

Imperial-CNRS Collaboration Fund

Data and Mathematical Sciences and their application in science, technology, medicine and business

CALL DOCUMENT AND GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS

Contact: Heather Kerst h.kerst@imperial.ac.uk

1. Purpose

The College recognises that collaborative activities with European colleagues enable cross-border pooling of research capabilities and sharing of expertise and facilities, the opportunity to appreciate different perspectives, outputs that are typically more highly cited, as well as access to new environments for impact and exploitation of research outcomes.

2. Imperial- CNRS collaboration fund

To support collaborative endeavours, the College has recently been awarded funding from Research England as part of the International Investment Initiative ("I3"). The award provides seed funding to enable Imperial to scale-up and accelerate advances in mathematical and data sciences with Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS).

A total of £32.5k in financial year 2020/21 is available to Imperial academics to develop and reinforce lasting contacts with the very best CNRS researchers in their field. The call can support collaborations within the remit of mathematical and data sciences and their application in science, technology, medicine and business.

Bids that seek to develop or link to the activities of CNRS-Imperial "Abraham de Moivre" International Lab in Mathematics are particularly encouraged. This includes all domains of fundamental and applied mathematics and of their interactions with other fields, such as physics, computer science, engineering, medicine and life sciences.

Funds can be requested to support one or more of the following activities:

- Outward and Inward visits for College or Partner Academics, Research Staff or Students to investigate the potential for, initiate, follow-up, or work on a collaborative project or training opportunity, and for other stakeholder engagement;
- Longer stays for students or research staff (up to maximum 2 months) to learn new techniques, analyse results or undertake other activities.
- The payment of student bursaries to support research projects. This could include engaging a student in a research project at Imperial or at the partner, providing the project with research support and offering the students a chance to gain research skills that extend and complement their education, with the option of connecting to a College student research opportunity programme (e.g [UROP](#) or [IROP](#)). Setting-up reciprocal student exchanges to support projects are also an option.
 - IROP contact: Laura Bulmer l.bulmer@imperial.ac.uk
 - UROP contact: Adrian Hawsworth urop@imperial.ac.uk
- 'Research Sandpits', 'Hackathons', 'Virtual Workshops' or other collaborative day or week-long networking events involving staff and students from both institutions to foster new links or strengthen existing collaborations;
 - This includes facilitation fees for online workshops, or other expenses associated with developing virtual engagement and programmes;
- Exploratory research, travel costs and other activities that often do not receive financial support at the earliest stages. Imperial funds can also be used to support small-scale experiments or the development of prototypes.
- Set up of new networks to promote the exchange of ideas, best practice, and other research goals

The goal is for these collaborations to support Imperial academics to initiate and pursue collaborations with CNRS colleagues and ideally to lead to new science and to future applications for external funding.

Proposals are encouraged where appropriate to include an industry partner or industry engagement within the proposal or to involve Ph.D. students and early career researchers.

Proposals to support existing partnerships should clearly state how this fund would add value to the relationship and funding that is already in place.

N.B – The remit of Research England's I3 is specifically on data and mathematical sciences and their application in science, technology, medicine and business. Applicants that fall out of this remit are eligible to apply to work with CNRS via the College's [European Partners Fund](#).

3. Funding

This call has an indicative budget of £32.5k.

Budget requests are not expected to exceed £7,000, per project. Funds can only be spent on activities which fit the purpose of this call. Applicants are asked to itemise their budget using the tables in the application form.

Eligible costs

Student bursaries**	eligible
Salary	not eligible
Limited research consumables (i.e. datasets, etc.)*	eligible
Travel/Accommodation/Subsistence (both inward for research partners and outbound for Imperial)	eligible
Workshop facilitation fees, other similar costs associated with virtual collaboration*	eligible
Equipment	not eligible
Bench fees	not eligible
Indirect and estate costs	not eligible

* If unsure whether your request fits into this category, include a justification in your financial summary component of the application, so this request can be considered with respect to its relevance to the project. If there are other costs not listed above, please include these in the 'Other' section of the application and provide an explanation for them.

**Student bursaries to support these research projects would ideally be offered as a component of the existing [International Research Opportunities Programme \(IROP\)](#) which take place in the summer, as this way we can provide additional support and educational experience to the students. Please contact the International Relations Office for more details on standard bursary amounts for IROP as you develop your project scope and budget.

4. How to apply

This is an Open Call. Only permanent members of academic staff are eligible to apply. Proposals must be submitted to globalseedfunds@imperial.ac.uk. Only applications submitted to this email address, and not that of the named contact, will be considered.

One proposal per Principal Applicant per call is permitted. Each application should have a Principal Applicant based at Imperial and should contain:

- Applicants must apply using the application form, which includes the following:
 - A description of the relevant research/training conducted by the Imperial-based individual/group in recent years;
 - A description of the activities, collaboration and schedule of activities proposed;
 - Explanation of how the activities proposed will generate demonstrable added value to the PI / Research Group / Department / Faculty / College
 - Description of the opportunities available for leveraging funding, especially from overseas sources.
 - A financial summary: Each application should provide information on the requested costs using the budget section of the application template (see 'Funding Requested'). An InfoEd statement is not needed.

Applications must be completed on the template provided and within the page limit stated.

5. Deadline, start dates and duration

- **Application call opens 16 September 2020**
- **Application deadline 1 November 2020**
- **Projects start/duration - 1 January 2021**, the maximum award duration is 1 year. Grant end dates must not exceed 31 December 2021; extensions will not be granted.

6. Review and Selection of Applications

All eligible applications will be considered for funding by the Vice-Provost (Research and Enterprise) with assistance of a selected review committee, the Cross-College Research Proposals Review Group, and the International Relations Office. Proposals will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- Goals and feasibility of the project,
- Complementarity of collaboration partner,
- Engagement of/added value for students and young researchers, and/or industry partners as appropriate,
- Sustainability of proposed activities, action points for extension of cooperation, potential identification of follow-up funding,
- Potential strategic value of the partnership (including potential to further ICL-CNRS strategic collaborations and potential to leverage European funding), and
- Impact the award would bring to the applicant, based on her/his career stage and any existing networks or support.

7. Accessing Funds

Faculty Finance Officers will be informed of decisions and will arrange the set-up of an award account code, where all project related expenditure should be charged.

8. Reporting

Principal Applicants who are successful in receiving an award are required to provide a report within 2 weeks of the end of the award period to globalseedfunds@imperial.ac.uk, using a template provided. The narrative element of the report should provide details of the relevant activities supported and how these have addressed the objectives of the call. The financial element of the report serves as a Final Expenditure Statement and should detail the award amount and the award spent. Responsibility remains with the PI to ensure all spend has been charged to the correct award code.

The College is a proud signatory to the San-Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), which means that in hiring, promotion and research funding decisions we will evaluate applicants on the quality of their work, not the impact factor of the journal where it is published. More information is available at <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/about-imperial-research/research-evaluation/>.