruhr University Bochum
- ☐University of Sheffield
- ☐University of Tsukuba
- ☐University of York

## 2. WUN COLLABORATOR DETAILS

Title of \${Im://Field/1} collaborator (e.g Mr, Ms, Dr, Associate Professor, Professor, Distinguished Professor)

Full name of \${Im://Field/1} collaborator (First and Last name)

Gender of  $\{\text{Im}://\text{Field}/1\}$  collaborator

- ☐Female
- ☐Male
- ☐Non-binary/other

Position title of  $\{\text{Im}://\text{Field}/1\}$  collaborator

Faculty, College or School of  $\{\text{Im}://\text{Field}/1\}$  collaborator

Work email of  $\{\text{Im}://\text{Field}/1\}$  collaborator

Mobile / Work phone of  $\{\text{Im}://\text{Field}/1\}$  collaborator

At what stage of their academic career is the  $\{\text{Im}://\text{Field}/1\}$  collaborator?

- ☐Early Career Researcher (WUN definition: a researcher who is in the final year of their terminal degree program (e.g., PhD) or has completed fewer than seven years of their first appointment as a member of faculty/academic staff.)
- ☐Mid-Career Researcher
- ☐Senior Academic

Please provide a link to the academic profile of your  $\{\text{Im}://\text{Field}/1\}$  collaborator

Has your  $\{\text{Im}://\text{Field}/1\}$  collaborator previously participated in the WUN Research Development Fund?

- ☐Yes
- ☐No
- ☐Don't know

Please provide details of your collaborator's previous involvement in the WUN Research Development Fund (year of application, project title, whether they were an Academic Lead or a supporting researcher)- *Will be displayed if answered "yes" to previous question*

3. External Partner Details

EXTERNAL PARTNER DETAILS

Does your project involve any non-WUN members or external partners?

Note: WUN RDF Projects may include non-WUN universities and external partners, but must have an active core of WUN member universities.

☐Yes ☐No

Please add non-WUN member's title, full name, position title, organisation, company, peak body or equivalent, email address, mobile/ work phone details and their website link- *Will be displayed if answered "yes" to previous question*

4. PROJECT DETAILS

Project Details

Project title

Project summary (max 200 words)

Please provide a summary of your project and clearly articulate your research goals.

Please select the WUN RDF Focus Area(s) that your LOI relates to (you may select more than one).

- ☐ Social justice and human rights; inequality
- ☐ Sustainable world: cities and urbanization; energy transitions; water, and food security
- ☐ Mental health; child and maternal health; ageing
- ☐ Responsible and ethical applications of Artificial Intelligence

## 5. Evaluation Criteria

### EVALUATION CRITERIA - How LOIs are assessed

#### 1. ACADEMIC QUALITY (max 300 words)

Does your project address a new research problem or take an existing WUN research program in a significantly new direction? Please explain. (200 words)

#### 2. RELEVANCE TO CALL (max 300 words)

Within the context of sustainable development, does the project address a problem of consequence in one or more of the focus areas? Please see below focus areas for reference:

1. Social justice and human rights; inequality
2. Sustainable world: cities and urbanization; energy transitions; water, and food security
3. Mental health; child and maternal health; ageing
4. Responsible and ethical applications of Artificial Intelligence

#### 3. WUN ADVANTAGE (max 300 words)

Is the project one that WUN can pursue with advantage? WUN is likely to have special advantage when the research problem:

- Requires distinctive constellations of talent that are best assembled (or can only be assembled) by drawing on multiple partners.
- Presents opportunities for comparative analysis, stemming from member universities' locations in different geographical and cultural contexts.
- Requires access to unique environments/resources possessed by one or more partners.

Note: applicants should pay special attention to the WUN advantage as it brings distinction to the project and demonstrates how the research project benefits from the geographical diversity and complementary of expertise.

#### 4. RESEARCH TEAM (300 words)

Describe how the project team brings together well-qualified researchers from relevant disciplines and regions.

#### 5. OUTCOME AND IMPACT (max 300 words)

Please articulate how your proposal clearly specifies what will be achieved by the end of the funding period of one year, and is there a realistic plan to secure impact? Impact might be achieved through one or more of the following: authoritative research publication(s) or policy paper(s); the project having laid the groundwork for major research funding.

For WUN it is important to explain:

- where the project is expected to be at the one-year mark, including anticipated outcomes and the next steps that will enhance the project's long-term success.
- how the proposal balances ambition with what can realistically be achieved in one year.

#### 6. Budget

##### BUDGET

##### Funding Categories

Please tick the activity or activities for which you are seeking support. You may select multiple options.

Please note: Should you identify categories of expenditure that would benefit the success of your project and are not listed here, the WUN Secretariat would be happy to respond to your queries.

- ☐ A maximum of one in-person event that requires air travel (for example planning workshops, international project team meetings or conferences). Costs associated with virtual meetings are not subject to this restriction.
- ☐ Exploratory research initiatives
- ☐ Formation of collaborative networks
- ☐ Engagement of students through remote guest lectures and master classes
- ☐ Assistance from individuals where critical to the project (see “what expenditures are not funded by the RDF for further detail)
- ☐ Access to necessary software
- ☐ External project website or other multimedia production and development
- ☐ Data collection
- ☐ Development and implementation of survey instruments
- ☐ Access to online databases

- ☐ Access to general samples from panel survey companies
- ☐ Contribution to open access fees of up to £1500 (approximately A\$3,150.00)
- ☐ Primary data collection costs
- ☐ Activities related to other data collection (Costs of /acquiring/copying policy documents and literature where these are not available via institutional libraries/databases)
- ☐ Transcription costs
- ☐ Consumable equipment costs for the sole use of the project such as primers, probes, reagents, pipettes etc.
- ☐ Prototype production
- ☐ The development and production of dissemination reports

Please enter the total amount you are requesting in AUD. The proposed total budget must not exceed £10,000 (A\$21,000.00).

*Please note: Award funds should be expended within 12 months. Funds unspent at the conclusion of the 12-month award period may be recalled by WUN.*

If your project is successful, will you require additional funding support (up to A\$5,000) from UTS? If yes, please justify the need.

Note: UTS will contribute up to A\$5,000 towards each successful UTS application, where necessary and justifiable.

## 7. Signature

### SIGNATURE OF UTS APPLICANT

I acknowledge that I have discussed this application with my WUN collaborators.

Once you submit your application, an internal review of all UTS submissions will be undertaken. A maximum of two submissions will be selected to be developed into full applications for WUN. Guidance will be provided to the two selected applicants on the next steps, which will include submitting a full application to the WUN by **11pm AEST on Friday 17 October 2025**.



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SIGN HERE

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