

U of T-ZJU JOINT SEED FUND

University of Toronto and Zhejiang University

Call for Proposals 2024

Overview

The University of Toronto (U of T) in Canada and Zhejiang University (ZJU) in China continue to develop their strategic partnership and offering opportunities for research collaboration and engagement through a joint call for proposals on 1) Digital Humanities and Social Sciences & 2) Interdisciplinary Medicine and Engineering aligned with their institutional priorities, complementary strengths, and track record of cooperation.

It is hoped that, besides tangible academic outcomes such as the exchange and co-supervision of PhD students and 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 five proposals will be funded. **Each successful proposal may receive up to CNY 100,000 for ZJU expenses and \$20,000 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 U of T and ZJU. U of T PIs must be Faculty members in continuing appointments, eligible to hold research funds at U of T and have Full School of Graduate Studies (SGS) Graduate Faculty Membership. ZJU PIs must be full-time faculty members. Postdocs are not eligible for the fund.

Duration:

The ZJU PI will be able to spend first year funds between April (tentatively), 2024 and November, 2024; second year funding will be spent between March (tentatively), 2025 and November, 2025. The grants will be effective for U of T PI between April 2024 to April 2026. For U of T PI, any extension will require written approval from U of T's International Office.

Application Timeline:

Applications open	29 th January, 2024
Applications close	29 February, 2024 by 11:00 am EST time / 12:00 pm China time
Successful applicants notified by	Late March/Early April, 2024

Supported Activities:

The initiative will support not only the expansion of existing collaborations relevant to the theme 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.

As a new requirement from ZJU, each awarded PI at ZJU should send at least one PhD student to U of T for a research stay of at least six months (1 student*six months equals two students* three months), subject to the hosting capacity of the U of T PI.

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:
 - Zhejiang University: Mr. Jun Tong (tj@zju.edu.cn), Office of Global Engagement
 - 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. All applications require endorsement by the relevant ZJU Head of School on the China side. The ZJU Principal Investigator must complete their endorsement coversheet.
4. 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 theme.

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

- All projects need a direct connect to the areas
- 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 Global Engagement at Zhejiang University 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 ZJU, Jun Tong (tj@zju.edu.cn, 86-571-88981380)

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