



## Call for proposals for joint initiatives in education and research

2022

University of Padua – University of St Andrews

### Aims of cooperation and possible formats

The University of Padua, hereinafter referred to as UNIPD, and the University of St Andrews, hereinafter referred to as UoStA, have established a joint seed funding scheme with the goal of facilitating cooperation in the framework of our strategic partnership. The funding shall enable academic staff from all disciplines to identify complementary strengths, explore areas of synergy, and develop outstanding future projects in research and academic innovation. The joint seed funding aims to support the first steps of cooperation and is not meant as complete project funding.

Possible formats for cooperation may include:

1. Intensive research seminars or workshops;
2. Pedagogical workshops (e.g. exploring digital or other course collaboration);
3. Short term research stays;
4. Graduate Summer/ Winter programs;
5. Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) projects.

Participation of early-stage researchers is encouraged and shall be considered as an added value to the project.

### Terms and conditions of open call

The supported activities should have a clearly defined focus and serve as a catalyst for the development of new joint projects. The activities can take place in Padua or in St Andrews; applications that include collaboration across disciplines are encouraged. The motivation for holding the activity should be clearly explained, including how the involved UniPD and UoStA faculties and schools can benefit long term from this cooperation.

A project must be carried out by at least two applicants, one from each institution, who will work together to build a joint proposal.

Applicants should be full-time or part-time academic staff with a contract of employment until at least the end of the project.

All academic fields covered jointly by UNIPD and UoStA are included in the present call, and interdisciplinary projects are encouraged, as long as the resulting project is beneficial for both universities.

Projects may also include the participation of self-funded external investigators or partner institutions where relevant.

### **Sustainable research travel**

UNIPD and the UoStA recognise the importance of organising in-person meetings and events to support the development of collaborative projects. However, both institutions are also aware of the significant environmental impact of the international travel they fund. Therefore, applicants are encouraged to carefully consider the proposed in-person events that require team members to fly internationally. Applicants may wish to consider dedicating a small percentage of their proposed budget to offset the carbon emissions of their travel. [Climate Care](#) can help with calculating the carbon from a journey and purchasing an offset, and tools such as [Routerank](#) can help with evaluating different travel options regarding time, price and sustainability. Please refer to UoStA's [Sustainable Research and Business Travel webpage](#) for more information.

### **Selection criteria and process**

Applications will be reviewed and scored by selection committees at UNIPD and UoStA. The selection committees will evaluate each application on the following criteria:

- **Strategic relevance:** the contribution to realising university strategies and promotion of priority research themes.
- **Academic quality and innovation:** the academic quality of the proposed activities, the contribution to novel thinking and the ability to cut across disciplines.
- **Anticipated outcomes:** a clearly formulated plan for the project and the likelihood that it will lead to a long-term, sustainable research or educational relationship and generate on-going collaboration.
- **Partnership and academic dissemination:** how the project will be shared with broader academic communities at each institution and promote and consolidate the relationship between the two universities;
- **Scalability of the project:** how the project can be transferred to other levels (local, regional, national, etc).

The Selection Committees reserves the right to allocate less funding compared to the amount requested by the applicants. The selection shall take into consideration the project subject area and type, to encourage the widest possible range of activities.

### **Duration and funding arrangements**

Project timelines should be clearly outlined in the application and may not exceed 12 months from the project start date. It is expected that projects will start no later than 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Projects must be concluded and funding must be spent within 12 months.

Each application will receive up to £5,000 (approx. €6,000) in total or £2,500 (approx. €3,000) from each institution. Up to 2 projects will be awarded in the 2022 call of the scheme.

Co-funding of projects by the Faculty/Department/School/Centre, or external bodies, is welcomed.

Allowable expenses include:

- costs linked to organisation of joint meetings, seminars or workshops
- cost of developing shared online resources, e.g., video editing
- travel, accommodation and meal costs
- costs related to publication/dissemination of results

Non-allowable expenses include:

- salaries or salary supplementation of any kind (except for COIL tutors/ learning technologists/ facilitators)
- indirect and overhead costs
- course fees, stipends or scholarships for students
- infrastructure and equipment purchases, such as computers, including laptops and basic computing facilities such as printers, word processing and other standard software
- costs already incurred prior to submission of the proposal

### **Submission and deadlines**

Proposals should be jointly submitted by UniPD and UoStA faculty in ONE single application form (English), according to the provided template. Proposals should include the following information:

- 1) Names, titles, departments/schools and emails of UNIPD and UoStA Principal Investigators and any other academic staff involved in the activities.
- 2) Project title and layperson abstract of the proposed project (up to 250 words)
- 3) Narrative description of the proposed project for a multi-school, multidisciplinary audience using the following sub-headings (two-page limit):
  - a. Project objectives
  - b. Background and previous work as appropriate
  - c. Specific outputs expected
  - d. Explanation of how you will evaluate the success of your project
  - e. Anticipated schedule for completion
- 4) Brief description of how the project will address the selection criteria using the following subheadings:
  - a. Strategic relevance (maximum 100 words)
  - b. Academic quality and innovation (maximum 100 words)
  - c. Anticipated outcomes (maximum 100 words)
  - d. Partnership and academic dissemination (maximum 100 words)
  - e. Scalability of the project (maximum 100 words)

- 5) Budget and budget justification, with one section for UniPD budget and one section for UoStA budget, explaining in detail all anticipated expenditures;
- 6) Short curriculum vitae (2 pages maximum) of Principal Investigators;
- 7) Endorsement letters from respective heads of faculty and school/department.

Joint proposals must be submitted by **15<sup>th</sup> June 2022**. Applicants will be notified about the outcome of the selection process before the end of July 2022.

This call for proposals, and selection results included, will be available on the UniPD website and on the UoStA website. For further information, please contact:

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