African Institute for Mathematical Sciences Connect
Partnerships Fund
CALL DOCUMENT AND GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS

1. Purpose

The African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) Connect Fund helps kick-start early-stage research ideas and collaborations that might not otherwise be pursued. The Connect fund encourages projects that, through establishing new links or strengthening existing ones, are likely to lead to future collaborative work between Imperial and an AIMS partner. It facilitates exchange between participating research groups through provision of grants to cover travel, workshops, meetings, hackathons, networks, and other activities to explore research directions.

2. African Institute for Mathematical Sciences Connect Partnerships Fund

To support collaborative endeavours, Imperial will provide seed funding to build a variety of collaborative links with partners at AIMS Centres.

This seed fund is intended to support a broad spectrum of projects, but all proposals are expected to incorporate an in-person/travel element. Examples of suitable activities include an Imperial staff member visiting an AIMS centre to participate in a workshop or hosting an AIMS PhD student in London to facilitate training in their research group.

The goal is to support both Imperial and partner academics to initiate and pursue collaborations that ideally lead to new science and to future applications for external funding. If you are interested in this opportunity but do not have established connections at one of the Centres, please contact the International Relations Office for assistance.

3. Funding and Project Duration

A grant of £3,500-5,000 will be awarded to successful project teams to develop and reinforce lasting contacts with the very best researchers and educators in their field.

Budget requests should not exceed £5,000 per project. Funds can only be spent on activities that fit the purpose of this call. Applicants should itemise their budget using the tables in the application form.

All expenditure should be completed by **31 July 2024**.

Please refer to the list of fundable/ non-fundable items below:

Fundable	Y/N
Student support costs (e.g., student bursaries)	Y
Limited Research Consumables	Y
Travel/Accommodation/Subsistence	Y
Small project-related equipment	Y
Bench fees	N
Indirect and estate costs	N
Salary	N

4. How to Apply

Proposals must be submitted to globalseedfunds@imperial.ac.uk. Only applications submitted to this email addresses, and before the deadline, will be considered.

One proposal per Principal Applicant per call is permitted.

Each application should have one Principal Applicant based at Imperial and one Principal Applicant based at AIMS and should contain:

- A written case for support (maximum 2 pages) to include:
  - A description of the project and collaboration proposed, and a brief description of the intended use and impact of the funding;
  - Sustainability and strategic value: A description of the long-term impact and development of the project, and how it will add value to the strategic partnership between AIMS and Imperial;
  - AIMS-Imperial partnership: A description of how the project team will collaborate throughout the project and the benefits of involving of team members from each institution.
- A financial summary: Each application should provide information on the requested costs using the budget section of the application template (see 'Funding Requested').

- Applicable only to Imperial Applicants: An InfoEd / Worktribe statement is not needed.

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

5. Application Deadline and Project Milestones

- Deadline for the submission of applications: 25 September 2023
- Release date of the results: 31 October 2023
- Start date of the awarded projects: 1 November 2023
- All awarded projects must end by: 31 July 2024

6. 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.

Imperial 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/.