

2023 UTS Call for Letters of Intent Worldwide Universities Network Research Development Fund (WUN RDF)

Purpose

UTS has opened a call for Letters of Intent (LOI) for the 2023 WUN Research Development Fund. This LOI is only for prospective applications where UTS will be the lead institution.

Worldwide Universities Network

WUN brings together 24 leading research universities across six continents in a collaborative partnership to advance research and education on major global challenges.

WUN organises its research initiatives under four Global Challenges:

- Responding to Climate Change
- Public Health
- Global Higher Education and Research
- Understanding Cultures

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 (A\$19,000)** 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. The collaboration can include non-WUN universities and other external partners but must have an active core of WUN member universities.

Proposals must address with 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 urbanisation; energy transitions; water, and food security
3. Mental health; child and maternal health; ageing
4. Responsible and ethical applications of Artificial Intelligence

UTS LOI Internal Process

The LOI is an informal, one-page overview of your proposed research idea. It should address:

- Project summary
- Assessment criteria below
- List of co-investigators and their corresponding universities
- Funding requested
- Categories of expenditure you are planning to use funding for

Please note that you should only submit an LOI if your intention is that UTS will be the lead institution on your project.

Two LOIs will be selected at UTS to be developed into full proposals.

Assessment Criteria

- **Academic quality** – Is the project academically rigorous, and does it address a new research problem or take an existing WUN research program in a significantly new direction?
- **Relevance to call** – Within the context of sustainable development, does the project address a problem of consequence in one or more of the focus areas?
- **WUN Advantage** – Does the project demonstrate a distinct WUN 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.

- **Research team** – Does the project involve a well-qualified team of researchers drawn from relevant disciplines and regions?
- **Impact** – 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.

Timeline

UTS opens call for LOIs	15 July 2023
LOI submission deadline	8 September 2023
Announcement of two LOIs that will be invited to develop into full proposals	18 September 2023
Draft of full proposal submitted online for faculty assessment prior to final submission to WUN	9 October 2023
Online submission of UTS applications via the WUN application portal	20 October 2023 (5pm GMT)
WUN announces results	15 December 2023
Funds made available	February 2024
Funds should be used within 12 months. Unspent funds at the conclusion of the 12-month award period may be recalled by WUN.	

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Please read carefully the [WUN RDF 2023 Guidelines](#)

For information about successful WUN RDF projects, visit: <https://wun.ac.uk/wun/research/>

WUN RDF categories of expenditure

Please note that, 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 “expenditures not funded)
- 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 £1,500
- 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

Expenses not funded by the WUN RDF

RDF funds may not be used to support an applicant’s salary, or to supplant the salary or scholarship of any assistant or student who is already funded from another source. Funds may be used only to pay for assistance from other individuals when essential to the project. The RDF may not be used to cover the costs of equipment depreciation.

Where funds are to be used for air travel, only economy class fares are permissible. In the interest of the environment, while also recognising the value of face-to-face interaction, RDF funds may support no more than one in-person event that requires air travel (for example an international project team meeting or conference). WUN encourages the use of deploying virtual alternatives to assemble the project team whenever possible.

Funds may not be used to cover general management/overhead fees.

Financial, reporting and acknowledgement obligations

Award funds should be expended within 12 months. Funds unspent at the conclusion of the 12-month award period may be recalled by WUN. Principal investigators are required to:

- Establish, with the help of your local WUN Coordinator, a simple project page on the WUN website.
- Acknowledge support from WUN on any publications and presentations that result from the RDF-funded project.

Submit a brief report after the initial year of the project and annually for the life of the project.