The University of Manchester Global Fund
Guidelines for UoM Applicants - Autumn 2026

Summary of fund

Deadline	**Tuesday 27 October 2026, 17:00 (UK time) ***
Amount available from UoM	£5,000 per project from UoM with additional, similar funding available from the partner institution. Some projects have a higher limit, and this will be noted on the StaffNet funding page in due course
Funder	The University of Manchester
Co-funders	Different partner institutions will join each funding round; see the link in the guidance below for more details
Project start date	February 2027*
Project lengths	Up to 18 months

***Please note the deadline for applications with Peking University (PKU) is Thursday 1 October 2026, 17:00 (UK time), with project start dates from 20 October.**

Background

After several years of successful bilateral international research seed fund calls, The University of Manchester is launching a new biannual **UoM Global Fund**, in order to increase operational efficiencies and agility. The UoM Global Fund will run in the autumn and spring (UK) annually.

Partner Institutions

Please see the StaffNet funding page **here** for the current partners in this round.

Please note that these guidelines are for colleagues at The University of Manchester only, and partner colleagues should read guidance from their own institutions.

Purpose and aim

The purpose of the UoM Global fund is to encourage research collaborations with global partners resulting in **joint/co-authored publications in leading journals** or **external research funding applications**. Funds will be awarded to projects that clearly demonstrate their planned pathway to achieving these aims.

As the funding for the project is both internal and external, all proposals will be assessed by reviewers from both universities.

Activity and scope

The proposed collaborative projects should present a balance between direct research and partnership-building activities, as appropriate. Projects can include:

- **Joint research activities:** scoping, feasibility, or proof of concept work.
- **Building networks:** exchange visits to work on a joint project or workshops needed to deliver the research outcome.

- **Skills training or experience:** using equipment or access to labs/cultural institutions in the partner institution for the purpose of meeting the research outcome.

Projects that primarily focus on teaching, training or workshops **will not be eligible**.

Projects should bring together a small network of researchers from both institutions rather than one-to-one researcher-based projects. At least one **Early Career Researcher**[1] from The University of Manchester should be included.

Priority research themes

The 26/27 UoM Global Fund proposals should reflect one of the following broad themes, as set by the UoM Research Team:

- Creative Industries
- Digital Futures
- Healthier Futures
- Sustainable Futures.

These themes are similar to the UoM Research Platforms. Manchester colleagues who want to join a platform mailing list can sign up through the webpage here.

Funding and Project Length

Projects will be funded for a period of 18 months starting from February 2027 onwards. Projects can start later than this, but all projects need to be completed by 1 September 2028*. No extensions will be given, and any unspent funds will be returned to the funder (UoM).

Timeline

Call for proposals opens	Tuesday 15 September 2026, 09:00 (UK time)
Deadline for submission	Tuesday 27 October 2026, 17:00 (UK time) *
Applicants notified	Late December*
Project start date	1 February onwards*

***Please note the deadline for applications with Peking University (PKU) is Thursday 1 October 2026, 17:00 (UK time), with project start dates from 20 October.**

Applicants and project team

Please note that applicants who have received UoM international research seed funds in the last two years are not eligible this year.

We encourage the involvement of Early Career Researchers (ECRs) either as the principal investigators (PIs) or as members of the project team. Please check the eligibility listed below for other criteria. Please note that PhD students are not eligible as PIs/institutional leads, but we encourage PIs to include them as part of the project team.

[1] Definitions of ECRs:
Manchester: an individual who is within six years of their first academic appointment. This duration excludes any period of career break.

Project leads/PIs

- **New collaboration -** The proposal must be a new collaboration, i.e. the PIs/institutional leads have not jointly published or received joint funding before.
- **Eligibility of external research funding** - The PI/institutional lead should also be eligible to apply for external research funding.
- **Research lead from each institution -** A proposal MUST be led by a researcher from UoM and a lead/PI from one of the listed international partners (see additional eligibility criteria below).
- **Other types of contracts -** Emeritus, honorary or staff contracted with The University of Manchester-affiliated trusts or hospitals, are not eligible to apply as a PI/institutional lead but can be members of the project team.
- **Contract status** - The PI/institutional lead does not need to have a permanent post, but they must have an existing contract with The University of Manchester at the time of application, and that contract must cover the full period of the grant.
- **Multiple applications –** Applicants may only lead one application per partner institution but can be listed in the project team on other applications with the same partner. Applicants may lead on different projects with different partners.

Project team

- **Minimum team numbers** - To be eligible, projects need at **least three named researchers** from each partner institution; the PI/lead is counted as one of these. At UoM, researchers can include PhD students and post-doctoral fellows. We encourage ECRs to apply. PhD students or colleagues on non-research contracts may be included in the project team but cannot lead a project.
- **Early Career Researcher** - To be eligible, projects MUST include an **ECR** either as the lead or within the project team.
- **Mutual external collaborators -** Researchers from other universities internationally, or those working in non-academic contexts such as industry or government, cannot lead an application but can be involved in the proposed activities at their own expense, where the benefit of their involvement to the collaboration is justified in the proposal.

Funding available

Funding from The University of Manchester will be up to £5,000 per project to support Manchester researchers, unless otherwise stated. Similar funding is available from our global partners.

Costs and Budget

- The budget section of the application can be easily completed and should not require input from Research Services teams.
- 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.
- Each partner should pay its own costs, and there can be no transfer of funds between institutions. For example, travel costs for Manchester colleagues should be in the Manchester budget, and costs for a workshop taking place in a partner institution location should be allocated in the partner institution budget.
- Each institution will pay funds directly to its researchers. Approval of expenditure will be governed by each university for the portion of funding provided.

- **UoM researchers** – All applicants must take into consideration the University Travel Policy, 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.
- **UoM researchers** – A fEC costing is not required. Please note that only directly incurred costs are allowed and not directly allocated.
- **UoM researchers** – It is possible to include a small amount of directly incurred staffing costs into the budget, such as a Research Assistant (see table below). For cost guidance, please see the UoM Staff Rate Card here (UoM log in required).

Eligible Costs	Ineligible costs
• Travel costs including flights, hotels and subsistence • Directly incurred staff, e.g. Research Assistant** (up to 20% of a £5,000 Manchester budget, e.g. £1K) • Research costs including consumables, lab equipment or data collection (up to 20% of a £5,000 Manchester budget, e.g. £1K) • Costs associated with organising workshops and meetings.	• Replacement research/teaching costs • Directly allocated costs including applicants' time*** • Indirect costs/estates costs • Equipment • Scholarships • Conference attendance • Costs for external speakers or workshop participants from other universities • Tuition fees • Honoraria • Society and group membership costs.

Directly incurred and directly allocated costs are terms used by UK funders:
*** Directly Incurred costs are project-specific (i.e. they arise as a direct consequence of the project taking place).*
**** Directly allocated costs are not project-specific (i.e. they are incurred whether or not the project takes place), and are estimated at project level, e.g. Investigator time, Technician time (where not directly incurred).*

How to Apply

This is a joint call, and a single application should be submitted online using SmartSurvey, unless otherwise stated on the application form.

The application can be completed collaboratively, and applicants should use the 'save and continue' feature to save the form and continue later (a link is sent to the applicant's email address). The link can be shared with collaborators to contribute to the application.

Supporting document requirements

Please note that the following supporting documents are required at the point of application:

- **Each institution's lead/PI:** Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae (not more than 2 pages) with a selected list of publications.
- **Manchester applicant:** A letter of support from your Manager/Head of Department/Research Director, which includes an explanation of how the project aligns with the research delivery plan.
- **Partner supporting documents: PIs/leads from partners institutions should check what is required from their own institutions.**

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 emerging research collaborations?
- **Collaborator complementarity and impact (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? What are the anticipated benefits of involving early-stage/early career researchers and/or graduate researchers/PhD students?
- **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? How does the proposal demonstrate strong relevance to the strategic priorities of the partner institutions?
- **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? Provide an outline for potential follow-up steps following the project.

Reporting after project completion

Following completion of the project, all awardees must complete a narrative report that describes the outcomes, nature of collaboration, project impact, contributions of team members, and opportunities for future collaboration that evolved from the project.

Once the project has been completed, the grant holders will be sent a report form to complete. The initial report should be submitted within six weeks of the project end date.

A further updated report will be required after one year and after three years of completion of the project.

Any additional reporting criteria required by our global partners for their colleagues will be noted on the application or the partner website.

Contact information

If you have any questions about the call and how to apply, UoM colleagues can contact the team below:

The University of Manchester
International Relations
E: international.partnerships@manchester.ac.uk