

IMPERIAL

Imperial Global Connect Fund

Greater global collaboration to meet global grand challenges

The Imperial Global Connect Fund provides opportunities for Imperial's community to establish impactful, long-term collaborations with global partners through the university's international hubs

The mission of the Imperial Global network is to be a visible presence for Imperial in pivotal and emerging regions worldwide, increasing brand awareness and profile, fostering relations and establishing deep links between the university community and regional partners. Our first hubs are in **Singapore, Ghana, the USA and India**.

The Imperial Global Connect Fund aims to support the development of the regional hubs through seeding high-impact **research, education, innovation, and student experience opportunities**.

Each Imperial Global hub is supported by a dedicated local team that plays a crucial role in facilitating activities, offering partnership insights, and ensuring ongoing connectivity. These teams provide access to convening spaces, local expertise, and resources that help strengthen partnerships and foster collaboration. Additionally, each hub has appointed academic leads or directors who actively contribute to community building, driving initiatives that expand opportunities for the Imperial community.

The fund seeks to support projects aligned with three key aims:

1. Supporting interdisciplinary research consortia
2. Developing innovation and enterprise activities
3. Enhancing education and student experience

All funded projects must aim to support the development of the Imperial Global network:

Imperial Global Singapore is a new presence on [Singapore's CREATE campus](#) with opportunities to develop large scale interdisciplinary research programmes funded by the National Research Foundation (NRF) of Singapore. It will allow us to develop significant new research, training and translation programmes with partners across Southeast Asia.

Imperial Global Ghana is a knowledge hub in Accra focused on developing collaboration on research, technology, education and entrepreneurship between West Africa and the UK. The hub builds on Imperial's established partnerships in the region, including in medical diagnostics, vaccine research, AI and data science, climate science, sustainable cities and entrepreneurship training.

Imperial Global USA is a science and technology hub based at SHACK15 in San Francisco dedicated to developing a two-way flow of ideas, capital, and talent that expand transatlantic research, innovation and education networks. The hub supports our growing US alumni network and showcases more of what makes Imperial special to prospective students and future research leaders.

Imperial Global India¹ will drive high-impact science and technology programmes with academic, industrial and innovation partners, nurture a two-way flow of STEM talent between our two countries and support our growing Indian alumni network. Our liaison office in India's tech capital Bengaluru creates a powerful hub and communications channel for us to build on this strong foundation of collaboration.

While Imperial's global hubs will also drive recruitment, alumni engagement, fundraising, career development, and extended learning, this fund focuses specifically on supporting research, innovation & enterprise, education, and student experience initiatives.

Applicants are expected to have made at least initial contact with potential partners, who should be listed on the application form.

Key Themes and Priorities

We are looking to fund a range of projects across the following three themes. Your project may relate to one or more themes. (It is fine for projects to relate to one theme only.)

Theme 1: Interdisciplinary research consortia and convergence science

Aims:

- Develop ambitious interdisciplinary research consortia with partners in hub locations and regions.
- Help convergence science programmes to scale up by targeting external funding opportunities in hub locations and regions.
- Foster collaborations with non-academic organisations to translate research knowledge into tangible benefits for society in hub locations and regions.

Example activities:

- Workshops for brainstorming, co-creation, and developing large-scale interdisciplinary research programmes.
- Hosting focused thematic conferences on cutting-edge interdisciplinary research, showcasing the work of the consortia and connecting with potential funders, such as foundations, investors, and government agencies.

¹ * Pending the completion of regulatory formalities to be able to set up our own liaison office, Imperial Global India will initially be managed by a service provider duly appointed by Imperial College London.

- Development of partnerships that support pathways to impact, ensuring translation through engagement with end users, policymakers, hospitals, industry, and NGOs.

Notes

- *Priority is given to applications that build strategic interdisciplinary collaborations at group, departmental, or school of convergence science level. The fund is unable to support individual PI-PI interactions.*
- *Applications focused on developing activities with National University of Singapore (NUS) or Nanyang Technological University (NTU) may be redirected to the Imperial-NUS Research Seed Fund or the Imperial-NTU Research Seed Fund, respectively.*

Theme 2: Innovation and enterprise activities

Aims:

- Connect Imperial entrepreneurs and accelerator programmes to networks that help create new businesses and commercialise university technologies.
- Engage industry, tech companies, or investors in our research, innovation, or entrepreneurship.

Example activities:

- International venture treks for Imperial spin-outs, connecting them to global collaborators, investors, and partners.
- Workshops, events or challenge days that develop ambitious industry-research partnership opportunities.

Theme 3: Education and student experience

Aims:

- Develop new teaching, learning, and interdisciplinary student experience opportunities that bring students and staff together (from Imperial and partners) in hub locations and regions for virtual and in-person programmes.
- Harness digital technologies to provide new avenues for developing international exchange and partnerships in education which have the potential to benefit more students than ever before.
- Develop and deliver training programmes or modules that support the demand from students for more opportunities for interdisciplinary activity and convergence science experience.

Example activities:

- Summer Schools, joint projects, hackathons, workshops and experiential learning opportunities that foster student entrepreneurship or convergence science skills.

Notes

- *Projects can be either curriculum based or extracurricular.*
- *Curriculum based opportunities must have approval from relevant committees / faculty.*
- *Applications focused on developing education and student experience projects with Nanyang Technological University (NTU) should address one of the three bespoke focus areas for projects involving NTU ([see Appendix 1](#)).*

Co-development with the Imperial Global network

Short-listed applications may be invited to co-develop their ideas further with the Imperial Global network teams in Singapore, San Francisco, Bengaluru, or Accra, to ensure alignment with the priorities of the network.

Reporting and dissemination

Lead applicants of funded projects are expected to provide a report after project completion, and to engage with the International Relations Office about opportunities to speak about their project.

Awardees may also be requested to act as reviewers for future seed fund applications.

Sustainable Imperial

In line with Sustainable Imperial, all travel for in-person engagement must be justified by its alignment with programmes offering sustainable, long-term benefits. Applicants should ensure that preparatory and exploratory engagement is conducted online wherever possible to minimise environmental impact.

Eligibility and Funding Details

Eligibility

- The lead applicant must be a current employee of Imperial.
- For lead applicants on fixed term contracts, your contract end date must last at least as long as the project you are applying for.
- Others – including honorary or visiting researchers, students, alumni, staff employed by Imperial Global hubs – are welcome to be involved as co-applicants or collaborators.
- Projects should align with the fund's key themes and support Imperial Global's international hub activities. See selection criteria below.

Funding

- Budget requests should not exceed £8,000. Applicants are strongly encouraged to identify match-funding options, e.g., from partners or other internal development or seed funds.

- Funds must be spent by the end of the Imperial financial year (Aug-Jul). No-cost extensions (beyond 31 July) will not be permitted.
- As funding is limited, we encourage early applications. The scheme may close early if funds are exhausted.

Eligible Costs

- Networking events (e.g., workshops, training academies, seminars) fostering collaboration and new links.
- Funding to support capability-mapping or proposal development to target external funding opportunities (e.g., buyouts of a PhD student or postdoc time)
- Student support costs (e.g., bursaries).
- Research consumables (up to 10% of the total budget)
- Small project-related equipment.
- Travel, accommodation, and subsistence.

Ineligible Costs

- Salaries.
- Bench fees.
- Indirect and estate costs.

Application Process

All applicants must complete the [Imperial Global Connect Fund Application Form](#), including a project plan with clear goals and objectives, activities, and a budget breakdown.

Deadlines

Deadlines are set to allow two rounds of proposals per financial year.

Deadline:	Application outcome:	Funds to be spent by
Friday 27 February 2026	Tuesday 31 March 2026	31 July 2026
Friday 19 June 2026	Monday 3 August 2026	31 July 2027
Friday 9 October 2026	Friday 20 November 2026	31 July 2027
June 2027 (TBC)	July 2027 (TBC)	31 July 2028 (TBC)

Further deadlines will be confirmed in due course. Please note the scheme may close early if funds are exhausted.

Funds must be spent by the end of the financial year in which they are awarded (Aug-July). No-cost extensions (beyond 31 July) will not be permitted.

Selection Process and Criteria

- Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of experts convened by the International Relations Office, including Faculty representatives where possible.
- Proposals will be assessed against five broad criteria:
 - Importance, creativity, and impact
 - Scale-up potential
 - Wider institutional benefits
 - Engagement with the Imperial Global network
 - Value for money
- Please see below for more details on these criteria, which vary by theme. (Projects may relate to one or more themes. It is fine for projects to relate to one theme only.)

Theme 1: Interdisciplinary research consortia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance, creativity, and potential impact of the activity, with an emphasis on synergy and convergence science between research groups at Imperial and international partners.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for external funding through the development of consortia or a project base to scale activity, and the likelihood of leading to successful joint grant application(s).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wider institutional benefits, including the value the partnership or consortia will bring to other departments, faculties, centres, students, and staff by fostering networks in the country or region.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with the Imperial Global network.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value for money.

Theme 2: Innovation and enterprise activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance, creativity, and potential impact of the activity, with an emphasis on building enterprise and innovation networks in the country/ region.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business development potential for new enterprise and innovation partnerships and enhancing Imperial's global reputation for enterprise.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wider institutional benefits, including the value the partnership or network will bring to other departments, faculties, centres, students, and staff by fostering networks in the country or region.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with the Imperial Global network.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value for money.

Theme 3: Education and student experience

- Importance, creativity, and potential impact of the activity, with an emphasis on building education and student experience opportunities with partners in the region which offer sustainable long-term benefits.
- Potential for new education and student experience projects that develop Imperial graduate attributes and enhance Imperial's global reputation for research and innovation-led STEMB education.
- Wider institutional benefits, including the value the partnership or network will bring to other departments, faculties, centres, students, and staff by fostering networks in the country or region.
- Engagement with the Imperial Global network.
- Value for money.

Case Studies

Specific case studies and a full list of projects funded by the Imperial Global Connect Fund [can be found here](#).

Appendix 1 – Education and student experience projects with NTU

Applications focused on developing education and student experience projects with Nanyang Technological University (NTU) should address one of the three bespoke focus areas for projects involving NTU, as detailed below.

NTU match funding will not exceed the amount awarded by Imperial, up to a maximum of GBP £8,000 (or equivalent). Please contact EdexGrant@ntu.edu.sg with any questions about NTU match funding.

1. Environmental Sustainability in Education

Projects may include:

- Projects that aim to deeply integrate a sustainability theme (aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals) or UNESCO SDG competency (e.g. systems thinking, anticipatory thinking, collaboration, critical thinking) into disciplinary pedagogies.
- Projects that allow students to develop sustainable ways of engaging with their discipline in the laboratory. This may include creating energy efficient algorithms or processes that only use benign materials and move away from toxic substrates. Focus could be on lab practice and/or wider themes. These should go beyond recycling and reuse of equipment.
- Development of capstone projects that allow students to make a positive environmental or social impact through the application of their disciplinary science, including interdisciplinary work.

2. AI in Education

Projects may include:

- Integrating AI tools to enhance learning, teaching, or student support (e.g. feedback generation, formative tutoring, accessibility).
- Building on existing Imperial or NTU initiatives.
- Measuring the impact of AI on students and staff.
- Going beyond tool pilots to explore curriculum level innovations that foster critical thinking and student agency in an AI rich environment, producing reusable assets designed for scaling across Imperial and/or NTU.
- AI-enabled assessment design and delivery (e.g., authentic tasks, academic integrity support).
- Use of AI to democratise access to information and widen participation.

3. Assessment and Feedback

Projects may include:

- Developing scalable formative feedback approaches (e.g., dialogic feedback, peer assessment, programmatic assessment).
- Trialing new feedback modalities or turnaround improvements that enhance student engagement and learning.
- Developing systematic approaches to reviewing and rationalising assessment.
- Identifying or investigating innovative solutions to discipline-wide assessment and feedback challenges.
- Working collaboratively with students for a common understanding of assessment & feedback.
- Developing fair and transparent assessment and feedback for all students and how EDI issues interact with assessment and feedback Governance and Compliance.