

UTS KEY TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIPS SEED FUNDING SCHEME

APPLICATION GUIDELINES 2023 CLOSING DATE: 20 AUGUST 2023

Purpose

The UTS Key Technology Partnerships Seed Funding Scheme strengthens international research engagement by supporting collaborative projects between UTS academics and their counterparts at UTS's strategic partner universities, **in categories different to travel**.

The intent of this seed funding scheme is to enable long term goals, to support scalable projects and sustainable relationships aiming to tackle global environmental, economic and social challenges.

Key benefits

- Enable the professional development and international connectivity of UTS's researchers
- Tap into complementary areas of expertise, strengths and networks offered by our global strategic partners
- Grow UTS's research capacity and global impact
- Enable the pursuit of key opportunities and nurture partner networks that have been identified as having the potential to advance UTS's strategic objectives
- Develop mutually beneficial outcomes that raise UTS's global profile
- Support UTS faculties, institutes and units to launch new projects and to promote innovative, creative initiatives that further UTS 2027, International and Research Strategies

Funding program at a glance

- ❖ **Requirements of collaborative projects:**
 - 1) Involvement of Higher Degree Research (HDR) students
 - 2) Cross faculty collaboration and
 - 3) Ability to deliver global impact in alignment with the following UTS research areas: Health, Future Industries, Sustainability, Infrastructure, Communities, and Transdisciplinary.
- ❖ **Career stage:** Academics at all career stages. Open to early, mid-career and senior academics.
- ❖ **Disciplines:** All
- ❖ **Eligibility:** Please refer to 'eligible applicants' and 'eligible institutions' below.
- ❖ **Nature of the collaboration:** develop new collaborations or further develop existing collaborations. We encourage candidates to provide a timeline of goals they wish to achieve in the next two years.
- ❖ **Funding amount:** Applicants can apply for up to A\$10,000

Funding categories

Funding categories may include academic/research collaboration with UTS's strategic partner universities listed below (under "Eligible institutions") 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 may lead to 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 etc.
- Equipment (up to A\$5,000)
- Prototype production
 - The development and production of dissemination reports

Important: Please note that this seed funding scheme does not cover travel related expenses (flights, accommodation, living stipends). Neither for inbound nor outbound, for PhD students or academics.

The following expense items are not supported by this scheme:

- Travel related expenses (inbound or outbound). To apply for inbound travel funding (for your academic counterpart to travel from a strategic partner university to UTS), please visit the [UTS KTP Visiting Fellow Program web page](#). To apply for outbound travel funding (from UTS to a strategic partner university), please visit the [Programs offered by our Key Technology Partners web page](#).
- Conference related costs
- Research assistant salaries. Instead, UTS encourages academics to consider jointly supervised HDRs.
- Academic salaries for the time spent on the project
- General management/overhead fees
- Fees for open access journals
- Equipment items exceeding A\$5,000

Considerations for project proposals:

When considering an international collaboration, it is important for researchers to make an informed decision based on a proportionate assessment of the risks involved. Please refer to the [UTS International Collaboration and Engagement Portal](#) (access to UTS staff) to ensure your joint project proposal is aligned with our international engagement framework.

Funding details

- Funding amount requests per application should not exceed A\$10,000.
- Release of funding will be in 4 September and must be spent by 31 December 2023.
- PI will be required to submit a Progress Report in June 2024.
- Funds will be transferred to the Faculty of the UTS Principal Investigator (PI). The PI's Faculty will be responsible for overseeing the administration of the funds once they have been released.
- Any financial related questions may be directed to your Faculty Finance Partner.

Eligibility criteria

Eligible applicants:

- The lead researcher must be employed at UTS on an ongoing role with the intention to remain at UTS for at least five years.
- The academic collaborator(s) must also be employed on a permanent basis at one of the eligible partner institutions, with the intention to remain at the same partner institution for at least five years. The goal is to ensure long term interinstitutional collaboration.
- Candidates may only be involved in one application per funding round.
- Open to early, mid-career and senior academics. The application is prepared in conjunction with collaborators from one of the 'eligible institutions'. Applications for new projects from participants who haven't been awarded funding from this Scheme are preferred. In case of applying for a previously-funded project, applicants will need to justify that this new proposal will materially advance the project, including through either commercialisation of research or external funding, and the overall scale of activity in terms of engaged academics at both institutions.

Eligible institutions:

Joint activity proposals in collaboration with academic counterparts from the following UTS Key Technology Partner universities are eligible:

- Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST)
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM)
- Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (UC)
- Shanghai University (SHU)
- Technical University of Berlin (TUB)
- University of Arizona (UA)

Application process

1. Identify collaborators from one of the eligible institutions listed above, who are interested in submitting a joint proposal.
2. Download the [application form](#) (PDF) and discuss and prepare the proposal with your collaborator.
3. Submit the [online application form](#) by 20 August 2023 (11pm AEST).
4. Once you submit your application, the Global Strategic Partnerships team will seek endorsement from the relevant Faculty Dean or Institute Director (*Institute of Sustainable Futures (ISF) or the Institute for Public Policy and Governance (IPPG)*), to ensure the project proposal is aligned with the Faculty/Institute strategic goals.
5. Application outcomes will be announced via email on 4 September 2023. Awardees will need to demonstrate outputs and outcomes as planned for their original funding application.

Assessment process

- Grant applications will be competitively assessed. A Key Technology Partnerships Seed Funding Scheme Assessment Committee will be responsible for the assessment of all grant applications. The Committee will comprise representatives from UTS International and the Research Portfolio, with input from Faculty Associate Deans Research.
- Applications must meet the defined eligibility requirements and will be assessed based on the evaluation criteria set out below.
- Researchers may submit proposals to build something substantial, outlining the type of seed funding they need and what the expected return will be.

Evaluation criteria

Researchers may submit proposals to build something substantial, outlining the type of seed funding they need and what the expected return will be.

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

<p>Strategic alignment (20%)</p> <p>Ability to deliver global impact in alignment with the following UTS research areas: Health, Future Industries, Sustainability, Infrastructure, Communities, and Transdisciplinary.</p>
<p>Involvement of Higher Degree Research (HDR) students (20%)</p> <p>In the application form, candidates will be asked to list names of HRD students and to demonstrate that they will be integral to the project.</p>
<p>Cross faculty collaboration (20%)</p> <p>Projects involving multiple Faculties or Institutes across UTS and the strategic partner university. The contribution of each researcher must be clearly articulated in the application.</p>

Impact (40%)

Project proposal articulates ability to deliver global impact and outcomes resulting from collaboration. Is there a clear and realistic plan to secure impact? Desirable outcomes include one or more of the following: an authoritative and influential publication, potentially aimed at influencing policy; making the investigators competitive for major research funding.

Post-award

- The Key Technology Partnerships Seed Funding is to be spent by 31 December 2023.
- Establish, with the help of the Global Strategic Partnerships team, a simple project page on the UTS website.
- Funding awardees must formally acknowledge support received from UTS in publications and presentations flowing from the research project which has received funding.
- Funding awardees must submit a research report listing research progress and outputs stemming from the research grant in June 2024.
- Submit a brief report annually for the life of the project.

Important dates

Applications open	15 July 2023
Applications close	20 August 2023
Results announced	4 September 2023
Funds transfer to UTS Principal Investigator's Faculty	September 2023
Project implementation	September – 31 December 2023
Progress report submission	1 June 2024

Contact us

For any queries, please contact the UTS Global Strategic Partnerships team at ana.ruiz@uts.edu.au.

Within the UTS Faculties, please contact your Research Manager or Faculty Research Engagement Manager.

Frequently asked questions

1. Who can apply?

A/. See “Eligibility Criteria” section.

Applications are submitted online by an individual UTS researcher or a team led by a Principal Investigator. Open to early, mid-career and senior academics. The application is prepared in conjunction with collaborators from any of the ‘eligible institutions’.

Projects that have not been funded in the past are preferred and will have priority. However, applications are open to previously-funded activity, provided it will materially advance the project, including through either commercialisation of research or external funding, *and* the overall scale of activity in terms of engaged academics at both institutions. Demonstrated outcomes and outputs for previously funded activity will need to be included in the application.

Eligible applicants:

- The lead researcher must be employed at UTS on an ongoing role with the intention to remain at UTS for at least five years.
- The academic collaborator(s) must also be employed on a permanent basis at one of the eligible partner institutions, with the intention to remain at the same partner institution for at least five years. The goal is to ensure long term interinstitutional collaboration.
- Candidates may only be involved in one application per funding round.
- Open to early, mid-career and senior academics. The application is prepared in conjunction with collaborators from one of the ‘eligible institutions’.

Eligible institutions:

Joint activity proposals in collaboration with academic counterparts from the following UTS strategic partner universities are eligible:

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- University of Arizona (UA)

2. Can I apply if the project does not involve a collaborator in one of the strategic partner universities mentioned under the “Eligible institutions” section?

A/. No.

3. What projects/ initiatives/categories are eligible?

A/. See “Funding Categories” section.

Funding categories

Funding categories may include academic/research collaboration with UTS’s Key Technology Partner universities listed below (under “Eligible institutions”) 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
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- Access to online databases
- Consumable equipment costs for the sole use of the project such as primers, probes, reagents, pipettes etc. Equipment (up to A\$5,000)
- Prototype production
- The development and production of dissemination reports

4. What activities are not eligible?

A/. See “Funding Categories” section.

The following expense items are not supported by this scheme:

- Travel related expenses (inbound or outbound). To apply for inbound travel funding (for your academic counterpart to travel from a strategic partner university to UTS), please visit the [UTS KTP Visiting Fellow Program web page](#). To apply for outbound travel funding (from UTS to a strategic partner university), please visit the [Programs offered by our Key Technology Partners web page](#).
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- Academic salaries for the time spent on the project
- General management/overhead fees
- Fees for open access journals
- Equipment items exceeding A\$5,000

5. Can I apply if my proposed project already receives funding from an external source?

A/. No.

6. Can I apply if I have previously received funding from the UTS Global Strategic Partnerships Seed Funding Scheme or participated in the UTS KTP Visiting Fellow Program?

A/. Yes. However, projects that have not been funded in the past are preferred and will have priority. Applications are open to previously-funded activity, provided it will materially advance the project, including through either commercialisation of research or external funding, *and* the overall scale of activity in terms of engaged academics at both institutions. Demonstrated outcomes and outputs for previously funded activity will need to be included in the application.

7. How will the application be assessed?

A/. See “Assessment process” section.

Assessment process

- Grant applications will be competitively assessed. A Key Technology Partnerships Seed Funding Scheme Assessment Committee will be responsible for the assessment of all grant applications. The Committee will comprise representatives from UTS International and the Research Portfolio, with input from Faculty Associate Deans Research.
- Applications must meet the defined eligibility requirements and will be assessed based on the evaluation criteria set out below.
- Researchers may submit proposals to build something substantial, outlining the type of seed funding they need and what the expected return will be.

8. Who are the Key Technology Partnerships Seed Funding Scheme Assessment Committee members?

A/. The Assessment Committee members are:

- Prof Chris Turney, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Research
- Prof Hélène de Burgh-Woodman, Dean, Graduate Research School
- Mr Innes Ireland, Deputy Director, Global Engagement, UTS International
- Mrs Ana Ruiz, Manager Global Strategic Partnerships, Global Engagement, UTS International

The Committee will also seek input from the relevant Faculty Associate Dean Research and endorsement from the Faculty Dean or Institute Director, to ensure projects are aligned with their strategic priorities.

9. How and when will I receive the funding?

A/. Funds will be transferred in September 2023 to the UTS Principal Investigator’s Faculty. Once results are announced, a new accounting string will be generated by the Faculty Finance Manager for this purpose.

10. Must the approved UTS funds be spent in 2023?

A/. Yes.