

## PhD Global Fellows Fund – 2026/27

### *Information for Imperial Supervisors*

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/global-opportunities/pg/pgrglobalfellowsfund>

Contact: [globalseedfunds@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:globalseedfunds@imperial.ac.uk)

The Imperial Turing PhD Global Fellows Fund supports high impact international placements for PhD students in labs at Imperial's strategic international partners.

Students, with support of their PhD supervisor and host supervisor at partner institution, will have the opportunity to spend between 1 and 3 months at one of the following partners:

- Technical University of Munich (TUM), Germany
- Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India
- Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, Mumbai, India
- French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), France (**NB** approval is needed from both the CNRS host supervisor and her/his head of department or institute)
- African Institute of Mathematical Sciences (AIMS), Rwanda, South Africa, Senegal and Ghana (**NB** Students will be matched with a supervisor at one of the AIMS Centres on submitting a successful application)
- Cornell University, USA
- University of Toronto, Canada
- Institute of Science Tokyo, Japan
- National University of Singapore
- University of Ghana

### ***Deadlines***

Applications are now open and will close on **14 October 2026**. If funding remains, there will be a second round in closing in November 2026.

Placements must be completed during the 2026/27 academic and all grant funds spent by **31 August 2027**.

### ***Supervisor Information***

PhD students you supervise may express interest in applying to the Global Fellows Fund and further request support in finding an appropriate host supervisor at a partner university.

It is in the supervisors' discretion to determine if it would be suitable and beneficial for a supervised student to undertake the placement – both scientifically and professionally. Students **must have** supervisor support to be awarded funding and are required to indicate this support has been received in the application. Supervisors do not have to support a placement they do not think will be beneficial to their students or wider research group.

It is suggested that students work with their Imperial supervisor(s) to find an appropriate host supervisor at the partner institution if possible. It will likely be easier for a student to find a host supervisor with this assistance than if pursued on their own. This may not always be possible as supervisors may not have contacts at one or any of the partner institutions.

Once students are awarded funding, they are expected to organise the logistics of their placements and complete the necessary department procedures (i.e. [Study Leave](#)).

Funding received by students (including top up from International Relations Office) should be sufficient to cover the majority of cost incurred to undertake the placement. Any additional costs are the responsibility of the student – although supervisors can choose to provide additional funding at their discretion.

Any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the International Relations Office at [globalseedfunds@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:globalseedfunds@imperial.ac.uk).

## ***Information for PhD Students***

### ***Programme Information***

The new Imperial Global Fellows Fund supports high impact international placements for PhD students in labs at Imperial's strategic international partners.

With support from both their PhD supervisor and a host supervisor at one of Imperial's partner institutions, PhD students can apply for funding from the Global Fellows Fund to spend between 1 and 3 months at the partner institution.

The goals of the programme are to:

- Develop new skills, experimental techniques and/or methodologies through access to commentary training and laboratories not available at Imperial;
- Take part in activities to enhance their professional competencies and expertise through international and interdisciplinary teamwork;
- Add value to the PhD experience by providing students the opportunity to develop as internationally mobile and globally minded scientists.

Participants will enhance:

- their ability to work collaboratively on research ideas;
- their ability to network and communicate effectively and with impact in interdisciplinary and intercultural teams;
- their intercultural and international competency and awareness;
- their creativity to develop collaborative research ideas; their appreciation of research in international institutions.

### ***Eligibility***

Imperial College participants must:

- Be a current doctoral student from any discipline (**note:** this programme is not open to MRes students).
- Applicants are expected to have completed their ESA by the time they start their placement. In exceptional circumstances and with the appropriate justification by the student and the supervisor, applicants that wish to take their placement prior to completing their ESA may be considered
- Have not previously received a Global Fellows Fund placement grant in the last 12 months.
- Have support from their Imperial supervisor and a host supervisor at an Imperial partner institution to undertake a placement that will support their scientific and professional goals.

For students who have prior experience of living in the country of the proposed placement, please explain how this placement will add value or build on that experience. Please note, if we receive more applications than available funding priority will be given to students without extensive experience of the country of destination.

### ***Application Process***

Applicants should first discuss their interest in undertaking a visit as part of the Global Fellows Fund with their supervisor or other contacts in their department. This will help to gain a sense of existing collaborative relationships with Imperial partner institutions, and to gauge the potential of finding a host supervisor.

Applicants who identify an academic or group which they think might be suitable for a visit should either ask their supervisors to contact the potential host or contact the host directly themselves to determine suitability.

Academics at partner institutions are **not required** to host Imperial students and it is fully at their discretion to determine if a visit is suitable for scientific, professional, and logistical (i.e. space) reasons.

Once a suitable host supervisor is found, applicants will need to complete an online application form providing details on the host and answering the following questions:

- Please provide details of your proposed research placement. What will you do during your research placement and how will it add value to your PhD (500 words)
- Please provide a layperson's summary of your research for a non-expert reader (250 words)
- Please explain how you will take advantage of this opportunity in the host institution and country to enhance your personal and professional skills, competencies and networks (250 words)
- Please explain why you would be a good ambassador for Imperial and how the placement will have a positive impact on the wider College community. For example, by developing networks and connections that benefit your faculty/department (250 words)
- Please comment on the proposed timing of the placement in relation to PhD milestones such as ESA, LSR and submission. The review panel would like to understand the reason for the proposed placement dates, confirm that the placement will not be detrimental to progression, and note how you have considered opportunities to develop networks and collaborations at the ESA stage to support a future placement (200 words)

### **Review Process**

Applications will be reviewed by the Global Fellows Fund Review Committee chaired by the Deputy Director of the Early Career Researcher Institute (ECRI) with relevant faculty representatives.

Applications will close on 13 October 2025. If funding remains, an additional review will be scheduled to close in November 2025.

The panel will assess applications based on the following criteria:

- Added value to PhD (application of research to PhD project, opportunity to develop new skills, experience new approaches or equipment)
- Added value to Individual (Skills, networks and personal development)
- Added value to Imperial (research links, pipeline to future collaborations)

Applicants will be informed via email on whether their application has been successful and provided with further details on receiving the Global Fellows Fund grant and arranging the placement.

Applicants who are approved for Global Fellows Fund, can then contact their host institutions to organise registration and other logistics. Applicants are encouraged to review the information about [Preparing for a Global Fellows Fund placement](#).

### **Partners**

- Technical University of Munich (TUM), Germany
- Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India
- Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, Mumbai, India
- French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), France (**NB** approval is needed from both the CNRS host supervisor and her/his head of department or institute)

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- Cornell University, USA
- University of Toronto, Canada
- Institute of Science Tokyo, Japan
- National University of Singapore
- University of Ghana

Please note, we are unable to support placements at institutions that are not included on the list above.

### ***Funding***

[Financial details on the Turing scheme are available on the Student Financial Support webpages.](#)

### **Special grant top up**

For the 2025/26 academic year, the International Relations Office will provide top up funding equal to the cost of living grant provided by the Turing scheme grant to help cover more of the overall costs.

**NB** The Turing Scheme grant is a contribution to the overall cost of undertaking the placement and will not cover total costs. Students are advised to discuss with their supervisor potential sources of funding that would be able to supplement the grant to cover any additional costs not covered by the Turing scheme grant or International Relations top up.

**Find out more on the scheme webpage:**

[\*\*Global Fellows Fund\*\*](#)