

King's and Indian Institute of Technology Madras JFBMP-Partnership Collaboration Awards

Call for Proposals – Round 2

King's College London (King's) and Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT Madras) are launching a second round of our joint call to develop research and education collaborations and to support strategic engagement between our two institutions. Awards are available to support interdisciplinary and innovative research addressing current global challenges and/or the co-development of education and training opportunities. The seed grants aim to develop new collaborations and projects, as well as build on existing synergies and support bids for larger-scale research funding, cross-disciplinary international networks, collaborative education delivery and capacity building for early-career researchers in the framework of long-term partnerships. Each institution will make awards in the region of £5,000 per project (meaning projects can receive in the region of £10,000 total), however larger financial awards (up to the value of £10,000 per institution per project, meaning a total project value of £20,000) will be considered if a strong case for more funding and expected impact (e.g. projects involving curriculum development or which will lead to a larger grant proposal) can be made in the application.

The key dates for this funding round are as follows:

- **Applications open:** Wednesday, 30th April 2025
- **Applications close:** Sunday, 8th June 2025
- **Awards announced:** By end of July 2025
- **Earliest project start date:** From 4th August 2025
- **Project completion date:** By 31st July 2026
- **Project reports to be submitted:** By 31st October 2026.

Submission of proposals

- The application (which can be downloaded [here](#)) should be submitted jointly by one lead King's academic and one lead IIT Madras academic to the King's Global Engagement office (globalengagement@kcl.ac.uk) via email by **23:59 GMT on 8th June / 5:30am IST on 9th June**. Details on how to apply can be found in Annex 1 (King's academics) and Annex 2 (IITM academics).
- **All IITM researchers must apply in parallel through the GE-IITM portal:** [Application Form](#)
- Only complete submissions will be considered.
- Late applications will not be considered.

Duration:

Funding from IIT Madras is available from award until 31st July 2026.

Funding from King's College London is available from award until 31st July 2026.

Selection criteria

Funding for proposals is provided on a competitive basis. Proposals will be reviewed by a joint King's and IIT Madras committee and chosen by the merit of the following:

- Defined objectives and tangible outcomes of the activities (E.g.: publications; future joint research proposals; future external funding sources)
- Feasibility, creativeness, scientific excellence and impact of research activity
- Information on how the cooperation can be sustained beyond the initial seed funding phase
- Strategic compatibility with existing activities
- Partnership sustainability and growth potential

Awards

- Funding is matched equally between King's and IIT Madras. Each institution will provide awards in the region of £5,000 for a total project award of approximately £10,000; however larger awards (up to the value of £10,000 per institution per project, meaning a total project value of £20,000) will be considered if a strong case for more funding and expected impact (e.g. projects involving curriculum development or which will lead to a larger grant proposal) can be made in the application.
- No funds will be transferred from one institution to the other; each institution's contributions will be used exclusively to fund its own researcher(s) and their research expenses and funds will not be mixed.
- The activities can take place in Chennai or in London between August 2025 and July 2026 and award funds must be utilised before 31st July 2026. Any unused funds will be forfeited. The awardees are required to submit a project report within three months after the completion of the proposed activities (a template will be provided).

Contacts

For any queries related to this joint call, please contact the following colleagues:

IIT Madras	King's College London
Prof. Satyanarayanan Seshadri Advisor, Mobility and Partnerships, Office of Global Engagement Email: satya@iitm.ac.in Ms. Ranjitha KV Senior Project Officer - Jointly Funded Bilateral Mobility Program / Joint Master's Program coordinator Email: global.relations@ge.iitm.ac.in	Ms. Sonu Hemani Senior Partnerships Officer (India) Global Engagement Email: globalengagement@kcl.ac.uk and sonu.hemani@kcl.ac.uk

Annex 1 (Applicable for King's researchers)

How to apply

Eligibility criteria for King's researchers

- Applicants: the joint funding scheme is open to all academics in any Faculty at King's and IIT Madras
- Proposals may involve academics at other partner institution(s) beyond King's and IIT Madras. However, the cost of these academics should be covered by their own institutions. The funds from the award can only be used for activities based at either King's or IIT Madras.

Format of activities

The activities are encouraged to be interdisciplinary. Activities that can be supported could include, among others:

- Research pilot experiments that will provide data/insights for larger grant proposals
- Workshops to develop new research projects involving both senior and early-career researchers at King's and IIT Madras
- Workshops to develop collaborative online modules or joint teaching and training
- Other innovative initiatives of mutual benefit to both institutions

Applicants can apply for travel funding but must provide information about the feasibility and rationale for travel during the project activity timeline. The participants of the workshops should include both senior and junior faculty members/researchers at King's and IIT Madras and should ideally include post-doctoral researchers and PhD students as well.

The application should include:

1. Application form: All applicants must submit their proposals using the King's and IIT Madras Joint Seed Fund application form which can be found [here](#). Applications should be submitted via email by **23:59 GMT on 8th June / 5:30am IST on 9th June** to globalengagement@kcl.ac.uk.
2. Supporting documents: If the applicants are post-docs, a letter of support from their Principal Investigator should be included in the application.

Annex 2 (Applicable for IITM researchers)



Eligibility criteria for IITM researchers

- Proposals are invited from academic staff from all disciplines at IIT Madras and at King's College London and their affiliated Research Centres and Institutes.
- Applicants from affiliated Research Centres and Institutes must be University Title Holders.
- Investigators must be employed full-time.
- 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.
- 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.
- Previous recipients of PCA funding whose projects have finished or will have finished by the application close date may only apply for consecutive grants if they have submitted their final report.

Financial and Reporting Obligations

- 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. Requests for variations from original proposals must be submitted to both universities for approval.
- 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.
- Awardees must submit a **final report** to the respective campus coordinators at IIT Madras and King's College London. **The final report must be completed by 31st Oct 2026.**
- Failure to submit a completed report will result in all members of the project team being ineligible to submit future funding applications.
- The activation of research funding accounts/submission of claims are not tied to ethics/other approvals being obtained. It is the responsibility of Investigators to ensure that no work requiring approval is commenced until such approvals are in place.

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.

Change of Investigator

- Awardees should contact the Program Coordinator at each institution. Such changes will need to be approved and documented.

Extensions

- Only under exceptional circumstances will extensions 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.



Forfeiture of Grants

- Grants must be spent by 31 July 2026.
- For IITM researchers, the fund can be claimed as per allotted budget, from the ICSR project account created for this mobility program. The funds can be claimed post travel by submitting relevant bills.

Eligible Grant Activities

- 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
- 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.
Must apply through workflow, obtain letter of support upon invitation from partner institute, apply for VISA, and post travel to submit bills
 - **King's College London**– All King's faculty travel must comply with its relevant travel policy
- 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.

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.



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 Office of Global Engagement at King's College London. The standard acknowledgment is "IIT Madras-King's College London JFBMP Partnership Collaboration"