

# GLOBAL RESEARCH EXCELLENCE (GRE) SEED FUND:

## *2025-2026 Proposal Guidelines*

### **STREAM B: Global Post-Doctoral Researcher Award**

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#### **Purpose:**

This Stream helps York faculty conduct globally impactful research by supporting their collaboration with leading international peers to jointly develop a Post-Doctoral research project and jointly recruit and train top “POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER” talent.

This new GRE stream is also an institutional response to global developments that competitively position Canada to attract top international talent. We believe that the global competition for talent, addressing grand challenges, and international partnerships are all synergistic. This approach will better empower us to drive change that benefits Canada and the world.

Please note, unlike some of the other Post-Doctoral Fellowships offered by some internal units at York, this is a York investigator (supervisor)-driven competition, i.e. *graduate students/recent PhD graduates seeking “POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER” opportunities are ineligible to submit a GRE Stream B proposal (see Eligibility section). Only York faculty are eligible to apply directly to GRE Stream B.*

*Early & Mid-Career Researchers at York are strongly encouraged to apply.*

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

### Value of Awards:

**Up to \$40,000 CAD<sup>1</sup>.** Up to 4 awards are available.

Please note that the amount above is not annual, year-over-year funding. The amount represents the maximum total GRE funding awarded for the entire duration of a jointly recruited “POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER”. GRE funding is not to build a research program but to seed connections/deepen relations between York faculty and leading researchers overseas.

Matching funds from other sources are required to cover some or all of the above expenses.

### Application Timelines:

- **Publication of GRE Call Guidelines:** Fall 2025
- **Open for submissions to York International (YI):** Fall 2025. Please submit to [GRE@yorku.ca](mailto:GRE@yorku.ca)
- **Deadline:** Monday, January 30, 2026. However, all applicants are required to submit a draft application package (with at least the completed draft application form) by January 5, 2026.
- **Selection & award letters:** Within 6-8 weeks from receiving the application.

### Duration for the Use of Funds:

Up to 3 years for the jointly recruited “POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER”

### 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/“POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER”/graduate students:**

- “POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER” salary & benefits, while the “POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER” is based at York.
- Travel expenses for the York faculty and their research group (airfare must be economy class).
- Relocation to York expenses for the “POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER”.
- Expenses for organizing workshops with international partners associated with this proposal.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on the trainee being based at York for a year.

- Grant writing for proposals with international partners associated with this proposal.<sup>2</sup>
- Promotion of the jointly recruited Post-Doctoral Fellowship job posting in a manner that reaches a global audience (e.g., in Nature Careers).
- Participation of elders/knowledge holders from underrepresented/marginalized communities outside academia in guiding the research direction/design if applicable to the “POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER”’s research project ([Please refer to Tri-Agency guidelines](#)).

Tuition/bench fees levied on visiting “POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER”/graduate students to international partners will always be considered an ineligible expense.

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 considered<sup>3</sup>, at the discretion of YI, include:

- Temporary travel disruptions that preclude travel to the international partner.
- Collaborating with global industry with R&D presence (e.g., Sanofi, LG) or select global arts & cultural organizations/think tanks (e.g., Aga Khan Museum and the Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada) in Canada.

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

Matching funds from other sources are required to cover some or all of the above expenses. The international partner is expected to be able to cover their share of the expenses.

### Eligibility:

- This stream is open to individual and team proposals from York faculty. However, there must be one designated primary supervisor (applicant) at York with the supervisory capacity and primary supervisory eligibility to co-supervise the jointly recruited “POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER” with an international partner co-supervisor.
- All York applicants and York collaborators must have faculty appointment at York, be fulltime active faculty members at York, be York FGS (Full/Associate) members, be eligible to hold research funds at York. [We will also be open to considering proposals from applicants who will officially start their full-time career as a research-stream faculty member at York during the 2025-26 fiscal year, but after the Stream B deadline<sup>4</sup>.](#)

<sup>2</sup> Applicants will be expected to engage with Faculty Research Offices for projects involving external funding application development.

<sup>3</sup> Pre-approval—to include 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.

<sup>4</sup> Note: If approved for Stream B funding, funding will only be remitted after they assume their fulltime career at York.

- All applicants must have up-to-date (with York University affiliation) and public [ORCID IDs](#).<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup>
- If the 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:
  - robust project impact outcomes per the GRE proposal for the previously funded project (e.g. joint publication or grant application).
  - *OR* Applicant demonstrates that applying to GRE Stream B is a deepening of the collaboration with an international partner developed through prior GRE support.
  - *OR* the GRE awardee demonstrates 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.
- The Jointly recruited “POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER” Trainee:
  - Cannot:
    - Be co-funded by other internal Post-Doctoral Fellowship Awards (e.g., LA&PS/Connected Minds/Provost’s/YCAR Post-Doctoral Fellowship award). They can be co-funded by external fellowships.
    - Be a current/former York “POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER” or graduate student. This stream aims to welcome new top talent to York and ensure meaningful international research collaboration by requiring applicants to develop a “POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER” project with their overseas collaborator before jointly recruiting a “POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER” to both institutions.
  - When the joint “POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER” is eventually recruited, both co-supervisors must ensure that the research carried out by the joint “POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER” is different and distinct from, or adds significantly to, the trainee’s doctoral dissertation.
  - The jointly recruited “POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER” must be jointly supervised for a minimum period of 18 months by York and the overseas co-supervisors. The trainee

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<sup>5</sup> 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](mailto:metrics@yorku.ca) for any questions

<sup>6</sup> YULink has available resources & walkthroughs on how to register a Discover York Academics account and how to link an ORCID to it.

will need to spend a minimum of 50% of their time at York and the remaining 50% of their time at the partner institution.<sup>7</sup>

- If a York faculty supervisor exclusively uses monies administered by the university (GRE/internal seed funds, tri-council research grants) to support the Post-Doctoral Researcher, the Post-Doctoral Researcher will be classified as a [Postdoctoral Visitor \(PDV\)](#) at York. If the Post-Doctoral Researcher secures a successful external fellowship to fund all/most of their fellowship position, they will be classified as a [Postdoctoral Fellow \(PDF\)](#) at York. Please see for more on this [here](#).
  - The trainee is not required to be from the applicant's and the international co-supervisor's field.
  - The trainee must be recruited within 12 months of approval for the GRE award (additional time may be provided in instances of immigration-related/other extenuating circumstances to be determined by VPRI/YI).
  - The trainee must have completed<sup>8</sup> all requirements of their doctoral degree no more than three years before the start date of their "POST-DOCTORAL" placement.<sup>9</sup>
  - Will need to receive an annual salary of at least \$70,000 CAD/year (not inclusive of additional 15% employer-paid benefits cost and health benefits) in addition to funds for travel while at York. The trainee will need to receive a competitive salary and international travel funds when they are based at the overseas partner.
- International co-supervisor: All applications require an international co-supervisor.
    - Must have primary supervisory capacity and eligibility at their institution to co-supervise the trainee.
    - Is not required to be from the same field as the applicant.

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<sup>7</sup> We are open to considering arrangements that have the Post-Doctoral Researcher spending somewhat less time at York/overseas institution based on research merit, external funder requirements, immigration challenges, whether the co-supervisor is from industry/NGO/think tank/arts & cultural institution, geo-political circumstances or **unanticipated** (at the time of the GRE application) personal extenuating circumstances of the Post-Doctoral Researcher. If the GRE applicant expects the Post-Doctoral Researcher to spend less time at York/overseas institution beforehand, we expect them to disclose this information in the GRE application. If the co-supervisor is based at a Canada-based global MNC (e.g., Samsung) or an entity with a global presence like the like the Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada/Aga Khan Museum of Canada - the residency requirements might be waived/modified to demonstrate shorter stays/regular visits to the Canada-based partner i.e. trainee can be based primarily/exclusively based at York.

<sup>8</sup> This is not the conferred or convocation date indicated on the transcript, but rather the date on which all the requirements of their degree were met, including the successful defense and submission of the corrected copy of their thesis. If they have more than one doctoral degree, the completion date of their most recent relevant degree will be used to determine their eligibility.

<sup>9</sup> If their career was significantly interrupted after completing their doctorate due to extenuating circumstances, they may qualify for an extension of the eligibility period. Eligible interruptions may include parental, medical and/or family-related responsibilities, mandatory military service, disruptions due to war, civil conflicts or natural disasters in your country of residence, or limited research opportunities due to socio-economic reasons. The eligibility period can be extended by the duration of the eligible delay(s)/interruption(s).

- Strong preference is given to:
  - Researcher from THE/QS/Shanghai Top 100 World University Rankings/Top 50 World Subject Rankings, Nature Index Top 100 by all/specific sectors/subjects/journal group (RIKEN, Scripps, Max Planck, CNRS, Academia Sinica etc.).
  - Or a researcher/senior policy maker based at an international government (e.g., ISRO India/Higher Health South Africa), inter-governmental agency (e.g., UNDP), a leading arts & cultural organization, major foundation, 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 a researcher with one or more of the following attributes: pre-eminent in their field, from select institutions with whom York has tried to facilitate collaborations,<sup>10</sup> planning to lead a large global research consortium, demonstrates strong potential to become pre-eminent in their domain, a researcher with whom the York supervisor is planning to submit a major research proposal (SSHRC PDG/PG, NSERC Alliance International Collaboration, NFRF Transformation etc.), has strong ties to industry/R&D funders or has access to world leading research infrastructure
- Partner co-funding is a requirement where the partner must provide a competitive “POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER” salary when the trainee is at their institution, and also capable of covering their own & trainee’s travel expenses. The salary must be competitive (of at least \$50,000 CAD/year) to attract top applicants from outside the international co-supervisor’s country.<sup>11</sup>
- York applicants, and their trainee funded by GRE, agree to participate/be featured in institutional communications/outreach promoting research excellence at York and York’s global profile. Applicant and trainee should acknowledge GRE 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,*

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<sup>10</sup> For example, CNRS, Technion, Pasteur Institute, KAUST, Qatar University, Sorbonne, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Hebrew University, Abu Dhabi University, Ben Gurion University, Aga Khan University/Museum, Asia-Pacific Foundation-Canada, UNICAMP, UNESP, Tel Aviv University, University of São Paulo and Weizmann Institute.

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

- Project Description & Design: Objectives, scope, methodology, and originality/significance/expected contribution to knowledge. A clear and detailed trainee recruitment and training plan
  - Demonstration of how both primary co-supervisors will stay engaged with the trainee throughout their training.
  - What is the plan for joint recruitment to ensure the trainee will be competitive for prestigious external fellowships/awards.
  - Division of “POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER”’s time at each institution and rationale for it (Minimum joint supervision period is 18 months. 50% of the time at York and 50% at international partner).
  - DEDI in the project design and trainee selection.
- Project timeline.

### **Academic Rationale**

- Complementarity with proposed partner & country/region.
  - Outline any prior history of collaboration between the two supervisors. If there is a history of previous collaboration, please 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](#) and any other major institutional priorities (benefit to the institution by advancing these strategies)
  - 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 Director, Safeguarding Research, Rebecca Irwin [rirwin1@yorku.ca](mailto:rirwin1@yorku.ca).

### **Budget**

- Matching funds from other sources are required to cover a significant share of the above eligible expenses associated with the direct cost of research at York. There may also be other expenses associated with recruiting a “POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER” (consumables etc.). For the budget table for this proposal, only itemize the eligible expenses referenced above.
- Applicant cannot co-fund this “POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER” position with an internal “POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER” award.
- We encourage applicants to secure as much funding as possible from external sources for the eligible expenses.
- Provide information on matching for eligible expenses.
- Applicant should, where applicable, consider the Mitacs Globalink Research Award to host the PDF at York when they are based overseas or have the PDF travel to the overseas co-

supervisor when they are based at York. Mitacs provides \$6,000-\$12,000 CAD for 6-48 week research placements. Please contact Rachel Sung, Senior Advisor, Business Development, (Mitacs) Innovation York [sungr@yorku.ca](mailto:sungr@yorku.ca) Applicants cannot use Mitacs (or any other external funds not yet secured) as a match in the GRE Stream B application. However, if they are successful in securing Mitacs funding after recruiting the trainee, they might be able to reduce their funding commitments to the trainee from other sources.

- Please consider leveraging other internal travel grants/awards for graduate/“POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER”/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 (e.g., consumables)?
  - What kind of in-kind supports ([see tri-agency guidelines on in-kind](#)), if any, is the applicant receiving.
  - We anticipate that at least close to 50% of the eligible expenses (i.e. not just trainee salary & benefits) will be covered by the York applicant when the trainee is based at York (Note: This is relevant for the budget table). 100% of the eligible expenses will be covered by the international co-supervisor<sup>12</sup> when the trainee is based overseas (Note: This does not need to be in the budget table).
  - Please provide information in the budget narrative section **on the minimum funding support required from GRE to make the joint “POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER” project viable and provide a rationale for that. The budget table can include the desired amount of GRE support being requested as long as it is ≤ \$40,000 CAD (for a trainee who is based at York for a year<sup>13</sup>). However, in the narrative section, the minimum GRE support has to be ≤ \$35,000 CAD (based on the trainee being based at York for a year<sup>14</sup>).** Given the limited available funds and strong interest, we are keen to understand the minimum resources required to operationalize the applicant’s vision.

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<sup>12</sup> Or from sources external to York (e.g. if York PI has tri-council funding that allows use of funds to cover trainee’s stay at overseas partner, that is permissible.)

<sup>13</sup> If the trainee is spending less than 1 year at York, this amount has to be adjusted proportionately.

<sup>14</sup> If the trainee is spending less than 1 year at York, this amount has to be adjusted proportionately.

- Describe the confirmed partner funding for the trainee salary, research and travel expenses when the trainee is based at the partner institution, and whether the partner will be levying any fees on the York research group & 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:** By end of year 2 of the training, at least two of the following outcomes are expected:
  - 1 joint submission to a high-impact publication OR the development of new technologies (or another form of impactful knowledge mobilization in arts, music, design & dance) with trainee and overseas co-supervisor
  - Application for **significant external funding** with overseas co-supervisor.
    - If it is a new collaboration ≥ \$200,000 CAD in external grant applications
    - If both researchers have a well-established relationship (e.g., if the overseas partners was the former Post-Doctoral/PhD advisor of the York applicant/both have successfully applied to external grants together or co-published together before), they will likely need to submit external grant applications significantly greater than \$200,000 CAD value.
  - Trainee has received a prestigious/competitive external fellowship from an external funding agency (e.g., Canada Postdoctoral Research Award program, Humboldt Research Fellowship etc.) or partner (e.g., TUM Global Postdoctoral Fellowship) to cover their full stay at York/partner institution. For industry collaborations, significant funding from the industry partner beyond covering the cost of the trainee may be considered.

Elaborate on the information provided in the table in the narrative section below it.

***Required Supporting Documentation:***

**1. From the international partner**

- a) Support letter/email from the international co-supervisor: Outlining specific supports for the trainee's salary (min \$50,000 CAD/year) & benefits (while trainee is based there) and overseas travel to York (while trainee is based there), and support for the international co-supervisor's overseas travel to York. The letter/email will also need to say that fees will not be levied for any short-term visits to their institution by the York research group. If fees are levied, the partner will be responsible for covering them. We are also interested in understanding the rationale behind the collaboration and the outcomes that the international co-supervisor hopes to achieve through this collaboration. It will also need to highlight the duration of time the trainee will be based at their institution and duration of time the trainee will be based at York.
- b) An email/letter from the international co-supervisor's department chair/senior Faculty administrator confirming that they are aware of the plans of their researcher

to jointly recruit and co-fund the trainee with the York applicant; and confirm their researcher has primary supervisory capacity & eligibility, and resources for this endeavour. The email/letter will also need to acknowledge that the institution will provide immigration support as necessary for the trainee.

- c) Detailed CV of the international co-supervisor.

## 2. From York

- a) Email from the department chair/Associate Dean Research confirming awareness of the York applicant's plans to jointly recruit and co-fund a "POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER" with the international partner and confirming that the York applicant has the financial resources on hand to co-fund salary/benefits/travel for trainee<sup>15</sup>, and primary supervisory capacity & eligibility to do so. It will also need to highlight the duration of time the trainee will be based at York, the duration of time the trainee will be based overseas and the salary & benefits they would receive while based at York. They also have to confirm that the plans have been shared with FGS. If the York applicant is starting their full-time research-stream faculty career at York after the Stream B deadline but during the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the letter must include the York faculty member's start date at York.
- b) Detailed 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/"POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER" supervised/under supervision, and any other knowledge mobilization/leadership/service activities.

## Evaluation

**Selection Committee:** Vice-President Research & Innovation, Associate Vice-President-Research, Assistant Vice-President Global Engagement and Partnerships, a decanal representative from FGS, and potentially other adjudicators as determined by VPRI & YI.

The Associate Director, Global Engagement and Strategic Initiatives will determine the final award amount, taking into account feedback from the adjudication committee, any prior GRE and the information in the proposal (e.g., duration of the joint "POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER" stay at York, career stage of the York applicant, # of York co-supervisors, salary provided by international partner & York supervisor, York supervisor contribution etc.).

### Criteria:

- Quality of the project design (25%)
- Academic rationale (25%)

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<sup>15</sup> Note if this is being co-funded with other York collaborators, this needs to be referenced in the letter with the name(s) of the York collaborators.

- Impact, scalability, sustainability (40%)
- Likelihood for the project to succeed based on the quality, quantity and significance of the research, graduate/“POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER” training, global engagement, knowledge mobilization and leadership track record of the York applicant and the international co-supervisor 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 to sign off on the use of funds by awardee/their team.

- 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](mailto: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., 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 (e.g., joint “POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER” is not recruited within 12 months of award confirmation) – will be remitted back to YI.