

UGA–POSTECH Collaborative Seed Grant Program

2026–2027 Call for Proposals

The University of Georgia (UGA) and Pohang University of Science and Technology (POSTECH) have established a joint seed grant program to catalyze new research collaborations between faculty at the two institutions. The program builds on a POSTECH delegation visit to UGA in early 2026 and the subsequent UGA delegation visit to POSTECH in April 2026, where Associate Provost Martin Kagel and Vice President Sung-Min Park signed the agreement establishing this initiative.

The UGA–POSTECH Collaborative Seed Grant program is designed to initiate new research partnerships, with the expectation that funded projects will lead to more substantive engagement beyond the initial funding period.

Key objectives for the Seed Grant program include:

- Fostering sustainable collaborations between UGA and POSTECH researchers
- Facilitating peer-reviewed and/or open-access publications stemming from the project
- Leveraging seed grant projects for future external funding applications, academic-industry collaborations, and/or opportunities for student and postdoctoral scholar support

Research Priorities

The 2026-2027 application cycle welcomes proposals from any area of research. Three priority areas have been identified jointly by UGA and POSTECH as areas of strategic alignment, and proposals in these areas are especially encouraged. Examples of sub-areas of interest are provided to illustrate the kinds of work that fit within each priority; they are not exhaustive. We encourage interdisciplinary collaborations that bring together complementary strengths at the two institutions.

Artificial Intelligence: POSTECH has a strong AI/ML program and has recently launched several AI-focused initiatives. Examples of sub-areas of interest include agent-based decision making and multi-agent systems; AI for health and behavioral interventions; AI applications in materials and chemistry; computer vision and machine learning for infrastructure and remote sensing; and AI for food and agricultural systems.

Energy and Materials: aligned with POSTECH's proximity to POSCO and POSTECH's clean energy research centers. Examples of sub-areas of interest include advanced materials for energy applications; clean energy chemistry and catalysis; applied physics for energy systems; nanomaterials; and sustainable infrastructure and resource systems.

Bio and Healthcare: encompassing biomedical engineering (including 3D cell printing, medical assistant robot systems, biomedical optical imaging, and extracellular vesicle analysis), molecular biology, and health technology. Examples of sub-areas of interest include biochemistry and molecular biology; glycoscience and glycobiology; digital health and wearable technologies; behavioral and community health interventions; AI solutions for unmanned production of organ modules; non-invasive early diagnosis high-resolution optical imaging; exosome-based treatment and diagnostic technology; and plant sciences with biomedical or agricultural applications.

Project Period

Projects should begin early November and be completed by July 31, 2027. A joint final report describing project outcomes, publications or presentations resulting from the work, and plans for follow-on funding should be submitted to Harper Davison at UGA and Tae-eun Kim at POSTECH within one month after the formal completion date. All project funds must be completely spent by **June 23, 2027**, in accordance with the fiscal calendars of each institution.

Eligibility

For UGA applicants: Applicants must be permanent, full-time, tenured or tenure-track faculty, clinical faculty, research faculty, and research professionals (those who comply with Sponsored Programs eligibility requirements), or other faculty and staff who have research responsibilities as part of their job duties at the University of Georgia. Postdocs and graduate students are not eligible to serve as PIs or applicants.

For POSTECH applicants: Applicants must be full-time faculty, research faculty, research professionals or other faculty and staff. Postdocs and graduate students are not eligible for this opportunity. The Principal Investigator (PI) must be a full-time faculty member.

Each proposal must include at least one PI from UGA and at least one PI from POSTECH. Additional co-PIs and team members from each institution are permitted.

Funding

UGA and POSTECH have each committed USD \$50,000 to this seed grant program for a combined program budget of USD \$100,000. Through this cycle, we anticipate funding a total of 5 projects. Each funded project will receive equal funding from both institutions, up to a maximum of USD \$10,000 from each university (for a combined maximum project budget of USD \$20,000). For example, a \$14,000 project would receive \$7,000 from UGA to support the UGA PI's portion of the work and \$7,000 from POSTECH to support the POSTECH PI's portion. Funds will be administered separately at each institution and cannot be transferred between them. Planned expenditures should align with the financial policies of each institution.

Funding may support travel and subsistence costs associated with researchers spending time at the partner institution, workshops, guest lectures, and seminars, as well as project-related research expenses including consumables, graduate student support, and other costs consistent with each institution's policies. Funds may not be used for the laboratory or research facilities of the partner institution.

For UGA applicants, the following institutional stipulations apply. Funds may not be used for summer salary or faculty salary top-offs, or for salary or stipends for other research personnel apart from graduate students. Budgets should not include facilities and administrative (F&A) or indirect costs. Because these are internal UGA seed funds intended to spark initial collaboration, they are not bound by the same expense criteria that govern externally sponsored funds, and proposals do not need to be vetted, approved, or submitted through UGA's Office of Sponsored Projects.

For POSTECH applicants, budgets should be prepared in accordance with POSTECH's own financial and administrative policies.

Application Process & Materials

- **Joint Application Requirement**
 - Each collaborative team must submit **one application**, prepared jointly by the UGA and POSTECH Principal Investigators (PIs).
 - Applications will be reviewed by a review committee with representatives from both institutions, with notifications of award decisions in mid-October.
- **Step 1: Submit General Information (Required)**
 - Complete the applicant General Information section directly in the online form:
 - Online Submission Form link: <https://forms.gle/K9m71RBHaZUKtCnx6>
- **Step 2: Prepare and Submit Application PDF**

- Complete the provided Word document titled *UGA–POSTECH Seed Grant Program Application Form* (available on each institution’s partnership webpage), which includes:
 - General information
 - Budget allocation
 - Project abstract
 - Project description
- Convert the completed application form to PDF.
- Compile the following into **one single PDF file**:
 - Completed application form (Word document titled *UGA–POSTECH Seed Grant Program Application Form*)
 - CVs for all project team members, including:
 - UGA and POSTECH PIs
 - All external collaborators
- CVs may be submitted in either:
 - Full-length format, **or**
 - A concise two-page NSF-style bio sketch
- **Final Submission**
 - Upload the combined PDF file through the online application portal.
- **Application Deadline:** September 30, 2026

Review Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by the joint review committee against the following criteria:

- **Strength of the collaboration:** Complementarity of the UGA and POSTECH teams and the value added by working jointly.
- **Scientific or scholarly merit:** Significance, originality, and quality of the proposed work.
- **Alignment with program priorities:** Fit with the priority areas and the program’s purpose of seeding new collaborations.
- **Feasibility:** Soundness of the implementation plan and timeline relative to the funding period and budget.
- **Sustainability and follow-on potential:** Likelihood that the project will lead to publications, external funding, or other forms of continued engagement beyond the seed grant period.

Proposal Content

- **Research Focus:** What is the focus of the proposed project? If applicable, how does it align with the seed grant program’s research priorities?
- **Project Description:** Provide a description of the project, including the primary objectives of the collaboration and the roles and strengths of each collaborator. If applicable, elaborate on the interdisciplinary components.
- **Implementation Plan:** Outline your plan for implementing the proposed project, including an estimated timeline for key steps.
- **Budget Justification:** Briefly describe how the requested funds will be used to implement the project.
- **Expected Impact:** What deliverables or outcomes do you envision? What impact would these outcomes have within the research community? How might they strengthen capacity at UGA and/or POSTECH? Describe any practical applications you foresee.
- **Sustainability:** Describe plans to sustain the project beyond the grant period, including ideas for additional funding or support.

Terms

Intellectual property, publication, and data-sharing arrangements arising from funded projects will be governed by the standard policies of each institution. Project teams are encouraged to discuss these matters at the outset of their collaboration.

Timeline

- September 30, 2026: Proposal submission deadline
- Early October 2026: Proposal review by the joint selection committee
- Mid-October 2026: Award notifications issued
- [By November 28, 2026]: Transfer of funds to awarded projects
- Early November 2026: Project period begins
- June 23, 2027: All project funds must be completely spent
- July 31, 2027: Project period ends

Within one month of the project completion date: Joint final report due to Harper Davison (UGA) and Tae-eun Kim (POSTECH)

Questions

UGA applicants may direct questions about the program to Harper Davison (Harper.Davison@uga.edu), Office of Global Engagement. POSTECH applicants may direct questions to Tae-eun Kim (k0703@postech.ac.kr), Office of Research Affairs

