

GLOBAL RESEARCH EXCELLENCE (GRE) SEED FUND:

2025-2026 Proposal Guidelines

STREAM A: STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP EXPLORATION & DEVELOPMENT

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Purpose:

Stream A supports York faculty to developing research, capacity building, or knowledge mobilization projects with global collaborators.

This fund supports all stages of collaboration (exploration/development/deepening) of research-driven international partnerships with leading overseas collaborators.

Some examples of how GRE Stream A funds can be deployed by York faculty:

- Organize a workshop, with/without some additional matching funds, with an international partner to assess research collaboration potential between York and 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 (from other internal/external sources) to supplement the GRE funding. Some examples of this could be SSHRC PG Stage 2 or NFRF Transformation Grant Stage 2 (i.e., large grants) or competitions run by international funding agencies. GRE funds can also be used to hire a grant proposal writer.
- Leverage GRE funding to use as a match for proposals to external funding programs to deepen an international collaboration. In this circumstance, matching is required/provides a competitive advantage and GRE might be the only central matching provided for this opportunity. Some examples include SSHRC PDG or NSERC International Alliance Collaboration grant.

Given the flexible deadline, we encourage applicants, where possible, to use this funding Stream to target external funding opportunities early on.

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 Up \$20,000 CAD

For GRE funding requests over \$6,500 CAD, matching funds for eligible expenses are required (see the Budget information in the Application section below for more information).

Please note, this is not annual year over year funding. This is the total funding awarded for the entire duration of a funded project.

Application Timelines:

- **Publication of GRE Call Guidelines:** September 2025
- **Open for submissions to York International (YI):** September 2025-November 2026.
Submit to GRE@yorku.ca
- **Deadline:** Rolling. Proposals will be accepted till the end of November 2026 or funds are expended/committed (whichever comes first).
- **Selection & award letters:** Within 4-6 weeks from receiving the application.

If the applicant is seeking matching funds for an upcoming external competition, GRE adjudication may be expedited. However, applicants are encouraged to 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 direct costs of research 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 joint workshops.
- Grant writing costs for proposals with international partners associated with the proposal.¹
- Costs associated with publishing jointly co-authored material with an international collaborator in open access.
- Participation of elders/knowledge holders from underrepresented/marginalized communities outside academia in guiding the research direction/design (refer to Tri-Agency guidelines).

Tuition and bench fees will always be considered ineligible expenses.

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 for which Global Affairs Canada has issued a travel advisory cautioning travellers to avoid non-essential travel/any travel.
- Collaborations with pre-eminent international researchers or international researchers leading the development of large-scale/prestigious external proposals (Horizon, NSF etc.).
- When York PIs apply for and are successful in 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 up to \$6,500 CAD, no matching funds for eligible expenses are required.

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

² Pre-approval—to include these exemptions in the budget section of application—from YI is required and it must be confirmed by email from YI to the applicant. All final funding decisions will be made at the time of approval of successful proposals.

For GRE funding requests over \$6,500 CAD, matching funds for eligible expenses are required (see the Budget information in the Application section below for more information).

Eligibility:

- This stream is open to individual applicants and team proposals from York faculty.
- All York applicants/co-applicants and York collaborators must have a faculty appointment at York, be full-time active faculty members at York, be York FGS (Full/Associate) members, be eligible to hold research funds at York.
- All applicants must have up-to-date (with York University affiliation) and public [ORCID IDs](#).³ Additionally, in accordance with the institution's research visibility objectives, applicants are encouraged to have an active [Discover York Academics](#) account which is linked to the researcher's ORCID.⁴
- All applications require an international partner (see Application section for more on this).
- If the applicant/co-applicant was already funded by GRE in 2024-2025, and they decide to reapply for new GRE funding in 2025-2026, they may be considered if one or more of the following criteria/circumstances are met:
 - York applicant is submitting a proposal for external funding significantly greater than the amount requested from GRE and is reapplying to GRE for matching/external proposal development. This can be connected to the previously funded GRE project or a different project with the same/different international partner.
 - Other institutional considerations (determined by VPRI/Associate VPR).
 - Demonstration of:
 - robust project impact outcomes per the GRE proposal for the previously funded project (e.g., joint publication or grant application)
 - *OR* robust effort to develop a new collaboration, through that previously funded project, which did not go beyond exploration/workshop/pilot project stage.

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 output to faculty, as well as enhance the university's research impact and electronic CV project. Email metrics@yorku.ca for any questions

⁴ YULink has available resources & walkthroughs on how to register a Discover York Academics account and how to link an ORCID to it.

(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/co-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):

Please note: Applicants planning to leverage GRE for matching support or proposal development for the following external grant competitions may not be required to submit a separate GRE application form if the primary partner on those external grant proposals is an international institution and York is the applicant/lead. Subject to the availability of funds and institutional priorities⁵ the value of the GRE award and conditions for the GRE award to encourage participation in these external calls will be separately communicated to the university community by VPRI/YI in writing. The amount of GRE support received by eligible York applicants may vary based on the call requirements/type, other institutional supports, career stage of the York applicant, any prior GRE support, outcome of the external grant application and the availability of funds. Before GRE funds are remitted, the applicant will need to share the application package with GRE@yorku.ca and agree to the GRE terms. Some calls under consideration for potential GRE support include:

- NSERC Alliance International Catalyst Grant
- SSHRC Connection Grant
- SSHRC PDG
- SSHRC PG Stage 2 Workshop
- NSERC Alliance International Collaboration
- NFRF Exploration, NFRF Transformation Grant Stage 2 Workshop Other: To be determined e.g. special calls by international funding bodies or tri-council or Other Canadian funding entities.

Subject to the availability of funds and other institutional considerations (determined by VPRI), in the event, the applicant is not successful in select external grant competitions, the applicant might be eligible to receive/retain some of the GRE matching commitment made to reapply//apply to other funding opportunities with the international partner.

⁵ This will especially be the case for smaller grants like SSHRC Connection, NSERC Alliance International Catalyst, etc. For example, GRE may provide matching support for these applications with X country/regional partners.

We will also consider GRE support either for matching (where GRE funds can make a difference) or proposal development, where York is a major partner/contributor on a proposal led by an international partner (Horizon, IDRC etc.).

Any GRE commitments (matching/proposal development/bridging) for external grant competitions are only confirmed if YI/VPRI communicates such support in writing, separately, before the deadline for a particular external call.

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, donors, alumni, prospective undergraduate students, international partners, and external media who may not have subject expertise.*
- Project Description & Design: Objectives, scope, methodology, [DEDI](#) impact, and originality/significance/expected contribution to knowledge.
- Timeline or (for workshops) draft program.

Academic Rationale

- Complementarity with proposed partner & country/region.
 - Outline any prior history of collaboration between the applicant and the international partner. If there is a history of previous collaboration, highlight the new value proposition introduced by this proposed project.
 - Outline why and how the sum of the collaboration is greater than its parts.
- Alignment with York's [Global Engagement Strategy](#), [Strategic Research Plan](#), the [Decolonizing, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy](#), and any other major institutional priorities (benefit to the institution by advancing these strategies):
 - 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 Director, Safeguarding Research, 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/PDFs, there is Mitacs, and applicants may not be required to apply to the 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.

- Primary international partner's home institution: Given the limited amount of GRE funds available, if the York applicant is not seeking GRE support for immediate proposal development or matching for an external grant competition with international partners, priority will be given to York applicants whose primary overseas collaborator is from the following list of organizations:
 - Top 200 Ranked World Universities (THE, QS, ARWU rankings), Top 100 Ranked in relevant Subject Rankings (THE, QS, ARWU), or Nature Index Top 200 by all/specific sectors/subjects/journal group (RIKEN, Scripps, Max Planck, CNRS, Academia Sinica, etc.). Cited ranking performance should not be more than 3 years old.
 - OR international government (e.g., ISRO India/Higher Health South Africa) or NGO (e.g. Oxfam) or inter-governmental agency (e.g., UNDP) or NGO
 - or leading arts & cultural organizations/major foundations/think tanks, or industry with a strong global presence/profile (including those with operations in Canada, e.g., Aga Khan Foundation/Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada/Sanofi/LG).
 - OR indigenous organizations overseas (e.g., International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs).
 - OR the following universities located in the global south/regions that are non-traditional for collaborations:
 - Latin America & Caribbean (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Tecnológico de Monterrey, UNAM-Mexico, University of Costa Rica, University of West Indies system, University of São Paulo, UNICAMP, and UNESP).
 - MENA (Al-Quds University, Tel Aviv University, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Hebrew University, Qatar University, Ben Gurion University, Hamad Bin Khalifa University-Qatar, American University of Beirut, Technion, Majmaah University, Weizmann Institute, Abu Dhabi University, and UAE University).
 - Africa (University of Health & Allied Sciences-Ghana, GIMPA-Ghana, [African Institute of Mathematical Sciences-network of campuses](#), Aga Khan University, and [African Research Universities Alliance members](#)).
 - Asia (Aga Khan University, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Tata Institute for Fundamental Research (TIFR), [India's Institutions of Eminence](#)/other IITs or IIMs or AIIMS or IISERs, Foundation for Medical Research-India, SRM Institute of Science & Technology, Vellore Institute of Technology, IIIT-Delhi, Singapore Management University, Sunway University, VinUniversity, Chulalongkorn University, Mahidol University, University of Philippines-System, University of Central Asia).
 - OR an international collaborator with whom York applicant/co-applicant has co-published/applied for external grants/jointly supervised graduate students or PDF recently.
 - OR a researcher with one or more of the following attributes: pre-eminent in their field, planning to lead a large global research consortium, demonstrates strong potential to become pre-eminent in their domain or has access to world-leading research infrastructure/research data that will demonstrably strengthen the York researcher's global profile (funding, publications etc.)

Budget: Up to \$20,000 CAD

- Applicants are encouraged to secure as much funding as possible from external sources for the eligible expenses.
- Provide information on matching for eligible expenses from York Faculty/Dept./ORUs/centres/institutes/other clusters/applicant or external sources.
 - If applicant is requesting up to \$6,500 CAD in funding, matching for eligible expenses is not required.
 - For funding requests greater than \$6,500 CAD but less than/equal to \$10,000 CAD, we require 1:1 cash matching on eligible expenses for the difference. For example,
 - If the applicant requests \$10,000 CAD, up to \$6,500 CAD can be requested in unmatched GRE support. However, the applicant will need to come up with at least \$3,500 CAD from their own funds to receive an additional \$3,500 CAD in GRE funds. So, for a \$10,000 CAD GRE funding request, the applicant will need to invest at least \$3,500 CAD in cash matching for eligible expenses.
 - For anything above \$10,000 CAD there is an expectation that the applicant will leverage at least 15x in funding from external sources.
 - We are open to considering requests for more unmatched GRE support if the applicant plans to use the GRE funds to develop a proposal for a large external grant application within 2-3 months of the GRE request, or the collaboration is with a global south/overseas indigenous partner, or it includes multiple York faculty members. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and subject to the availability of funds.
 - For all other requests where the applicant is not seeking GRE support as a conditional match for an external competition and requests over \$6,500 CAD in GRE funding, an email from an appropriate authority confirming proof of funds is required.
 - Note if all/majority of the matching is from external sources (SSHRC Connection or Insight, NSERC Alliance International Catalyst, NSERC CREATE etc.) – 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 8 months of submitting the GRE application.
 - if the proposal to GRE is approved, any GRE funding commitments > \$6,500 will be conditional on success in securing external funding.
- Consider leveraging other internal grants/awards for graduate/POD/faculty mobility ([YIMA](#), [Paulina Lau](#), [Canadian Friends of Hebrew University funding to York](#), ORS, Faculty Research Office, ORU, VISTA, Connected Minds etc.).
- In the budget narrative sub-section:

- How the applicant will find effective and economical ([per Tri-Agency guidelines](#)) approaches to use funds (e.g., economy class airfare, use of Zoom vs. travel where necessary).
- How will the York supervisor cover other non-eligible expenses associated with the direct cost of this project?
- What kind of in-kind supports ([see Tri-Agency guidelines on in-kind](#)), if any, is the applicant receiving.
- Describe the confirmed partner funding to cover their research & travel expenses, 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 Year 1 OR at least two of the outcomes for 2-year awards by Year 2, OR all of the below outcomes by Year 3 for the rest.

1. Incorporation of international partners in **applications to external grant** competitions
 - Specify (e.g., New Frontiers in Research, Horizon) which external funding opportunities might be suitable and when you will be submitting an application.
 - Applicants are also welcome to include references to other internal funding schemes (not limited to other GRE Streams) to continue laddering up. Applicants are encouraged consider smaller mobility external grants for [Mitacs](#), [Study in Canada](#), [DAAD](#), [Other German funding](#), [SICI](#), [JSPS](#) etc. Inclusion of other internal and small external mobility funds in the application form's impact milestones table is helpful, but not required. We are primarily interested in external grants > \$50,000 CAD.
2. Joint submission to a high-impact publication or some other form of impactful knowledge mobilization.
3. Training/mentorship outcomes: Graduate students & PDF training outcomes (e.g., exchange on small/pilot GRE projects with new partners and joint recruitment for larger projects/existing partners) and/or meaningful York/overseas partner ECR/MCR engagement (if the York applicant is a senior researcher).

Required Supporting documentation:

1. **Support letter from partner:** Outlining support (cash/in-kind) for their researchers/PDF/PhD and any support (not required) for York collaborators.

The letter/email will also need to state that tuition fees will not be levied by the partner on York PhD/PDF students visiting their institution, if such fees are the norm or applicable. If such fees are levied, the partner will be responsible for covering them.

We are also interested in understanding the international partner's rationale for collaboration and the 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.

(We recommend that the York applicant/co-applicants [share York's 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 and supports available to degree-seeking student at York and course-based exchange students from overseas universities. It is also important that visiting graduate students follow this mechanism for immigration purposes.)

2. **Detailed CV of York applicant/co-applicants:** 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 > \$6,500 CAD but ≤ 10,000) for eligible expenses. An email from an appropriate authority confirming proof of funds is sufficient.

Evaluation

Selection Committee: Representatives from VPRI and other stakeholders as determined by VPRI & YI (TBC).

The Associate Director, Global Engagement and Strategic Initiatives, will determine the final award amount, taking into account feedback from the adjudication committee and the information in the proposal.

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 to receive the GRE research funds. A chair/ADR/ORU head/other suitable signing authority will need sign off on the use of funds by awardee/their team.

For up to \$6,500 CAD in GRE awards:

- Funds will need to be expended 12 months from when the funds are remitted.
- An interim email update (to GRE@yorku.ca) 3-6 months from the receipt of funds and a final report no later than 12 months from the receipt of funds are required. Updates will be reviewed by VPRI and YI.

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 Year 1, an interim email update (to GRE@yorku.ca) 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 Year 1 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., the Faculty or ORU), the report will also be shared with those sources.

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.