

New Zealand Centre & IIT Delhi Research Collaboration Development Seed Fund

Call for Collaborative Research and Exchange Proposals

Introduction

New Zealand (NZ) universities and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) are contributing matching funds to support collaborative and interdisciplinary education and research initiatives through a joint call for proposals to develop collaborative activities that will lead to sustainable development programmes with impactful research outcomes.

This will be executed through the Multi Institutional Faculty Interdisciplinary Projects (MFIRP) scheme at IITD. At NZ universities it will be executed on the level of the participating Universities the principal investigators (PIs) belong to.

This invitation for submission is open to faculty members affiliated with one of New Zealand's eight universities and IITD in all disciplines. Successful proposals will:

- (i) demonstrate the potential to be sustainable through external funding sources
- (ii) involve a clear collaborative effort between faculty members of the partnering universities

Faculty members of IITD and NZ University will jointly prepare project proposals for the seed grant of US\$ 5,000* (an equivalent amount in Indian Rupee 3.75 Lakh) from IITD and US\$ 5,000* from the respective NZ universities for 1-year project duration. In the case where there is more than one partner from New Zealand, the amount of US\$ 5000 will be shared by the respective universities.

** The fund amount in local currency is subject to the currency exchange rates at the time of disbursement.*

It is expected that each funded project will prepare a suitable proposal for further, potentially external, funding post completion of the project tenure of one year. This is in addition to research output(s) such as publications and is an important measure of success for the project in order to ensure its viability and sustainability.

1. Project Areas

- i) This call invites research proposals in areas of mutual interest and complementarity
- ii) Proposals must include participants from IITD and one or more NZ universities. Interdisciplinary projects are particularly encouraged.
- iii) It is expected that a faculty member would participate in one project at a time.
- iv) Proposals from all fields are welcome, especially where a synergistic benefit (either basic/applied/translational) can be demonstrated by an inter-institutional collaboration including Cancer genomics, MedTech, Robotics & Automation (particularly in agriculture) and wastewater treatment.

2. Eligibility for participants

The submission is open to regular faculty members of IITD and the eight NZ universities.

Note for NZ academics:

Applicants must be members of academic or professional staff employed by the University. To apply for funds to explore research collaboration, applicants must be academic staff members with an employment contract that specifies they must undertake research. Staff members employed on fixed-term or part-time contracts are eligible to apply provided that the term of their contract is two years or more, their appointment is 0.2 FTE or greater and they can demonstrate in their application that benefits of the travel will be realised within the remaining duration of the contract.

3. Collaboration Activities

Collaboration activities should be based on joint projects set up by faculty/staff members of participating institutions, including:

- Joint research projects
- Joint doctoral student on research projects
- Any other form of partnerships, to be promoted and implemented jointly when participating institutions find it mutually beneficial

4. Value and Duration of Award

1. Up to ten awards are expected to be made.
2. The funding is a one-time award with no opportunity for renewal.
3. Each successful project proposal will receive a maximum of US\$ 5,000/- (an equivalent amount in Indian Rupee 3.75 Lakh) from IITD to IITD faculty member and US\$ 5,000/- from NZ University to NZ University faculty member.
4. At IITD funds can be used for contingency, consumables and support staff salary.
5. The budget provided by IITD and NZ University should be spent as per norms and regulations followed in each institute.

5. Timeline

Call for proposals	Friday, 4 th Feb 2022
Deadline for submission of proposal	Friday, 20 th May 2022
Communication of results to applicants	Friday, 24 th June 2022
Announcement of Awards	Tuesday, 5 th July 2022

6. Identifying Academics at IITD and NZ universities

- i) To identify academics at either institution, please refer to the institutional websites in the first instance. Please refer to [Link-1](#).
- ii) For further assistance please contact:

IITD applicants

Professor Sunil Kumar Khare, Email: deanrnd@admin.iitd.ac.in

NZ university applicants

NZ University	International Office
University of Auckland	Deepa Tripathi Chaturvedi dt.chaturvedi@auckland.ac.nz
Auckland University of Technology	Rhiannon mckenzie-smit rhiannon.mckenzie-smit@aut.ac.nz
Victoria University of Wellington	Rebecca Needham rebecca.needham@vuw.ac.nz
University of Canterbury	Ryan Thomas ryan.thomas@canterbury.ac.nz
Massey University	Nalar, Farhana F.Nalar@massey.ac.nz
Otago University	Megan Smith megan.smith@otago.ac.nz
Lincoln University	Annie Goh annie.goh@lincoln.ac.nz
University of Waikato	Margaret Anderson margaret.anderson@waikato.ac.nz

7. Submission of Proposals

- i) Proposals are to be prepared and submitted with agreement from all participating researchers.
- ii) Proposals are to be submitted through an MFIRP online form by the IITD lead investigator. Therefore, it is crucial that collaborating NZ academics, liaise closely with their IITD counterparts. A copy of the MFIRP online form can be found in the [Link-2](#).
- iii) The IITD Principal Investigator will be responsible for submitting the final proposal on/before the deadline. After the submissions, the proposals will be sent to reviewing committee at IIT and New Zealand universities for decision-making.

Note: the teams will jointly prepare the proposal based on the format and IITD PI will upload the proposal in the online IRD system and share a soft copy with their partner(s) in New Zealand university.

The PI of the NZ University can share the soft copy with: Ms. Sheree Moanaroa; Senior Manager-International Growth, Universities New Zealand, Email: Sheree.Moanaroa@universitiesnz.ac.nz

8. Collaboration Activities

Collaboration activities may be based on joint projects set up by faculty members of both institutions, including:

- The project work can be part of the thesis/dissertation work of MD/MS/MCh/DM/MTech etc. However, the supporting staff should not receive funding from two sources at a time (the student will have a joint supervisor as co-guide).
- Collaborative Research Agreement, Intellectual Property Right and joint supervision issues will be addressed as per the guidelines of the two institutions described in detail in the IITD and NZ Centre MoU.
- It is expected that the joint research team will submit at least one research project to an external funding agency on completion of the project tenure.
- A final technical report highlighting the achievements vis-à-vis proposed objectives, outcome in terms of publications, patents, conference proceedings, etc. and details on project/projects submitted to an external agency will be submitted within 3 months after completion of joint project tenure.

9. Proposal Review and Selection Criteria

- i) Submitted proposals will be evaluated by a panel comprising leadership and academic experts from IITD and New Zealand Universities.
- ii) The following selection criteria will be applied in reviewing project proposals:
 - **Academic Quality of the Project** Novelty & Originality & Expertise of PIs & Co-PIs in the proposed area
 - **Project impact** how linked are the outcomes to the planned activities and performance indicators, such as joint papers, patents, external funding applications, joint research with industry, the proposal for policy recommendations, etc.
 - **Capacity for future collaboration** what is the extent to which future collaborations are possible as a result of the proposed activities.

10. Contacts

For any clarification points or questions on the joint call, please do not hesitate to contact the colleagues listed below:

IITD, New Delhi, India	NZ Universities, New Zealand
<p>Professor Sunil Kumar Khare Dean Research and Development Email: deanrnd@admin.iitd.ac.in</p> <p>&</p> <p>Dr Archana H Trivedi Research Development Coordinator Email: rnd_coordinator_aht@ird.iitd.ac.in</p>	<p>Ms Sheree Moanaroa Senior Manager-International Growth Universities New Zealand Email: sheree.Moanaroa@universitiesnz.ac.nz</p>