

GLOBAL RESEARCH EXCELLENCE (GRE) SEED FUND:

Inaugural Call for Proposals: 2024-2025 Guidelines

STREAM A: STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP EXPLORATION & DEVELOPMENT

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Purpose:

The Stream aims to support York faculty develop research & training or capacity development projects with global collaborators.

This fund supports the exploration or development or deepening of international research partnerships with leading overseas collaborators.

Some examples/possible scenarios how/when GRE Stream A funds can be deployed by York faculty:

- Organize a workshop, with/without some additional matching funds, with international partner to see if there is a good fit between York & international researchers.
- Develop a pilot research project with an international collaborator, with/without some additional matching funds, to determine if there is merit to deepening the relationship.

- Organize a proposal development workshop for major external funding with international partners. For this workshop, York researchers may have brought in some additional matching funds to supplement the GRE funding.
- Leverage GRE funding to use as match for proposals to major external funding programs to deepen an international collaboration.

Given the flexible deadline, we encourage applicants, where possible, to use this funding Stream to target external funding opportunities early on i.e. deploy Stream A as a match where there is a good fit.

We encourage thoughtful consideration be given to equity, diversity, and inclusion in proposal development.

Early & Mid-Career Researchers at York are strongly encouraged to apply. However, graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and visiting professors are not eligible to apply for GRE Stream A funding.

Value of Awards:

Up to 5,000 CAD (Up to 14 awards) OR 10,000 CAD OR 15,000 CAD OR 20,000 CAD OR 25,000 CAD OR 30,000 CAD

Please note, the amounts above are not annual year over year funding. The amounts are the total funding awarded for the entire duration of a funded project. GRE funding is not to build a research program but to seed connections/deepening of relations between York faculty research and leading researchers overseas.

Application Timelines:

- **Publication of GRE Call Guidelines:** Early 2024
- **Open for submissions to YI:** May 2024-April 2025. Please submit to GRE@yorku.ca
- **Deadline:** Rolling. Proposals will be accepted till the end of April 2025 or funds are expended/committed (whichever comes first).
- **Selection & award letters:** Within 4-6 weeks from receiving application.

If the applicant is seeking matching funds for an external competition, we will endeavor to make a decision on the GRE proposal sooner. But we ask applicants to plan and apply to GRE well in advance of the external competition deadline.

Duration for the Use of Funds:

1 year from the remission of funds with the possibility of extension for multi-year projects at the discretion of YI.

Eligible expenses (including for matching funds):

Use of funds provided through this stream **must only be for the following expenses incurred by York faculty/PDF/graduate students:**

- Travel expenses for the York faculty and their research group (airfare must be economy class).
- Expenses for organizing workshops with partners.
- Grant writing for proposals with international partners.¹
- Costs associated with publishing jointly co-authored material with international collaborator in open access.

Exemptions outside of this may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Some examples of when exemptions to the list of eligible expenses may be considered², at the discretion of YI, include:

- Collaboration with a partner from a developing-economy.
- Partner is located in a country which Global Affairs Canada has issued a travel advisory cautioning travellers to avoid non-essential travel/any travel.
- Participation of elders/knowledge holders from underrepresented/marginalized communities outside academia in guiding the research direction/design.
- Major external funding opportunities ≥ 200,000 CAD.
- Collaborating with global industry with R&D presence in Canada (e.g., Sanofi, LG) or global arts & cultural organizations (e.g., Aga Khan Museum) in Canada.

Expenses must also align with York University guidelines/policies for financial management/business practices.

For GRE funding requests of 5,000 CAD, no matching funds for eligible expenses is required.

For GRE funding requests over 5,000 CAD, at least 50% matching funds for eligible expenses is required (please see the Budget information in Application section below for more information).

Eligibility:

- This stream is open to individual applicant and team proposals from York faculty.
- All York applicants/co-applicants and York collaborators must have faculty appointment at York, be fulltime active faculty members at York, be York FGS (Full/Associate) members,

¹ Applicants will be expected to engage with Faculty Research Offices for projects involving external funding application development.

² Pre-approval from YI is required and it must be confirmed by email from YI to the applicant.

be eligible to hold research funds at York and have **up-to-date (with York University affiliation) and public ORCID IDs.**³

- All applications require an international partner (see Application section for more on this).
- If a York faculty member was funded by any GRE Stream in 2024-2025, and they decide to reapply for additional GRE funding in 2024-2025 as an applicant/co-applicant, they will only be considered if one or more of the following criteria/circumstances are met:
 - GRE funding that is conditional on securing external funding greater than the amount requested from GRE.
 - Demonstration of:
 - robust project impact outcomes per the proposal for the previously funded project to scale/sustain that collaboration.
 - **OR** they made a robust effort to develop a new collaboration, through that previously funded project, which did not go beyond exploration/workshop/pilot project stage.

(If applicant/co-applicant has received-within the past two years- or is receiving any funding from York International/VPRI where funds can be used for international research collaborations, the similar eligibility requirements apply.)

- York applicants and their York collaborators funded by GRE agree to participate/be featured in institutional communications/outreach promoting research excellence at York and York's global profile. Applicants should acknowledge GRE/York International support in any publications or knowledge mobilization activities arising from this grant as well as provide attribution on researchers' Discover York Academics profile.

Application (Project description, Rationale, Budget, Milestones, Supporting Documents):

- **Project information**
 - Title.
 - Project summary (Elevator pitch): How would applicants describe their project in 2-4 sentences to York communications. *Please note this may be shared with staff/faculty,*

³ ORCID IDs serve as unique identifiers to help researchers distinguish their work and funders to link research outputs (publications, data, and other research activities) to funding. ORCID IDs are an important tool to ensure research visibility and mobilization, especially in international and interdisciplinary contexts. Increasingly, ORCID IDs are imbedded in many research workflows and implemented as policy requirements by journals, publishers, and funding agencies to link researchers and their scholarly activities. Researchers are encouraged to ensure their ORCID IDs are up to date with their York University affiliation to accurately link research to researchers, as well as enhance the university's research impact and electronic CV project. Email metrics@yorku.ca for any questions

alumni, prospective undergraduate students, international partners, and external media who may not have subject expertise.

- Project Description & Design: Objectives, scope, methodology, [EDI/DEDI](#) and originality/significance/expected contribution to knowledge.
- Timeline or (for workshops) draft program.

- **Academic Rationale**

- Complementarity with proposed partner & country/region.
 - Please outline why and how the sum of the collaboration is greater than its parts.
 - Please refer below to the types of partners we are encouraging applicants to consider and, where/if applicable, reference it when explaining complementarity.
- Alignment with York's [Global Engagement Strategy](#), [Strategic Research Plan](#) and any other major institutional priorities.
 - York's institutional strategies and the priorities aim to facilitate a just and inclusive world. IF the proposal aims to collaborate with Global South partners or marginalized groups elsewhere, please highlight how the collaboration will recognize power imbalances & inequities and work to mitigate them. (Please see links to some resources- [ACU](#), [Africa Charter](#)- that could be helpful).
 - Please confirm there are no [identifiable research-security risks](#) or if there might be any, what mitigation efforts are being proposed in consultation with York's Associate Director Research Security, Rebecca Irwin rirwin1@yorku.ca.
- What funding gap does this funding stream help the applicant address in building a global research relationship? A major goal of GRE is to address funding gaps in building new or deepening existing international collaborations.
 - For example, to exchange & train graduate students/PDF there is Mitacs etc. and applicants may not be required to apply to GRE for short-term international graduate student/PDF research training. However, Mitacs can be deployed in a GRE proposal as part of a larger research collaboration with international counterparts.
 - If you have received another York administered internal award for this collaboration, how much did you receive for it and why have you chosen to apply for this funding Stream?
 - If this is an existing collaboration/or you have other sources of eligible funds to use for this collaboration, why have applicants decided to apply for GRE?
 - If this is a proposal for a workshop, applicants must outline why Zoom is not an option or how they have used Zoom for prior conversations.

- International partner's home institution: York applicants are **highly encouraged** to consider an overseas collaborator from the list of organizations stated below.
 - THE/QS/Shanghai Top 200 World University Rankings/Top 100 World Subject Rankings, Nature Index Top 200 research institutes/labs by all/specific sectors/subjects/journal group (RIKEN, Scripps, Max Planck, CNRS, Academia Sinica etc.). We ask that the ranking performance cited not be more than 3 years old.
 - OR international government agencies (e.g., Higher Health South Africa), leading arts & cultural organizations; major global foundations/NGOs/industry (including those with operations in Canada e.g., Aga Khan Foundation/Sanofi/LG).
 - OR the following universities located in global south/regions that are non-traditional for collaboration.
 - Latin America & Caribbean (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Tecnológico de Monterrey, UNAM-Mexico, University of Costa Rica, University of West Indies system, University of São Paulo, UNICAMP, UNESP or top 20 in QS/THE Latin America rankings).
 - MENA (Al-Quds University, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Qatar University, American University of Beirut, Technion, Hebrew University, Tel Aviv University, Ben Gurion University, Weizmann or top 20 QS/THE Arab University/Region rankings).
 - Africa (University of Health & Allied Sciences-Ghana, GIMPA-Ghana, [African Institute of Mathematical Sciences-network of campuses](#), Aga Khan University, [African Research Universities Alliance members](#), [Historically Disadvantaged Institutions in South Africa](#) or top 20 in THE Sub-Saharan Africa/QS Africa University rankings).
 - Asia (Aga Khan University, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, [India's Institutions of Eminence](#), Foundation for Medical Research-India, VMRF University, Vellore Institute of Technology, Jamia Millia Islamia University-India, University of Madras, Anna University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Singapore Management University, University of the Arts-Singapore, VinUniversity, Chulalongkorn University, Mahidol University, University of Malaya, University of Philippines, University of Central Asia).
 - Oceania (Deakin, University of Western Sydney).

(Please note, the list of institutions above, as stated earlier, is recommended for collaboration i.e., we do not preclude proposals engaging other leading international partners with whom York applicants can develop impactful collaborations.)

- **Budget:** Minimum requests of 5,000 CAD OR 10,000 CAD OR 15,000 CAD OR 20,000 CAD OR 25,000CAD OR 30,000 CAD
 - We encourage applicants to secure as much funding as possible from external sources for the eligible expenses.

- Provide information on matching for eligible expenses and meaningful in-kind support from York Faculty/Dept./ORUs/centres/institutes/other clusters/applicant or external sources.
 - If applicant is requesting 5,000 CAD in funding, matching for eligible expenses is not required.
 - For funding requests of 10,000-30,000 CAD, GRE funding requested will cover up to 50% of the eligible expenses.
 - The remaining costs of the eligible expenses must be covered from other funding sources. For example,
 - ★ if applicant is requesting 10,000 CAD from GRE, eligible expenses need to be at least 20,000 CAD.
 - ★ OR if the eligible expenses are 20,000 CAD, GRE will only fund up to 10,000 CAD for the eligible expenses.
 - Proof of access to matching funds is required if the applicant is not seeking GRE support as a conditional match for an external competition.
 - Please note if all/majority of the matching is from external sources-that are yet to be secured
 - ★ we ask that applicants target sources of external funding for which the funding opportunity has at least been announced, and the results will be released within 10 months of submitting the GRE application/before the end of 2025 (whichever comes first).
 - ★ if the proposal to GRE is approved, GRE funding may be conditional on success in securing external funding. In this case, we will remit GRE funds after confirmation of success in the external funding competition.
- Please consider leveraging other internal grants/awards for graduate/PDF/faculty mobility ([YIMA](#), [Paulina Lau](#), [Canadian Friends of Hebrew University funding to York](#), ORS, Faculty Research Office, ORU, VISTA, Connected Minds etc.). To be used as a match, there needs to be confirmation of being awarded this funding.
- In the budget narrative sub-section:
 - How the applicant will find cost effective approaches to use funds (e.g., economy class airfare, use of Zoom vs. travel where necessary).
 - How the amount funds requested align with the use/needs outlined in project information.
 - What kind of in-kind supports, if any, is the applicant receiving.

- If applicant is planning to go after external sources (e.g., SSHRC, NSERC etc.) for all/most of the matching and is not successful, how will the applicant continue the collaboration?
 - **Please share whether the partner has funding on their end** to cover all their expenses, the amount of funding they are investing in the collaboration, and whether the partner will be levying our students/PDF bench fees & how this will be addressed (note this is not an eligible expense).
- **Commitment and plan to meet impact milestones within the GRE project funding duration:** At least one of the following outcomes for 1-year awards by Y1 *OR* at least two of the outcomes for 2-year awards by Y2 *OR* all of the below outcomes by Y3 for rest.
 1. Incorporation of international partners in **applications to external grant** competitions
 - Please specify (e.g., New Frontiers in Research, Horizon) which external funding opportunities might be suitable and when will you be submitting an application.

Notes: Applicants are also welcome to include reference to other internal funding schemes (not limited to GRE) to continue laddering up. We encourage applicants to also consider smaller mobility grants external grants for [Mitacs](#), [Study in Canada](#), [DAAD](#), [Other German funding](#), [SICI](#), [JSPS](#) etc.
 2. Joint publication in a high impact publication (e.g., Nature Climate Change, Foreign Affairs), or some other form of impactful knowledge mobilization.
 3. Training/mentorship outcomes: Graduate students & PDF training outcomes (e.g., exchange, joint recruitment) & or ECR engagement.
 - **Supporting documentation**
 - *Required:*
 1. Support letter/email from partner: Outlining supports (cash/in-kind) for their researchers/PDF/PhD and any supports (not required) for York collaborators.

The letter/email will also need to say that bench fees will not be levied by the partner on York PhD/PDF visiting their institution- if such fees are the norm/applicable. If bench fees are levied, the partner will be responsible for covering it.

We are also interested in understanding rationale for participation and outcomes that the partner hopes to achieve from this collaboration. The letter/email can be from the lead PI/faculty administrator/representative from the partner institution.

(Please feel free to [share the York mechanism -IVRT-](#) to bring graduate students from overseas institutions to York on research visits. IVRTs are not levied tuition/bench fees by York. They will have access to many of the services/supports as degree-seeking/course-based exchange students from overseas universities. It is also important that visiting graduate students follow this mechanism for immigration purposes.)

2. 2-3 page CV of York applicant/co-applicants: Please highlight prior/ongoing activities concerning global engagement, research grants awarded/proposals submitted (tri-agency & non-tri-agency), awards/recognitions, publications, graduate students/PDF supervised/under supervision, and any other knowledge mobilization/leadership/service activities.
3. Documentation of confirmed matching funds (for funding requests of 10,000 CAD or more) for eligible expenses if the applicant is not seeking GRE support as a conditional match against external funds.
 - *Encouraged:* Support letter/email from a relevant York ORU, CIRC, YRC, CRC, or other research leader highlighting how funding the applicant strengthens York and team research excellence.

Evaluation

Selection Committee: Associate VPs Research, AVP Global Engagement and other stakeholders as applicable (TBC).

Criteria:

- Quality of the project design (25%)
- Academic rationale (25%)
- Impact, scalability, sustainability (40%)
- Likelihood for the project to succeed based on the quality, quantity and significance of the research, graduate/PDF training, global engagement, knowledge mobilization and leadership track record of the York applicant/co-applicants relative to the stage of their career (10%)

Support for the Committee & Implementation: Global Strategic Initiatives Team, York International

Receiving Funds & Reporting:

An awardee will need to hold the funds in a dept./Faculty/ORU cost centre established for the sole purpose of receiving the GRE funds. A chair/ADR/ORU head/other suitable signing authority will need sign off on the use of funds by awardee/their team.

If an applicant is successful, the funds will be made available from May 2024 onwards.

For 5,000 CAD awards:

- Funds will need to be expended 12 months from when the funds are remitted.
- An interim email update 3-6 months from the receipt of funds and a final report no later than 12 months from the receipt of funds are required.

For all other award amounts:

- GRE funds maybe remitted in full via a single transfer or multiple/annual transfers. This will be determined by YI and noted in the award letter.
- GRE funds remitted by YI will need to be expended within the time frame permitted by YI.
- In Y1, an interim email update 3-6 months from the receipt of funds and a report no later than 12 months from the receipt of funds are required.
- Annual reports will also be required for any subsequent years during which GRE funds are held by awardee. If GRE funds are to be remitted annually, funding beyond Y1 will be remitted after reviewing progress reports.

YI and VPRI will review reports. An annual reporting template will be provided to awardees. If there is matching funding from other internal sources (e.g., Faculty or ORU), the report will be shared with those sources too.

Any remaining YI GRE funds, after the period permitted by YI to the awardee or before it-based on the progress reports/updates-, will be remitted back to YI.