

**The University of Manchester-Ashoka University
The University of Manchester-O.P.Jindal Global University
2024/25 Call for Joint Research Proposals**

The University of Manchester (UoM) is pleased to announce a new seed-corn fund to support collaborative research projects with **either** Ashoka University **or** O.P. Jindal Global University. The aim of the fund is to establish new collaborations, facilitate work on proof-of concept ideas, and in the longer term to build international teams who are well positioned to apply for external research funding. The fund will be administered by the Faculty of Humanities and applications are encouraged from colleagues in the Faculty of Humanities and those engaged with Humanities colleagues through interdisciplinary work.

Projects

Proposals may include targeted research support such as joint workshops, researcher exchanges, and the formation or development of a collaborative network. To be eligible, a proposal must include a PI from UoM, collaborators from either Ashoka University or O.P. Jindal Global University. Ideally the proposed project will involve a group of scholars from UoM and either Ashoka or Jindal. We encourage early career researchers to apply.

To complement mobility between institutions we would expect projects to make full use of the available technology for online workshops/meetings in order to maximise the benefit of the collaboration.

The fund is supported by UoM and it is anticipated that between three to four projects will be funded via this call depending on the quality and value of applications received.

Projects will be funded for a period of up to 18 months starting from October 2024. There is flexibility on start dates, but we would expect all projects to be underway by November 2024 at the latest.

Proposals with the potential for sustainability beyond the initial funding period are encouraged.

Costs and proposal

Proposals may include workshops (face-to-face and virtual), symposia, staff exchanges, research seminars/presentations and the formation of a collaborative network.

The funding provided is intended to support expenses, including but not limited to costs of travel between the institutions, and necessary related consumables. Details of eligible and ineligible costs are detailed in the table below.

Eligible Costs	Ineligible costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel costs including flights, hotels and subsistence • Research costs including consumables (University of Manchester budget only) • Costs associated with networking events, workshops and meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement research/teaching costs • Directly allocated costs including applicants' time • Indirect costs/estates costs • Equipment • Scholarships • Conference attendance • Tuition fees • Honoraria

Manchester: We ask that Manchester applicants take into consideration the [University Travel Policy](#) and the [Before Travelling](#) guidance, including the associated [Travel Decision Tree](#). These documents and links are designed to assist colleagues in making informed decisions about travel and where possible, reduce the university's overall carbon footprint.

Eligibility

UoM: Academic staff members from all disciplines and at all levels are welcome to apply. The lead applicant must be a permanent member of staff. We encourage early career researchers to apply. Post-doctoral staff are eligible to apply on the condition that the end of their post-doctoral contract is after the end of the proposed project. Emeritus and honorary staff are not eligible to apply as PI but may be members of the project team.

Funding

We expect to support three or four projects in this round for a funding period of 18 months. Recipients will be awarded up to £5k.

Timeline

Call for proposals opens	Thursday 1 August
Deadline for submission	Monday 23 September
Applicants notified	Monday 30 September
Project start date	October 2024 (latest November 2024)

How to Apply

This is a joint call and a single application should be submitted online using [SmartSurvey](#). The form can be previewed [here](#). Applicants from both institutions should agree the content for the submission before applying.

Applicants can use the 'save and continue' feature to save the proposal and continue later (a link is sent to the applicant's email address).

The full proposal is comprised of the following elements:

- i. Administrative Details - includes the lead faculty members and affiliations from each institution with contact details.
- ii. Project Proposal which includes the following information:
 - Abstract that describes the project (150 words)
 - Description of the planned activities including timeline (200 words).
 - Collaborator complementarity (250 words) – a description of how the proposed activities combine mutual areas of interest and strength and the added value of these combined expertise.
 - Impact (2x 250 words)
 - Project Impact - Description of the expected academic gains for the project as a result of the proposed cooperation and mobility, and the identification of corresponding performance indicators e.g. a publication, blog, meeting report etc.
 - Early career and graduate researcher involvement: Any opportunities for their engagement and anticipated benefits to the project and the early career and graduate researchers themselves, as applicable.
 - Capacity for Future Collaboration (250 words) - A description of the potential future collaborations and outcomes that will be possible as a result of having undertaken the current collaboration. For example: joint publications, joint supervision of graduate researchers, joint teaching, joint policy documents, and joint funding applications.
 - Budget - A breakdown of the cost of the activity e.g. flights, local travel, accommodation etc.
 - Project Team - Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae of the team members with a selected list of publications.

Evaluation Criteria

A joint review panel will assess each proposal according to the academic merit and the following criteria:

- **Project design and rationale (25 points):** How clearly presented and justified is the

basis for, and design of, the Project? How do the proposed activities assist with establishing new and growing emerging research collaborations? What are the anticipated benefits of involving ECRs and/or graduate researchers?

- **Collaborator complementarity (25 points):** What is the added value of the new or emerging collaboration? How do the proposed activities combine mutual areas of interest and strength?
- **Potential impact (20 points):** What desired outcomes do the planned activities set out to achieve? What are the anticipated benefits of the activities to local or international communities?
- **Capacity for future collaboration/funding (30 points):** What is the potential for this project to foster ongoing collaboration, and through what mechanism(s)? How well does the proposed collaboration plan to access external funding?

A fEC costing is not required. The budget section of the application is straightforward and should not require input from Research Services teams. However, if you feel you need support then please follow local School procedures for submitting grant applications.

Reporting After Project Completion

All awardees must, as a condition of receiving an award under this call, complete a narrative report that describes the outcomes, nature of collaboration, project impact, trainee involvement and opportunities for future collaboration that evolved from their project.

Information about this Call

The University of Manchester

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