Collaborative Research Grant Scheme

UQ–IITD Research Academy

2026 Guidelines for Applicants

Background

The UQ-IITD Research Academy was established in 2018 as an unincorporated joint venture between The University of Queensland (UQ) and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD). UQ and IITD share a vision for success to contribute to the world through research excellence. This collaboration aims to support research impact and build a long-term, sustainable and mutually beneficial partnership to both institutions.

The Academy represents an innovative partnership that aims to develop a substantial transnational collaborative research program with the flagship initiative of a joint PhD program involving all faculties and research institutes at both institutions.

In support of this vision, the UQ-IITD Research Academy will offer collaborative research grant funding each year to promote a broadening of collaboration between UQ and IITD from 2024.

The third round of the Collaborative Research Grant Scheme is now open to applications, with a closing date of **Monday 16 November 2026**.

For more information about the UQ-IITD Research Academy, visit **www.uqiitd.org**

CRICOS 00025B • TEQSA PRV12080

Objectives

The UQ-IITD Research Academy Collaborative Research Grant (CRG) scheme aims to broaden international research and engagement between IITD and UQ. It is expected that these initial projects will lead to long-term collaborations, generate publications, new external funding, and achieve impact.

This call invites research proposals in areas of mutual interest and complementarity that strengthen partnerships between UQ and IITD.

Applicants from all schools, departments, and disciplines are encouraged to submit funding applications for innovative and sustainable projects built around **the 6 research themes** of the UQ-IITD Research Academy.

The research and engagement activities may take place in any country or region as long as it is done collaboratively between the two institutions. Third parties are encouraged to be included in the Collaborative Research Grant initiative, so long as it can be demonstrated that those institutions bring a specific and needed expertise, alongside their own research funding contribution.

The key aims of the Collaborative Research Grant are:

- To support enabling activities that bring together UQ and IITD academic staff with excellent and complementary expertise and capability.
- To address research questions with potential for high impact that could not be as effectively carried out by a partner on its own.
- To facilitate exploration of novel research concepts to a point at which significant external funding can be sought.
- To facilitate the development of new, shared educational provision leading to significant curriculum enhancement and student experience.
- To promote and facilitate groundbreaking interdisciplinary research.
- To demonstrate clearly the added value of the UQ-IITD Research Academy.

In 2026, joint applications of UQ and IITD academics are sought from the current 6 research themes of the UQ-IITD Research Academy including:

- Healthcare and Biotechnology.
- Quantum Technologies.
- Digital Futures and Artificial Intelligence.
- Societal Transformations and Livelihoods.
- Clean Energy and Sustainability.
- Advanced Materials and Manufacturing.

Funding details

Each UQ Principal Investigator will receive up to a maximum AUD $10,000 and IITD Principal Investigator will receive up to a maximum of INR 5,00,000 on selection of award.

Up to 6 collaborative research awards will be funded in 2026. All funded initiatives will be promoted via the UQ-IITD Research Academy website and are expected to be completed in a twelve-month period from the award date.

Eligibility criteria

The Collaborative Research Grant will be available to the whole UQ and IITD academic community.

Proposals must include at least one Principal Investigator (PI) from each institution; demonstrate a pathway to impact either in industry or societal impact and/or policy; and focus on sustainable development goals. Industry collaboration in the proposed projects is highly regarded. UQ PIs should have an ongoing role or contract that exceeds the project duration. Regular faculty members of IITD can participate in the call.

Projects that involve undertaking research in government restricted zones or borders are excluded from the call unless governmental clearances have been obtained.

This funding scheme aims to initiate and strengthen collaboration between UQ and IITD faculties. Each faculty member may participate in only one project proposal per funding round. In addition, funding may only be awarded once to an individual under this scheme. Faculty who have received funding through a previous round are therefore not eligible to apply or participate in a proposal again.

For IITD Applicants

Preference will be given to faculty members not having ongoing/previous Industrial Research & Development (IRD)-supported Global Research Partnership (GRP) project/ Multi-Institutional Faculty Interdisciplinary Research Projects (MFIRP).

Faculty members who are/were part of any two (2) successful MFIRP/GRP calls as a PI may not apply. The joint projects at IITD will be operated as per the **Global Research Partnerships (GRP) guideline.**

Eligible costs under the IITD grant include:

- International travel not exceeding INR 2 lakhs.
- Contingency not exceeding INR 2 lakhs.
- Consumables not exceeding INR 2 lakhs.
- Equipment (small purchases only, justifiable in line with project deliverables) not exceeding INR 50 thousand.
- Funds transfer to HPC/CRF/NRF not exceeding INR 50 thousand.

The following items are **not eligible** for funding under this scheme:

- Purchase of laptops, PCs, phones, tablets, projectors etc.
- Honorarium to PI/Co PIs.

Application process

1. Applicants must complete the Collaborative Research Grant **application form** in conjunction with their counterpart(s) at the partner institution.

2. Both PIs will need to sign the joint application to confirm their mutual agreement to submit a joint application.

3. The PI from IITD will be responsible for submission of the final joint proposal, via the **IITD IRIS GRP online portal** before the application deadline. The IITD counterpart will be responsible for submitting the final proposal by **16 November 2026 by 7pm (AEST) or 11:30pm (IST)**.

4. IITD Dean Research and Development (R&D) office will forward all the proposal submissions to the Research Academy office and UQ Global Partnerships for adjudication after the application deadline.

5. If a proposal is successful, the awarded funds will be transferred directly to the lead applicant (PI) by their respective institution. In accordance with the agreement between UQ and IIT Delhi, for the 2026 funding round, UQ will disburse the UQ-funded portion directly to the UQ PI, while IIT Delhi will disburse the IITD-funded portion directly to the IITD PI on selection of award.

6. Applicants should ensure that activities are planned and scheduled to enable completion within twelve months. No extensions will be granted.

7. All applications will be assessed and shortlisted independently. The IITD IRD office will send all applications to external experts for assessment. Simultaneously, all applications will be reviewed by the UQ Internal Review panel, which includes UQ Theme Leads.

8. The shortlists will be reviewed by the Joint Review Panel for final funding decisions.

9. Lead applicants will be notified of the application outcome within the designated timeframe.

Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed via a competitive selection process using the following criteria:

- Strategic fit to the UQ-IITD Research Academy's goals and vision, and align with one or more of the Academy research theme(s).
- Quality of initiative/activity plan as outlined in the application.
- Potential to produce tangible outputs and benefits (including how the proposed collaborative research project is considered to be the most efficient path for achieving these outputs).
- Evidence of involvement and contributions from an industry partner (in a form of funding co-contribution or/and in-kind contribution such as expertise, research facilities access, manpower, etc.).
- Potential to leverage external funding.
- Potential to expand upon existing or newly identified collaboration.

Please refer to the Appendix for further information regarding the assessment criteria.

Key dates

16 Oct 2026	Call for applications open
16 Nov 2026	Call for applications close
11 Dec 2026	Applicants notified of outcome
18 Dec 2026	Deadline to accept award funding
31 Dec 2026	Disbursement of funding
31 Dec 2027	Project completion deadline
29 Feb 2028	Report submission deadline

Contact

Please contact your home institution if you would like any additional information.

The University of Queensland
Mr Brett Lovegrove
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global Partnerships)
E: uqidarboard@uq.edu.au

Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
Professor Ashwini Kumar Agrawal
Dean (Research and Development)
E: deanrnd@admin.iitd.ac.in
E: uqiitd_par@admin.iitd.ac.in

Grant acquittal and reporting

1. Awardees must agree to comply with all terms and conditions related to the receipt of funding including deadlines and procedures for acquittal of funds and reporting on outcomes.

2. Awardees will have up to a maximum of 12 months after the award date to utilise the funds.

3. Funds that are not utilised within the specified period will be withdrawn.

4. Upon completion of the project awardees will have a maximum of 2 months to submit a brief report outlining the successes and outcomes of the project.

5. Report forms will be provided to Project Leads. A full report of outputs from the funding are to be reported a year after the project completed.

6. This report will be used by the UQ-IITD Research Academy for the follow up of potential opportunities and reporting on outcomes, and will potentially be highlighted on the Academy, UQ, and IITD.

7. All awarded project teams are required to present their work in progress at the Academy annual symposium.

8. If a funded project includes international travel, award holders must abide by the official reporting, insurance and registration requirements as outlined in IITD and UQ policies.

UQ: **policies.uq.edu.au/travel**

IITD: **iitd.ac.in/policies/travel**

Ethics

It is the applicants' responsibility to follow and obtain any required ethics approvals from their respective institution.

For UQ applicants:

Please check UQ's guidelines regarding research ethics and research integrity ahead of submitting your proposal. UQ applicants are responsible for reading **these guidelines** and ensuring projects adhere to UQ's policies

For IITD applicants:

For the projects involving research in Human Subjects please check the guidelines and formalities with the Institute Ethics Committee of IITD Delhi for clearance before submitting the project proposal. The institute Ethics Committee Clearance form for projects is **available online.**

For the project related to handling hazardous microorganisms and/or Genetically Engineered Organisms, please check the guidelines and regulation with the Institutional Biosafety Committee before submitting the project proposal. The Institutional Biosafety Committee Clearance form for projects is **available online.**

Governance and Intellectual Property

- All projects will follow terms and conditions set out in the Research Collaboration Umbrella Agreement for the scheme. The agreement is available upon request.
- A project agreement will be signed by both UQ and IITD PI's and the third party as applicable.
- UQ PIs are required to submit their awarded projects to UQ MyResearch portal in line with UQ Research Office requirements.
- Eligible expenditure items must comply with UQ and IITD policy.

Appendix. Detailed assessment criteria for Collaborative Research Grant Scheme

Assessment criteria	Evidence required	Scale (total 100)
Strategic fit (advancing and sustaining the Academy's goals and vision)	Clear information on how the proposed project would enhance the development of one of the established themes of the Academy and contribute to sustaining and strengthening the Academy's goals and vision.	15
Quality of initiative/ activity	How well the application has been considered and planned, and the strength of its potential for taking forward a development or collaboration. Are the goals stretching but achievable? Using data to substantiate, the bid identifies the need for and value of the proposed research and how this ties in with the UQ and IITD research objectives. Include supporting details on how the project would be significantly enhanced as a result of it being undertaken through the UQ-IITD Research Academy rather than by an individual academic or institution.	15
Partnership with industry	Initiatives with industry partnerships or industry involvement will be prioritized. Contributions from industry partners may come in the form of grant funding co-contribution, access to infrastructure, provision of a researcher for the project, or the allocation of manpower to be part of the project. Preference will be given to proposals with such support. A signed letter of support from the industry, clearly outlining the type of partnership and the specific support being offered to the proposal, must be provided.	20
Anticipated Outcomes and Impact	Specific reference to outcomes and benefits that are anticipated to be a direct result from this project, with timetable. How likely are these? How significant? Communicate how this project will create academic and/or non-academic impact in a way that will benefit and elevate the global reputations of both UQ and IITD. What is this potential impact and when, where and by whom might it be felt? • Academic impact: Specific reference to outcomes and benefits that are anticipated to be a direct result from this project such as publications/ patents/technology developed or commercialised, with timetable. How likely are these and its significance? • Non-academic impact: Examples of non-academic impact could include, but are not limited to, influence on government policy and decision making, changes to public service practices/ guidelines (including references in guidelines), measures of improved public services, measures of improved health outcomes, measures of improved sustainability and environmental public awareness.	15
Value for money	Is the proposal offering value for money? Is it communicating strong evidence of: a unique research opportunity that is in line with the UQ-IITD Research Academy's purpose mobilising a new or already interested, but perhaps disparate, research group, or disciplines, to come together and collaborate for the purpose of step change quality research project management capabilities of the proposers - reassurance that, if funded, the project will run on time, to budget and deliver against agreed aims, activities and outcomes tangible and quantifiable outcomes and impact for the benefit of the institutions as well as the more immediate group the potential to publish high quality papers, influence policy.	15
Potential to expand collaboration and leverage external funding	Evidence of strength and potential of the relationship. How can the group and its work develop beyond the project? What mechanisms will be used to ensure ongoing communications and interaction? Clear sense of potential trajectory for the project and the relationship. Clear details of how the project aims to leverage external funding as a direct result of this award.	20