

**University of Toronto - University of the West Indies
Joint Call for Proposals 2026-27**

Submission Deadline: April 6, 2026

The University of Toronto (U of T) and its Black Research Network¹, and the University of the West Indies (UWI) are supporting collaborative research initiatives through a Joint Call for Proposals. U of T and UWI are committed to the positive impact that universities can have through international partnerships and, through this Call, are supporting new or existing research collaborations in the following areas:

1. Sustainability, Climate Change, and Disaster Recovery
2. Human Trafficking and Human Mobility
3. Health and Biomedical Engineering
4. AI and Data Sciences
5. Start-up Ecosystems, Technology Transfer, and Commercialization (for clarity: research related to these areas)

Up to five (5) joint initiatives will be selected for a funding period of one (1) year. The proposals will be assessed and recommended for selection by a committee composed of members of both institutions.

1. Initiatives

- i. To be eligible, proposals must be led by at least **one Black-identifying Principal Investigator (PI)² with an appointment** at one of the University of Toronto's three campuses (St. George, Scarborough, or Mississauga) and at least one PI from UWI (any campus).³
- ii. Teams led by Early Career Researchers⁴ are encouraged.
- iii. Proposals should focus on partnership development through joint research projects.
- iv. Proposals that demonstrate additional committed funding, and/or other funding source are encouraged.
- v. The initiative must demonstrate an equal partnership amongst all members of the project team, with clearly articulated outcomes.
- vi. The proposal must have a clear plan, at the local and/or global level, in developing and implementing the initiative.
- vii. The proposed activities and outcomes must be realistic and achievable within the required timelines.
- viii. Applications from all disciplines with a focus on **Sustainability, Climate Change, and Disaster Recovery; Human Trafficking and Human Mobility; Health and Biomedical Engineering; AI and Data Sciences; and Start-up Ecosystems, Technology Transfer, and**

¹ Faculty members who identify as Black across all three U of T campuses are considered part of the Black Research Network. For more details, please visit brn.utoronto.ca.

² Profiles of University of Toronto Black researchers can be viewed through Discover Research (<https://discover.research.utoronto.ca/>) and the Black Research Network Map (<https://brn.utoronto.ca/researcher-map/>). Please note that these resources are not comprehensive. For additional guidance or to confirm eligibility, we recommend reaching out to Joseph Connolly, Americas Regional Lead.

³ The partnering Principal Investigator must be a faculty member under continuing appointment at their institution.

⁴ An individual who is within five years of their first faculty appointment. This duration excludes any period of career break.

Commercialization will be accepted. The proposals must comply with the respective universities' policies on ethics, health, safety, and international travel.

2. Eligibility

- i. **UWI:** Faculty members in continuing appointments from all disciplines and from all UWI campuses are eligible to apply.
U of T: Faculty members in continuing U of T appointments from any discipline [that are able to hold research funds](#), and who also identify as Black and are therefore considered part of the Black Research Network, are eligible to apply.
- ii. The application must include a letter of engagement from the PIs describing their planned involvement in the proposed project, their desired outcomes, and benefits, and how these outcomes and benefits contribute to their organizational goals and objectives.

3. Value and Duration

Up to five (5) successful proposals will be selected for funding for 1 year. Each successful project may be allocated between CAD\$15,000 and CAD \$18,750 (depending on the number of successful proposals), with project funding amounts to be divided equally between the U of T and UWI researcher on each applicant team.

Eligible Costs	Ineligible Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel costs including flights, hotels, and subsistence. • Costs associated with organizing workshops and meetings. • Research costs, including consumables and research assistants (up to 25% of total requested budget) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement research/teaching costs • Teaching Assistants • Directly allocated costs including applicants' time • Indirect costs • Equipment • Scholarships • Conference attendance • Honoraria • Student stipends / Tuition fees

4. Timeline

Call for Proposals opens	Monday, February 16, 2026
Deadline for submission of proposal	Monday, April 6, 2026 , at 11:59 pm (EST)
Communication of results to applicants	Approximately week May 4, 2026
Start date of awards	Approximately June 1, 2026
Final report	One year + 3 months after the start of project

5. Submission of Proposals

A single application in English should be submitted to the U of T [OVPI Application Portal](#) by **Monday, April 6**. A link to an application template can be found [here](#).

The full proposal must include the following elements:

- i. **Initiative Overview** that includes a brief outline, details of the lead applicants and affiliations from each institution/organization with contact details, and any additional partner details.
- ii. **Initiative Description, of up to three (3) pages in total** that includes the following elements:
 - a. **Project Summary:** in plain language, suitable for public use, describe the focus of this initiative.
 - b. **Description of the Planned Activities:** for example, workshops/symposia as part of joint research projects, including rationale and timeline. The location of activities must be specified.
 - c. **Initiative Impact:** Describe expected academic theoretical or practical outputs, and the potential impacts and benefits for stakeholders and society. Describe how the partnership may evolve over time and the potential for long-term sustainability beyond the proposed timeframe.
 - d. **Collaborative Team:**
 1. Describe the roles, responsibilities and contributions of the applicant, co-applicants, co-directors, and collaborators, as well as other key participants.
 2. Describe how the activities and expertise of each member will support and enhance the proposed partnership. Please also describe how the collaboration will strengthen partnerships between U of T and UWI.
 3. Include an abbreviated Curriculum Vitae (5 pages max) of each of the lead PIs from U of T and from UWI.
 - e. **Early Career Researcher Involvement:**
 1. Indicate whether the project includes any Early Career Researcher. Projects involving early career researchers may be given priority.
 - f. **Research Approach and Methods:** Describe the research approach and activities planned to achieve the project objectives.
 - g. **Project Sustainability:** Specifically indicate sources of external funding the research team intends on applying for in the future to sustain and build upon the partnership program, if known. Describe the origin and allocation of additional funds provided by the non-U of T / UWI PIs and/or other funding source, if applicable.
 - h. **Proposed Timeline and Budget:** The amount for one year as outlined in section 3, including a breakdown of the draft timeline costs of the activity e.g., workshop facilitation, flights, travel, hotel, meals, research assistant stipends etc.

6. Adjudication

- i. Proposals will be assessed and recommended for selection by a committee composed of members of both institutions.
- ii. A joint review committee will assess each full proposal according to the academic merit and compelling elements covered by the following criteria:
 - a. **Project design and rationale:** how clearly presented and justified is the design and basis for the collaboration?
 - b. **Demonstrated commitment to collaboration:** how strong is the link between the proposed collaboration and current research or teaching project(s)?
 - c. **Project impact on Areas:** how clearly linked are the academic gains to the planned activities addressing these topics?

- d. **Capacity for future collaboration:** what is the extent to which future collaborations are possible as a result of the proposed activities? Does the project have the potential to scale up?
- iii. Respective reviews are returned and results/scores are tabulated to rank proposals.
- iv. The joint peer review committee convenes to select up to 5 final proposals.

7. Communication

Results will be announced via email to all applicants.

8. Final Reporting

All awardees must, as a condition of receiving an award under this Call for Proposals, submit a report within three (3) months after the initiative ends, describing the outcomes, nature of collaboration, project impact, and opportunities for future collaboration that evolved from their initiative.

9. Information about this Call for Proposals

In support of this Call, we are pleased to facilitate prospective partner introductions, where applicable/possible.

Questions can be directed to:

Joseph Connolly, Americas Regional Lead
University of Toronto
Office of the Vice-President, International
Email: international@utoronto.ca