



U of T-HUST JOINT SEED FUND

University of Toronto and Huazhong University of Science and Technology

Call for Proposals 2023

Overview

The University of Toronto (U of T) in Canada and Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST) in China are issuing a joint call for proposals on Innovation and future technology for wellbeing aligned with their institutional priorities, complementary strengths, and track record of cooperation. We welcome proposals from all fields but will prioritize innovative ideas that demonstrate a clear intention to advance progress in areas such as eldercare, robotics, smart cities, and practice and policy.

It is hoped that, besides tangible academic outcomes such as the submission of co-authored publications, projects will result in long-lasting, substantial collaborations that are maintained beyond the initial funding period and will be supported in the future by governmental, philanthropic, industrial, or other external funding.

Grant:

Up to four proposals will be funded. **Each successful proposal may receive up to CNY 200,000 for HUST expenses and 40,000 CAD from U of T over two years**, with each university funding its own faculty members in its own currency. Funding does not have to split evenly between the two years.

Eligibility:

Faculty from all disciplines/fields are welcome to apply at UofT and HUST. The UofT lead investigator must have a continuing appointment and have SGS Graduate Faculty Membership at UofT.

Duration:

The HUST PI will be able to spend first year funds before December 31, 2023 and second year funds before December 31, 2024. The grants will be effective for U of T PI between July 2023 to July 2025. For U of T PI, any extension will require written approval from U of T's International Office.

Application Timeline:

Applications open	May 4, 2023
Applications close	June 9, 2023 by 12:00 am EST time / 12:00 pm China time
Successful applicants notified by	July 7, 2023

Supported Activities:

The initiative will support not only the expansion of existing collaborations relevant to Innovation and future technology for wellbeing between academics at the two universities but also the development of new collaborations in order to build a meaningful and productive partnership between the two institutions.

The following expenses are allowed but not limited to:

- Research-related mobility
- Project-related joint meetings and workshops, both in-person and virtual
- Limited expenses for research materials/supplies

Application Submission:

1. Your proposal must be jointly prepared by the lead investigators (primary applicant) from both institutions in English and submitted to both institutions at the same time, via email:
 - Huazhong University of Science and Technology: Ms. Yumeng Peng (pengyumeng@hust.edu.cn), Office of International Affairs
 - University of Toronto: Ms. Rikki Zhao (international@utoronto.ca), Office of the Vice-President International
2. The joint application form should include the following components saved as one PDF document: a coversheet, proposal narrative, project budget, project timeline, and CVs.
3. Only completed proposals submitted to the email of both institutions by the deadline will be accepted.

Selection Criteria:

Proposals will be reviewed by faculty reviewers from both institutions, with final award decisions made jointly by program leadership, who reserve final authority over the selection of projects taking into account university strategic priorities and the availability of funds.

Proposals will be read by an interdisciplinary faculty review committee and should be understandable to researchers outside your field(s). Final selection of the projects will consider the distribution of the topics across disciplines and the alignment with Innovation and future technology for wellbeing.

Each proposal will be assessed according to the selection criteria described below.

- All projects need a direct connect to Innovation and future technology for wellbeing
- Quality: the academic merit of the proposed work
- Impact: expected impact of the research
- Innovation: the extent to which the project will contribute to novel thinking and/or new technology in its field.
- Sustainability: the likelihood that the project will lead to sustainable results and long-term international relationships and generate significant external funding.
- Team Strength: participants demonstrate high levels of commitment, enthusiasm for collaboration, relevant experience, and joint planning
- Design of proposed activities, milestones, metrics of success, and budget (reasonable expenses for anticipated results)

Forfeiture of Grant:

Extensions must be sought for any grants not spent by the project end date or the grant must be returned so that unspent balances can be re-allocated.

Reporting Obligations:

Each awardee should submit an annual report to their home institution, demonstrating activity on the grant and need for second year funding.

1. Grant recipients are expected to submit a final report within one month of the project end date.
2. Grant recipients should acknowledge the U of T International Office and the Office of International Affairs at Huazhong University of Science and Technology in all project products (reports, publications, presentations, etc.) that were made possible, in whole or in part, through this grant.

Administrative Contacts

For further information, please contact the Program Coordinators:

for HUST, Yumeng Peng (pengyumeng@hust.edu.cn, 86-27-87559124)

for UofT, Rikki Zhao (rikkizhao@utoronto.ca, 86-10-85261820 ext.23).