

# Partnership Fund to Support University-Wide Initiatives between

## University of Liverpool and University of Alberta

The University of Alberta and the University of Liverpool are research intensive ambitious universities with historic similarities. There is a shared understanding that collaboration in key areas could result in significant positive outcomes and impacts leading to a long-term strategic partnership. To that end, both institutions will commit to a joint Fund to enable and catalyse workshops and other collaborative activities.

### Objectives

The Fund's objective is to support new initiatives by providing seed funding for:

- workshops and meetings (in person and online),
- short-term individual visits for researchers to facilitate research-led activities, and
- collaborative research activities.

It is designed to enable individuals/groups to identify complementary strengths and co-produce ideas for new joint activities that cannot be achieved by either side alone. Bids for access to funding should target one or more of the outcomes below:

- draw up joint proposals for funding from respective funding agencies;
- joint proposals for funding and engagement with business/ industry;
- joint submissions to high impact academic journals;
- joint research and/or activities leading to new intellectual property or development of prototypes for commercialisation;
- joint proposals to city/ regional government/ other entities for civic impact.

### Funding and Research Themes

The Fund has an annual total budget of GBP £29,000 for the U of Liverpool and CAD \$50,000 for the U of Alberta for each of 3 years. Five (5) projects will be funded each year (each project receiving up to GBP £5,800 from U of Liverpool and up to CAD \$10,000 from U of Alberta). Funds from each institution allocated to successful proposals will stay with the funding institution for use by the institution's own faculty members; that is, there is no transfer of funds between institutions.

The fund will support the development of collaborations in areas of complementary strength. **The specific priority themes (eligible areas) will be announced each year with the call for proposals, with a focus on encouraging research projects that are multidisciplinary across the themes.** The themes (eligible areas) for 2024 are:

- **Health** across life stages from pediatrics to healthy ageing and resilience, including digital health, data driven decision making and health equity, infection, pandemic preparedness, vaccines, cell therapies, personalised medicine and one health.
- **Climate and Energy** research and development in clean energy ranging from materials for hydrogen, solar fuel cells, marine systems and tidal energy, carbon capture, storage and utilization, resource use and circularity.

### **Accessing the Fund**

The primary applicants (Principal Investigators) must be current academic staff (faculty members) at U of Alberta and U of Liverpool and must hold full-time, permanent positions at their respective universities. Each proposal must include one Co-Principal Investigator from U of Alberta and one Co-Principal Investigator from U of Liverpool. Applicants must submit a written project proposal within the application template.

A complete proposal MUST contain:

- A completed application template that includes a clearly articulated description of the project including: the identification of the primary applicants / co-Principal Investigators (co-PIs) from each of U of Alberta and U of Liverpool; the motivation for the collaboration; the identified synergy; as described in paragraph 2 of this document, the short- and long-term objectives and anticipated outcomes; identification of likely future funding opportunities including how current and impending (Horizon Eu) government funded programs could be utilized.
- An application must also include:
  - ✓ A detailed time-line with mile-stones, as appropriate
  - ✓ A detailed budget
  - ✓ Two-page short CV of the lead U of Alberta and U of Liverpool applicants (co-PIs)
- In addition to the two Co-PIs, applications may include other U of Alberta or U of Liverpool faculty members or post-doctoral trainees as team members.
- A faculty member can serve as a Co-PI on no more than one application per application cycle. There is no limit to the number of applications a faculty member can participate on as a team member.
- Third party universities, or institutions, for-profit, or not-for-profit organizations may join an application, on the condition that it/they bring matching funds to the project.

Eligible expense budget items include:

- Travel costs (economy class airfare only)
- Visas if applicable
- Accommodation costs
- Per-diems, or expenses by individual receipts in accordance with travel guidelines of the home institution.
- Hosting (meeting rooms, food and beverage, etc.)
- Workshop, or seminar materials (hand-outs, etc.)
- Laboratory consumables related to the project.
- Access to data or facilities

All eligible expenses MUST occur within the dates set for the funding of the project. The budget and milestones will be carefully evaluated and a lesser amount may be awarded to a successful project than that which was applied for.

Funding from the U of Liverpool to the U of Liverpool researchers is limited to one financial year from the start of the project. Funding from U of Alberta to U of Alberta researchers is limited to one year from the project start date.

Extensions are not automatic and will be subject to the approval of both institutions.

Proposals must be sent electronically (**as one pdf**) to your institution's Panel Secretary listed below and must be submitted complete. As a rule, no 'to follow' will be considered when evaluating an application.

Panel Secretaries:

**University of Alberta** - Dr. John Bell ([john.bell@ualberta.ca](mailto:john.bell@ualberta.ca)), International Research Officer, Office of the Vice-President (Research and Innovation).

**University of Liverpool** - Ms. Helen Carlin ([hcarlin@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:hcarlin@liverpool.ac.uk)), International Development Office.

### **Selection Process**

Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis.

Funding decisions will be made by a review panel made up of equal representatives from U of Alberta and U of Liverpool, with each partner selecting appropriate representatives.

Applicants will be informed of the outcome following the joint review, with funding available as soon as possible within the capacity of each organisation's administrative processes.

All decisions are final and may not be appealed.

### **Reporting**

The Co-PIs will be required to provide a final report to the Panel Secretaries of both U of Alberta and U of Liverpool within two months of the project end date. The major criteria for judging the success of the partnership will be the project outcomes (relative to the project plan) and future direction of the research including attraction of major external funding awards.

### **Third Parties**

Where projects involve collaborators from other institutions, U of Alberta and U of Liverpool expect that there will be appropriate agreements put in place depending on the projects and nature of collaboration (i.e., confidentiality, IP) to ensure that projects are completed in accordance with the expectations of the Partnership Fund.

### **For University of Alberta applicants only**

Development and submission of an NSERC Alliance International Catalyst grant, if eligible, requesting up to CAD \$25,000, will be required as a condition of funding for applicants from NSERC supported disciplines. These grants will allow Canadian researchers to identify and initiate the first stage of collaboration with the intent of supporting exploratory research activities and furthering exchanges for Canadian researchers and personnel.