



2025 Guidelines - UTS Key Technology Partnerships Seed Funding Scheme

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The UTS Key Technology Partnerships Seed Funding Scheme supports collaborative projects between UTS staff and their counterparts from eligible Key Technology Partner institutions, in **categories other than travel**.

The Seed Funding Scheme provides up to A\$10,000 to enable long-term goals, support scalable projects and foster sustainable relationships aiming to tackle global environmental, economic and social challenges.

This program supports collaboration in the following areas:

1. Research and research training
2. Teaching and learning
3. Enterprise and innovation

Program benefits

- complement UTS and partners' expertise
- enhance UTS and partners' reputation
- expand UTS international networks
- gain access to international research funding and industry projects outside of Australia
- gain cross-cultural understanding and inter-disciplinary experience
- contribute to excellence in research, teaching and innovation

Example program outcomes

- produce joint academic papers
- recruit high-quality collaborative PhD students
- co-develop joint degree programs
- attract external funding
- create opportunities to generate revenue
- create opportunities for startup/spinout companies for students and/or staff
- develop joint initiatives for mutual benefit
- develop significant Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) programs

Applications related to critical technologies

In line with recent changes to Australian Government regulations, UTS has been advised that research collaborations related to critical technology areas require enhanced due diligence to mitigate against foreign interference and reduce the possibility of unwanted critical technology transfer.

The following research areas have been deemed by the Australian Government as a Critical Technology area:

- Advanced Manufacturing (e.g. 3D printing, advanced materials)
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) (e.g. Machine learning, algorithms)
- Advanced Communication (e.g. Data analytics, 5G/6G networks)
- Quantum Technology (e.g. Quantum computing, cryptography)
- Robotics & Sensing (e.g. Advanced robots, drones, sensor tech)
- Biotechnology (e.g. Genetic engineering, vaccines, novel medicine)
- Clean Energy (e.g. Emission reduction, renewable energy, energy storage)

Applications involving certain sensitive areas may not be eligible for approval.



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligible applicants

- The UTS host must be employed at UTS on an ongoing role with the intention to remain at UTS, and the KTP collaborator must be employed on an ongoing basis at one of the eligible partner institutions; which helps to establish sustainable, long term collaborations.
- Candidates may only be involved in one application per funding round.
- If you are an academic, this scheme is open to all career stages (early, mid-career and senior academics). Applications are also open to non-academic staff.
- Applications are prepared in conjunction with collaborators from one of the eligible partner institutions.
- Proposals for new projects from candidates who haven't been awarded KTP funding in the past are preferred.
- Applications to grow a previously funded project must provide evidence of milestones and articulate how the funding will help them to grow and achieve significant results, e.g., access to external funding, bring revenue, develop joint programs, have tangible impact.

Priority will be given to

- Applications that include PhD students, Early and Mid-Career Researchers (EMCRs)
- Projects that are multidisciplinary
- Applications involving new collaborations

Eligible institutions

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

- Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM)
- Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (UC I Chile)
- Shanghai University (SHU)*
- Technical University of Berlin (TUB)
- University of Arizona (UA)

* **Please note:** Collaborative projects and visits with Shanghai University will be considered only if they align with one of the following priority areas:

1. Creative Industries – as outlined in the [UTS Creative Industries Strategy](#).
2. Environmental Engineering / Sustainability.

FUNDING CATEGORIES

Funding categories may include academic/research collaboration with UTS Key Technology Partners listed above 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 have a strong likelihood of delivering competitive 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.
- Equipment items up to A\$5,000
- Prototype production
- The development and production of dissemination reports

- Develop significant Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) programs

The following expense items are not supported by this scheme:

- Travel related expenses (inbound or outbound). To apply for inbound travel funding, for a KTP counterpart to visit UTS, please visit the [UTS KTP Visiting Fellow Program web page](#). To apply for outbound travel funding from UTS to a Key Technology Partner, please visit the [Programs offered by our Key Technology Partners web page](#).
- Costs related to attending conferences (travel expenses or participation). Check for funding available at UTS Faculties/Institutes.
- Research assistant salaries. Instead, UTS encourages academics to consider support from Higher Degree Research students.
- Salaries for the time spent on the project.
- General management/overhead fees.
- Fees for open access journals.
- Equipment items exceeding A\$5,000.

FUNDING DETAILS

- Total funding requested per application should not exceed A\$10,000.
- Funds will be released in June and must be spent by 15 December 2025.
- Funds will be transferred to the Faculty or Institute (ISF/IPPG) of the UTS collaborator.
- Any finance related questions may be directed to the UTS Faculty/Institute Finance Partner.
- The funding awardees will be required to submit a Progress Report in June 2026.

Please note that UTS and the Key Technology Partners jointly fund successful proposals. Reviewers from both universities assess applications together and decide which institution will cover each budget item.

Considerations for project proposals:

When considering an international collaboration, it is important for collaborators 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 UTS's international engagement framework.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Identify collaborators from one of the eligible institutions listed above, who are interested in submitting a joint proposal.
- Download the [application form PDF](#) to see a preview of the questions. Discuss and prepare the proposal with your collaborator. *Please note: the application form has embedded logic, displaying questions relevant to the chosen program and partner.*
- Submit the [online application form](#) by 15 April 2025 (11pm AEST).
- The Global Partnerships team will seek feedback and endorsement from the relevant internal stakeholders.
- Application outcomes will be announced via email after 5 June 2025.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- A Review Committee will be responsible for the assessment of all grant applications.
- Applications must meet the eligibility requirements and will be assessed based on the evaluation criteria set out below.



EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

Strength of the proposed collaboration (30%) Outline the strengths of your proposed collaboration, the benefits for UTS and the KTP, budget feasibility and alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
Outputs, Outcomes, Impact (40%) Articulate the outputs, outcomes and impact of your collaboration.
Interdisciplinarity - actual and/or potential involvement across multiple Faculties and disciplines (10%) Elaborate on the interdisciplinary nature of your collaboration, listing all the Faculties, Schools, and staff from both UTS and the KTP that will be involved.
Student engagement (10%) Describe the engagement of students in your collaboration and/or the potential it holds for creating opportunities for coursework and/or research training at both universities.
Vision for the future (10%) Outline the short, medium, and long-term goals of the collaboration.

POST-AWARD

- Funding must be spent by 15 December 2025.
- Establish, with the help of the Global Partnerships team, a simple project page to share your collaboration story 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 an activity report by December 2025.
- Funding awardees must submit a progress report in June 2026.

CONTACT US

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