Call for Proposals
IIT Madras & University of Hull JFBMP-Partnership Collaboration Awards
Round 3 (2025-2026)
Guidelines for Applicants

Purpose

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) and the University of Hull have identified each other as strategic partners to foster deep collaborations in research and education. IIT Madras & the University of Hull JFBMP-Partnership Collaboration Awards (PCA) have been established to facilitate and support joint initiatives that will strengthen the two universities' strategic priorities as well as develop multi-disciplinary cutting-edge research to create academic and societal impact.

Applicants are encouraged to submit funding proposals for innovative and sustainable programs built around collaborative research linking IIT Madras and the University of Hull. Proposals for learning and teaching initiatives may also be considered if included as part of a larger collaborative research proposal.

Proposals should plan for long-term engagement that includes leveraging external funding and publication outputs. Proposals must include a team of participants from both institutions and are encouraged to include PhD or masters by research students, postdocs, Early- and Mid-Career Researchers (EMCR) and researchers on sabbatical leave. Projects which are multidisciplinary in nature are encouraged.

1. Eligibility

1.1 Proposals are invited from academic staff at IIT Madras and the University of Hull and their affiliated Research Centres and Institutes with experience of conducting innovative and sustainable research in the following areas:

- AI in Research
- Sustainability in Industrial systems
- Circularity/Waste to Value

Research proposals should be underpinned using one or more of the following enabling technologies:
- Artificial Intelligence
- Data Science
- Internet of Things
- Digital Twin
- Industry 4.0

1.2 Applicants from affiliated Research Centres and Institutes must be University Title Holders.

1.3 Investigators must be employed on a full-time.

1.4 PhD and masters by research students, post-docs, and research assistants/associates are not eligible to apply as Investigators but they are welcome to join the applications.

1.5 Projects led by researchers who have not previously received PCA funding will be given preference.

1.6 Current recipients of PCA funding whose project is still ongoing and will not have finished by the application close date may apply for concurrent grants but are required to submit a progress report of their current project when submitting their application. The progress report should be an attachment to the application – single page, narrative update on project progress to date and unexpended award balance.

1.7 Previous recipients of PCA funding whose projects have finished or will have finished by the application close date may apply for consecutive grants if they have submitted their final report and can provide clear evidence of progress towards applying for full external funding bids (e.g. joint publications, specific funding calls they will target and timescale for applications) and/or industry support for the project.

2. Funding Available

In this round £20,000 is available to fund research projects. Applicants may bid for the funds they need to complete their proposed project and cost in detail how the funds will be allocated. Each successful proposal may receive up to the equivalent of 50% of the allocated funds from each university.

The following figures have been produced as a guideline for applicants:

Intention of activity	Suggested funding limits (£)
New research, proof of concept and supporting workshops: (1) collecting data, (2) data analysis and (3) data interpretation and (4) dissemination of results	Up to £10,000
Extension of existing research collaborations that demonstrate clear progress towards applying for full external funding bids (e.g. joint publications, specific funding calls to be targeted and timescale for applications) and/or industry support for the project	Over £10,000

3. Duration

Funding from IIT Madras is available from award until 3 July 2026*.
Funding from the University of Hull is available from award until 3 July 2026.
*or 1 year from the date of award

4. How to apply

4.1 Discuss the project outline/ideation with the relevant Partnership Coordinator (see Page 9: Further Information) in order that they can provide pre-application support and ensure the involvement of the relevant professional service staff at each university.

4.2 A copy of the application form will then be shared with applicants. A draft copy of the application should then be prepared and discussed with the Partnership Coordinator and support teams at each university before being formally submitted.

4.3. Completed applications must be submitted by email to globalstrategy@hull.ac.uk. The deadline for applications is **Wednesday 22 October 2025**.

4.4 All applications must be jointly submitted by an Investigator from IIT Madras and an Investigator from University of Hull.

4.5 Only complete submissions will be considered.

4.6 Late applications will not be considered without prior agreement.

5. Important Dates

Applications open	18 August 2025
Applications close	22 October 2025
Successful applicants notified	31 October 2025
Earliest start date for projects	3 November 2025
Latest date for projects to end	By 3rd July 2026
Final reports due	By 31st August 2026

6. Eligible Grant Activities

6.1 Activities that will be considered for funding include:
- Airfares: Only travel on economy class will be considered
- Other travel expenses (e.g. train, rental car)
- Costs for hosting seminars/conferences or workshops
- Accommodation and subsistence
- Consumables
- Publications and printing costs

6.2 All travel activities must comply with the guidelines of the respective universities.

- IIT Madras – All IIT Madras travel must comply with its relevant travel policy.

IITM staff must apply through workflow, obtain letter of support upon invitation from partner institute as well as apply for VISA and submit expenses post-travel
- University of Hull – All University of Hull faculty travel must comply with its relevant travel policy.

6.3 Activities that will not be considered for funding:
- General teaching;
- An individual staff member's research projects, unless as catalytic funding for the establishment of an international research collaboration with the prospect of external funding;
- Event registration fees;
- Venue hire if event held on campus
- Website development;
- Salaries or salary supplementation, and honoraria (Research/ project assistants may be possible with the approval of JFBMP advisor-Global Engagement IIT Madras/ Finance Manager and Head of School);
- Scholarships for students;
- Course fees for international students;
- Bench fees;
- Mobile phone cards;
- Entertainment costs; and
- Computers, including laptops (excluding access to high-performance computers or other specialised applications that are justified by the project) and basic computing facilities such as printers, word processing and other standard software.

7. Submission Requirements
All proposals must include the following elements:
- JFBMP proposal -PCA Application Form
- Details of team involved and the role and contribution of each member
- Expected outcomes
- Selection criteria
- Project timeline
- Project budget
- Written endorsement of the project by each institution's lead for research security(if applicable)
- Evidence of relevant organisational approval and support of the application

8. Scoring and Selection Criteria

8.1 Criteria do not have weightings; proposals are assessed holistically. Each proposal will be assessed according to the selection criteria described below.

Score	Category	Justification
10	Excellent	Proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor
7 to 9	Very Good	Proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present
4 to 6	Good	Proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present
1 to 3	Weak	Criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses

Selection Criteria	Description
Quality & Relevance	- Clearly describe the objectives and methodology to be employed with the project. The alignment with strategic priorities and the objectives of the funding scheme will be considered in combination with the soundness of the concept and credibility of the proposed methodology. - Explain how the participants in the research team will bring together the necessary expertise to carry out the project. The 2-page CVs of the Chief Investigators will be taken into consideration. 300 word maximum
Execution	- Elaborate on the workplan and milestones outlined in the timeframe (there are separate sections in the application form for an outline of activities in the Timeline and Budget). Proposed timeframes and budget estimates should be realistic and appropriate. - The long-term plan for engagement to attract research funding and produce publications will be taken into consideration. - This section should also address the appropriateness of the allocation of tasks, ensuring that all participants [including PhD or Masters by research students, postdocs, Early and Mid-Career Researchers (EMCR)[*1], and any researchers on Sabbatical Leave] have a valid role and there are adequate resources in the project to enable them to fulfil that role. 300 word maximum
Impact	- Outline what the participants will gain from the project and how it will contribute to the discipline and field of research. - Explain how the project will establish or strengthen a durable cooperation between the universities and participants. - Explain how the project will impact beyond the academic sphere (i.e. benefit society, address global challenges, Sustainable Development Goals, etc). - Explain how the project activities and results will be communicated to different target audiences.

	• 300 word maximum

*1Early-Career Researchers are defined as those within 10 years of award of PhD and Mid-Career Researchers are defined as those between 10-15 years of award of PhD.

8.2. Proposals should detail actions being taken to remove or reduce barriers to research, impact and knowledge exchange. The project should be designed to be inclusive of recruiting all individuals with equal opportunities based on the individual's involvement within the project. Effective methods should also be identified to disseminate the findings of the project through multiple means in an inclusive manner to generate impact that is accessible to all.

8.3. Applications should address all IP concerns which may be applicable to the project, documenting mitigations of any identified risk (e.g. export control legislation for any projects which may require export licenses / notification). This should be endorsed in writing by their institution's lead for research security.

9. Expected Outcomes
It is expected that the selected proposal will result in the following outcomes:

Category	Outcome
Research quality and influence	The research: - will advance knowledge in the field which addresses an issue of importance - may result in fundamental outcomes - is innovative in concept - will use well established approaches to good effect
Publications	**At least one** (1) referred publication in a nationally/internationally recognised scholarly journal
External funding	**At least one** (1) Category 1-3[(*2)] national/international competitive grant submission. Details of the external funding bodies to which you plan to submit applications must be identified within the application form. Proof of submission is required in the final report.

Training & education	Supervision and mentoring of visiting PhD students/postdoctoral researchers/ECRs
Joint Workshop	A joint workshop at either institution. This may be in-person, virtual or hybrid.
Conference	A conference presentation. This may be online.

Industry engagement is encouraged but not expected. If proposals include industry engagement, then details should be provided in the timeline/activities section of the online application.

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Category 1: Competitive grants such as UKRI Funding, Research councils For example, the AHRC, ESRC, MRC, etc.
Category 2: Other Public Sector Research Funding. Other Indian/United Kingdom Government schemes (including govt and public funded bodies)
Category 3: Industry and other Funding for Research. Research grants or contract research with Indian/United Kingdom or international industry or non-Government agencies. Funding through donations/ CSR (corporate social responsibility) or any other sources

10. Assessment Process
Award selection will be made by a joint committee formed by members of both universities, which reserves final authority over the selection of projects considering university and faculty strategic priorities, and the availability of funds.

11. Notification of Application Outcomes
Successful applicants will receive a letter of award outlining the process to accept the award including payment. Feedback on individual applications will not be provided.

12. Change of Investigator
Awardees should contact the Partnership Coordinator at each institution. Such changes will need to be approved and documented.

13. Extensions
Only under exceptional circumstances will extensions to be approved. Requests for extensions must be submitted to the Program Coordinators in writing at least 2 months before project end date and include a revised budget and timeline of activities for consideration. Projects must not exceed the duration of the award (3 July 2026).

14. Forfeiture of Grants

Grants must be spent by 3 July 2026. For IITM researchers, the fund can be claimed as per the allotted budget from the ICSR project account created for this award. The funds can be claimed post travel by submitting relevant bills. For University of Hull, successful researchers fund claim is as per university policy.

15. Financial and Reporting Obligations

1. The funding should only be used for the approved project and in accordance with the proposal and the budget plan. It must not be used for any other purposes and prior approval from both universities is needed for any variation in the budget items. Request for variations from original proposals must be submitted to both universities for approval.
2. Awardees must adhere to the purchasing guidelines of the respective universities to which reimbursement is to be sought. Reimbursement of each expenditure item will be capped at the approved amount.
3. Awardees must submit **an interim** and a **final report** to the respective campus coordinators at IIT Madras and The University of Hull. The final report must be completed by the University of Hull.
4. Failure to submit completed reports will result in all members of the project team being ineligible to submit future funding applications.
5. The activation of research funding accounts and the submission of claims are not contingent upon obtaining ethics or other necessary approvals. It is the responsibility of Investigators to ensure that no work requiring such approval commences until such approvals are in place.

16. Marketing and Communications

Awardees may be contacted by the office of GE publicity/social media team for the purposes of promoting their successful funding application and informing others of their research.

17. Publications

Any publications (e.g. abstracts, articles) or dissemination (e.g. public presentations) arising from activities supported by the PCA should acknowledge assistance received from the PCA and copies or notification should be submitted to the Office of Global & Research Engagement at IIT Madras and the Global Strategy Office at the University of Hull. The standard acknowledgment is "IIT-Madras- University of Hull JFBMP Partnership Collaboration Awards".

Further Information

For further information please contact the Partnership Coordinators:

IIT Madras	University of Hull
Ranjitha KV, JFBMP Coordinator	Robert Skelton Clarke

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