UGA & IIT Madras Strategic Partnership Fund

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

IIT Madras

Office of Global Engagement

Deadline: Monday, January 26, 2026

Award Description

The University of Georgia and the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) recently established a strategic partnership to advance collaboration in research and education. This partnership aims to promote joint initiatives that align with the institutions' strategic priorities and advance solutions to critical societal challenges.

Applicants to the UGA-IIT Madras Strategic Partnership Fund are encouraged to submit funding proposals for innovative and sustainable programs built around collaborative research linking the two institutions. Proposals for teaching, training, or broader student learning initiatives may also be considered if included as part of a larger collaborative research proposal.

Each participating institution has committed $30,000.00 for this round of funding. The funding period is July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027.

Eligibility

- Open to all UGA tenured and tenure-track faculty.

Funding and Award Conditions

- The UGA–IIT Madras Strategic Partnership Fund will provide awards of up to $15,000. PIs are eligible to receive funding only through their home institution and may receive no more than one award.
- Awardees should expect to be able to use the funds over one year for preliminary data collection, feasibility studies, or other collaborative efforts, and to cover proposal preparation costs.
- Travel, if proposed, must be necessary to the articulated output of the identified research collaboration.
- Awards will be announced during the spring term. Distribution of awarded funds will occur in July 2026, with transfers made directly to the designated UGA business offices. All awarded funds must be fully expended no later than the close of the fiscal year on June 26, 2027.
- An initial report is due approximately six months after the funding start date, on January 5, 2027. A final report is due one year after funding begins, on July 1, 2027. These reports should address project success, partnership development, and the status of external funding applications.

Required Proposal Content and Submission Instructions

The following proposal components are required and must be submitted via the online proposal form. The full proposal should be uploaded as a single PDF file. Save and return is not available; applicants should have their documents prepared for upload before completing the form. Clicking "Submit" finalizes the proposal transmission.

- Preliminary information entered on the proposal submission form:
  - Proposal Name
  - UGA PI Name and Contact Information

- o   Academic Rank and Track
  - o   Name of UGA College or School
  - o   Name of UGA Department
  - o   Name and email of IIT-Madras Co-PI
  - o   Name, affiliation, email of all external collaborators, funding agencies, or recipients of technical assistance, with a short (one-sentence) description of the capacity in which they are involved
- Upload as one PDF:
  - o   Summary of planned project (1000 words max.)
  - o   Description of activities to be funded (500 words max.)
  - o   Expected outcome of those activities, identifying by name the sponsor(s) and program(s) to which subsequent external funding requests will be submitted (250 words max.)
  - o   Budget, following the Faculty Research Fund Budget template found here: https://research.uga.edu/docs/forms/iga/FSG-Budget-Template.xlsx
  - o   Letter of Support from UGA unit leader.
  - o   UGA PI's curriculum vitae and IIT-Madras Co-PI's curriculum vitae
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Evaluation Criteria and Procedures

Vetting of proposals will be conducted by a joint steering committee. The following criteria will be taken into account by the reviewers:

- *Quality of the proposal*. The research and technical assistance activities contemplated by the proposal should be high-quality, innovative, and articulated.
- *Importance and strategic fit*. The proposal should provide evidence that the proposed project contributes to solving critical societal challenges and aligns with the wider multidisciplinary research portfolios across UGA and IIT Madras and the institutions' strategic priorities.
- *Sustainable Partnership Development.* The proposal should demonstrate the potential to develop sustainable collaborations between UGA and IIT Madras faculty.
- *External Support*. The proposal must articulate a credible plan to attract additional external funding.

Contact for questions:

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