



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Multi-Institutional Faculty Interdisciplinary Projects (MFIRP) University of Exeter and IIT Delhi

Introduction

The University of Exeter, UK (Exeter) and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) are contributing matching funds to support collaborative and interdisciplinary research initiatives through a joint call for proposals to develop collaborative projects.

This will be executed through the Multi-Institutional Faculty Interdisciplinary Projects (MFIRP) scheme at IITD, and through the Global Partnership Team at Exeter.

This invitation for submission is open to all faculty members affiliated with IITD and Exeter. Successful proposals will:

1. Demonstrate the potential to be sustainable through external funding sources
2. Involve a clear collaborative effort between faculty members of the partnering universities

It is expected that each funded project will prepare and submit a suitable proposal for further, external funding within one year of Institutional funding. This is in addition to research output(s) such as publications and is an important measure of success for the project to ensure its viability and sustainability. All successful applicants will be required to submit a short report detailing outcomes from their project; any follow-on funding provided by Exeter and IIT Delhi would be contingent on demonstration of strong return on investment from the initial award.

Project Areas

This call invites research proposals in areas of mutual interest and complementarity between the University of Exeter and IIT Delhi. Following networking sessions and scoping to identify key areas of synergy between Exeter and IIT Delhi, submissions are encouraged in the broad thematic areas of:

1. Sport Science, Rehabilitation, and Elite Performance
2. Climate Science, Environmental Data, and Clean Energy
3. Operations Research, AI, and Automation

Proposals must include at least one participant from IITD and from Exeter. Interdisciplinary projects are particularly encouraged. It is expected that a faculty member will participate in one project at a time.

Eligibility for participants within the scope of this call

IITD applicants:

Preference will be given to faculty members not having ongoing/previous IRD-supported Multi-Institutional Faculty Interdisciplinary Research Projects (MFIRP). Faculty members who are/were part of any two successful MFIRP calls as a Principal Investigator need not apply. The joint projects at IITD will be operated as per the MFIRP guidelines (Link: [MFIRP Guidelines](#)).

Exeter applicants:

Exeter applicants must be a member of academic staff with a contract of employment for the full length of the



proposed project. One application per applicant only is admissible for seed funding.

Value and Duration of Award

- i) Up to four awards are expected to be made.
- ii) Each successful project proposal will be granted a maximum of £5000 / INR 5.0 Lakh. The funding is a one-time award for a maximum period of 1 year. **Exter PIs** must spend the grant received by 31st July 2025.
- iii) At IITD funds can be used for contingency, consumables and support staff salary. At Exeter, funds can be used to support:
 - a) travel and subsistence
 - b) external speakers/facilitators/interns to support project work
 - c) meeting, venue and catering costs
 - d) equipment (small purchases in line with project deliverables) or digital costs
- iv) The budget provided by IITD and Exeter should be spent according to the norms and regulations followed in each institute.
- v) The funding is provided with the expectation that it will serve to initiate and support the submission of extramural research grants that will establish and sustain international research collaboration between the two institutions.

Timeline

Call for Proposals Announcement	23 rd July 2024
Deadline for Submission of Proposal	30 th August 2024
Communication of Results to Applicants	23 rd September 2024
Projects start date	01 st October 2024
Projects end date	30 th September 2025

Identifying Academics at IITD and Exeter

IITD faculties can refer to the following institutional websites for identifying Exeter academic colleagues aligned with the research themes:

- [Our departments | University of Exeter](#)
- [Public Health and Sport Sciences](#)
- [Clean Energy Engineering and Decarbonisation](#)
- [Engineering Materials and Manufacturing](#)
- [Environment and Sustainability Institute](#)
- [Global Systems Institute](#)
- [Institute for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence](#)
- [Centre for Simulation, Analytics, and Modelling \(CSAM\)](#)
- [Biomedical Research Centre \(BRC\)](#)

Please contact James Smith (j.w.smith@exeter.ac.uk) if you have any queries or need further guidance on finding academic collaborators at Exeter.

Exeter staff can refer to the following institutional web sites to identify IITD partners:

<https://home.iitd.ac.in/departments.php>

<https://home.iitd.ac.in/centres.php>



<https://home.iitd.ac.in/schools.php>

Ethics, Security and Governance

For IITD:

- i) For the projects involving research in Human Subjects please check the guidelines and formalities with the Institute Ethics Committee of IITD Delhi for clearance before submitting the project proposal. The link for institute Ethics Committee Clearance form: [Institute Ethics Committee Clearance Form](#).
- ii) For the project related to handling hazardous microorganisms and/ or Genetically Engineered Organisms, please check the guidelines and regulation with the Institutional Biosafety Committee before submitting the project proposal. The link for Institutional Biosafety Committee Clearance form: [IBSC Protocol Form](#)

For Exeter:

Exeter colleagues should refer to institutional [Research Ethics and Governance](#) guidance for advice on these topics.

For both IITD & Exeter:

Collaborative Research Agreement issues, IPR issues and Joint Supervision issues will be addressed as per the guidelines described in joint MoU.

Guidelines for Submission of Proposals

- i) **One joint proposal** will be prepared (5 pages scientific content) and include CV (1-2 pages) of each researcher.
- ii) **The IITD PI** will submit the joint proposal online under MFIRP tab in IRIS portal and additional information as an attachment.
- iii) **The Exeter PI** will submit the *same application* to GP-Funding@exeter.ac.uk
Since the IITD PI will submit the MFIRP proposal online, the Exeter PI should obtain the pdf file of the MFIRP submission from the IITD PI.

Format of MFIRP online form can be found in the link given below:

[MFIRP Proposal Format](#)

- iv) For this call, the budget for only one year is needed.
- v) It is vital that both the IITD and Exeter counterparts are in full agreement on all aspects of the proposal prior to formal submission.
- vi) Exeter academics are strongly encouraged to discuss their proposal with their departmental Director of Global Engagement prior to submission and are required to gain approval from their Head of Department prior to submitting their application.
- vii) Any travel undertaken for projects must be in accordance with institutional travel policies.
- viii) Applicants are required to ensure that project work considers and adheres to institutional **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion** policies ([IITD](#) ; [EXETER](#)).
- ix) The **IITD PI** must share the pdf of the final proposal submitted on the MFIRP- IRIS portal with the **Exeter PI** on/before 30th August 2024.

Adjudication

Selection Criteria: The seed grant proposal will be evaluated by at least two topic experts. Each proposal will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Project design and rationale (how clearly presented and justified is the proposal and basis for the



collaboration)

- Pathway for Project impact (how clearly linked are the outcomes to the planned activities and performance indicators, such as joint papers, external funding applications, joint research with industry and proposal for policy recommendations).
- Interdisciplinary nature of the project (the aim of the funding is to encourage academics to collaborate in a project that will require a range of disciplines for successful delivery of the project)
- Impact of collaboration (is there a distinct advantage provided by this collaboration that is not possible by the two institutions working individually?)
- Capacity for future collaboration (what is the extent to which future collaborations are possible as a result of the proposed activities.)

The final decision will be taken by a joint selection committee.

Reporting After Project Completion

All awardees must, as a condition of receiving an award under this call, submit a technical report highlighting the achievements vis-à-vis proposed objectives, outcome in terms of publications, patents, conference proceedings, etc. and details on project(s) submitted to an external agency within 3 months after completion of the project.

Contacts

For any clarification points or questions on the joint call, please contact:

IITD	EXETER
<p>Professor Naresh Bhatnagar Dean Research and Development deanrnd@admin.iitd.ac.in</p> <p>Dr Archana H Trivedi Research Development Coordinator rnd_coordinator_aht@ird.iitd.ac.in</p>	<p>Contact your Departmental Director of Global Engagement (DoGE) to discuss faculty and departmental support for your application.</p> <p>Contact details for each DoGE can be found on your departmental webpage in the 'Leadership Team' section for each department: Our departments University of Exeter</p>
<p>Professor James Gomes Dean International Programs Intldean@admin.iitd.ac.in</p> <p>Professor Biswarup Mukherjee Coordinator IITD-Exeter Partnership bmukherjee@iitd.ac.in</p> <p>Dr Srishti Joshi Coordinator International Programs intlprogcoord@iitd.ac.in; intloff@iitd.ac.in</p>	<p>James Smith and the Global Partnerships Teams for administrative queries linked to the programme. j.w.smith@exeter.ac.uk gp-funding@exeter.ac.uk</p>