



**IIT Madras**

## **Call for Proposals**

### **IIT Madras & KTH Royal Institute of Technology Jointly Funded Bilateral Mobility Programme (JFBMP)-Partnership Collaboration Awards (PCA) - Round1** **Guidelines for Applicants**

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#### **Purpose**

Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) and KTH have identified each other as strategic partners to foster deep collaborations in research and education. **The IIT Madras & KTH JFBMP-Partnership Collaboration Awards (PCA)** have been established to facilitate and support joint initiatives that will strengthen the two universities' strategic priorities as well as develop multi-disciplinary cutting-edge research to create academic and societal impact.

The purpose of the fund is to initiate or develop new research partnerships. Funds will be awarded to projects which encourage the building of networks of researchers and have clearly defined plans for future funding. The proposed collaborative project should present a balance between partnership building activities and direct research, as appropriate, considering the key objectives of the funding opportunity. Projects can include:

- Joint research activities: scoping, feasibility, or proof of concept studies
- Travel and networking
- Exchange visits
- Skills training
- Projects that primarily focus on teaching or training will not be eligible.

The Fund is open to applications from all research areas, and we encourage applicants from any discipline to submit proposals under the following disciplines but not limited to:

- Sustainability
- AI (Artificial Intelligence)
- Cyber-security
- Decarbonisation
- Climate Change
- Green Hydrogen
- Digital Twin

We encourage the involvement of research staff who are Early Career Researchers (ECRs) either as the principal investigators (PIs) or as members of the project team (please check the eligibility list below for other criteria). Please note that PhD researchers are not eligible as PIs/lead researchers.



**IIT Madras**

Proposals will be assessed and recommended for selection by a panel composed of academic staff from IITM and KTH.

**Kindly note: If you are looking for collaborators, please get in touch with us (contact details at the end of the document) and we will help identify researchers with similar interests.**

**Funding:**

**In this round, up to three proposals will be funded (each with two Investigators; one from IIT Madras and one from KTH). Each successful proposal may receive up to the equivalent of USD 5,500 for IITM researchers and 60,000 SEK from KTH.**

**Timelines:**

Applications open	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Applications close	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Successful applicants notified	15 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
Earliest start date for projects	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2026
Latest date for projects to end	IITM-1 year from the date of award KTH – 1 year from the date of award
Final reports due	3 months from the end date of the project

**Submission:**

**All applications must be jointly submitted by an Investigator from IIT Madras and an Investigator from KTH:.**

1. Applications can be submitted at the following link by IITM researchers:  
<https://ge.iitm.ac.in/forms/kth-jfbmp>
2. Applications can be submitted at the following link by KTH researchers:  
<https://www.kth.se/form/694a7a7a633d28bb05281ea7>
3. Only complete submissions will be considered.
4. Late applications will not be considered.

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<b>1. Eligibility</b>
1.1 Proposals are invited from academic staff from all disciplines at IIT Madras and their affiliated Research Centres and Institutes. 1.2 Applicants from affiliated Research Centres and Institutes must be University Title Holders. 1.3 IITM PI and co-PI's must be employed full-time.



**IIT Madras**

1.4 PhD and master students, post-docs, and research assistants/associates are not eligible to apply as Investigators, but they are welcome to join the applications.	
<b>2. Funds</b>	
<p>* Funding from <b>IIT Madras</b> is available 1 year from the date of award. Funding from <b>KTH</b> is available 1 year from the date of award.</p> <p>For IITM researchers, an ICSR project account will be created and the fund can be claimed from the same, submitting necessary bills as per IITM travel policy. TR-1 <a href="#">Travel Claim Form</a> Funds to be utilized before the closing date of the project.</p> <p>For KTH, the funds will be transferred to the respective school/department. The final report should contain the description of the project costs.</p>	
<b>3. Eligible Grant Activities</b>	
<p>Each institution will pay funds directly to its researchers. Approval of expenditure will be governed by each university for the portion of funding provided. Each institution should pay its own costs and there can be no transfer of funds between institutions. (KTH researchers are eligible for subsistence allowance refer to Annexure B – KTH)</p> <p><u>Activities that will be considered for funding:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Airfares: Only travel on economy class will be considered</li> <li>▪ Other travel expenses (e.g. train, rental car, taxi) (KTH researchers are eligible for subsistence allowance refer to Annexure B – KTH)</li> <li>▪ Costs for hosting seminars/conferences or workshops</li> <li>▪ Accommodation</li> <li>▪ Consumables</li> <li>▪ Publications and printing costs</li> </ul>	<p><u>Activities that will <b>not</b> be considered for funding:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ General teaching;</li> <li>▪ An individual staff member's research project, unless as catalytic funding for the establishment of an international research collaboration with the prospect of external funding;</li> <li>▪ Event / conference registration fees;</li> <li>▪ Venue hire: if event held on KTH campus, we would take it on a case-to-case basis since some of the room bookings will be charged</li> <li>▪ Website development;</li> <li>▪ Salaries or salary supplementation, and honoraria (Research/ project assistants may be possible with the approval of JFBMP advisor-Global Engagement IIT Madras/ Finance Manager and Head of School); (refer to Annexure B – KTH (additional clauses for KTH researchers)</li> <li>▪ Scholarships for students;</li> <li>▪ Course fees for international students;</li> <li>▪ Bench fees;</li> <li>▪ Mobile phone cards;</li> </ul>



**IIT Madras**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Entertainment costs; and</li> <li>▪ Computers, including laptops (excluding access to high-performance computers or other specialised applications that are justified by the project) and basic computing facilities such as printers, word processing and other standard software;</li> <li>▪ Equipment</li> </ul>
<b>4. Submission Requirements</b>	
<p>All proposals must be submitted online and include the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- JFBMP proposal</li> <li>- Details of team involved and the role and contribution of each member</li> <li>- Expected outcomes</li> <li>- Selection criteria</li> <li>- Project timeline</li> <li>- Project budget</li> <li>- CV of the IIT Madras Investigator and KTH Investigator</li> </ul>	
<b>5. Scoring and Selection Criteria</b>	
<p>5.1 Priority is given to applications that align with the thematic/ focus areas mentioned in this document. Applications in other fields are also welcome.</p> <p>5.2 Criteria do not have weightings; proposals are assessed holistically. Each proposal will be assessed according to the selection criteria described below.</p>	



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Score	Category	Justification
10	Excellent	Proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor
7 to 9	Very Good	Proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present
4 to 6	Good	Proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present
1 to 3	Weak	Criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses

  

Selection Criteria	Description
Quality & Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearly describe the objectives and methodology to be employed with the project. The alignment with above mentioned focus areas and the objectives of the funding scheme will be considered in combination with the soundness of the concept and credibility of the proposed methodology.</li> <li>Explain how the participants in the research team will bring together the necessary expertise to carry out the project. The 2-page CVs of the Chief Investigators will be taken into consideration. 300 word maximum</li> </ul>
Execution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elaborate on the work plan and milestones outlined in the timeframe (there are separate sections in the application form for an outline of activities in the Timeline and Budget). Proposed timeframes and budget estimates should be realistic and appropriate.</li> <li>The long-term plan for engagement to attract research funding, produce publications and joint academic activities will be taken into consideration.</li> <li>This section should also address the appropriateness of the allocation of tasks, ensuring that all participants [including PhD or master students by research students, postdocs, Early and Mid-Career Researchers (EMCR)<sup>(*)</sup>, and any researchers on Sabbatical Leave] have a valid role and there are adequate resources in the project to enable them to fulfil that role. 300 word maximum</li> </ul>



IIT Madras

Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline what the participants will gain from the project and how it will contribute to the discipline and field of research.</li> <li>Explain how the project will establish or strengthen a durable cooperation between the universities and participants.</li> <li>Explain how the project will impact beyond the academic sphere (i.e. benefit society, address global challenges, <a href="#">Sustainable Development Goals</a>, etc).</li> <li>Explain how the project activities and results will be communicated to different target audiences.</li> </ul> <p>300 word maximum</p>
Future Development of the collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain how your proposal will lead to future development of collaboration, in terms of academic collaboration, applying for external grants etc</li> </ul>

\*1Early-Career Researchers are defined as those within 10 years of award of PhD and Mid-Career Researchers are defined as those between 10-15 years of award of PhD.

## 6. Expected Outcomes

We encourage that the selected proposals will result in one / more of the following outcomes mentioned below:

Category	Outcome
Research quality and influence	<p>The research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- will advance knowledge in the field which addresses an issue of importance</li> <li>- may result in fundamental outcomes</li> <li>- is innovative in concept</li> </ul> <p>will use well established approaches to good effect</p>
Publications	<b>At least one</b> (1) referred publication in a nationally/internationally recognised scholarly journal
External funding	<p><b>At least one</b> (1) Category 1-3<sup>(*)</sup> national/international competitive grant submission.</p> <p>Details of the external funding bodies to which you plan to submit applications must be identified within the application form.</p>



**IIT Madras**

	Proof of submission is required in the final report.
Training & education	Supervision and mentoring of visiting PhD students/postdoctoral researchers/ECRs
Joint Workshop	A joint workshop at either institution. This may be in-person, virtual or hybrid.
Conference	A conference presentation. This may be online.
<p>Industry engagement is encouraged, but not expected. If proposals include industry engagement, then details should be provided in the timeline/activities section of the online application.</p> <p>*2 Category 1: Competitive grants such as SERB core support, DST extra mural funding, <a href="#">Clean Energy Transition Partnership (CETP)</a></p> <p>Category 2: Other Public Sector Research Funding. Other Indian/Swedish Government schemes (including state govt and govt funded bodies)</p> <p>Category 3: Industry and other Funding for Research. Research grants or contract research with Indian/ Swedish or international industry or non-Government agencies. Funding through donations/ CSR (corporate social responsibility) or any other sources</p>	
<b>7. Assessment Process</b>	
Award selection will be made by a joint committee formed by members of both universities, which reserves final authority over the selection of projects taking into account university and faculty strategic priorities, and the availability of funds.	
<b>8. Notification of Application Outcomes</b>	
Successful applicants will receive a letter of award outlining the process to accept the award Including payment. Feedback on individual applications will not be provided.	
<b>9. Change of Investigator</b>	
Awardees should contact the Program Coordinator at each institution. Such changes will need to be approved and documented.	
<b>10. Travel Policy</b>	
<b>11. Extensions</b>	
Only under exceptional circumstances will extensions be approved. Requests for extensions must be submitted to the Program Coordinators in writing at least 2 months before project end date and include a revised budget and timeline of activities for consideration.	
<b>12. Financial and Reporting Obligations</b>	



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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The funding should only be used for the approved project and in accordance with the proposal and the budget plan. It must not be used for any other purposes and prior approval from both universities is needed for any variation in the budget items. Request for variations from original proposals must be submitted to both universities for approval.</li> <li>2. Awardees must adhere to the purchasing guidelines of the respective universities to which reimbursement is to be sought. Reimbursement of each expenditure item will be capped at the approved amount.</li> <li>3. Awardees must submit a <b>final report</b> to the respective campus coordinators at IIT Madras and KTH.</li> <li>4. Failure to submit a completed report will result in all members of the project team being ineligible to submit future funding applications.</li> <li>5. The activation of research funding accounts/submission of claims are not tied to ethics/other approvals being obtained. It is the responsibility of Investigators to ensure that no work requiring approval is commenced until such approvals are in place.</li> </ol>
<b>13. Marketing and Communications</b>
Awardees may be contacted by the office of Global Engagement social media team for the purposes of promoting their successful funding application and informing others of their research
<b>14. Publications</b>
Any publications (e.g. abstracts, articles) or dissemination (e.g. public presentations) arising from activities supported by the PCA should acknowledge assistance received from the PCA and copies or notification should be submitted to the Office of Global & Research Engagement at IIT Madras and International Relations Office at KTH. The standard acknowledgment is "IIT-Madras- KTH JFBMP Partnership Collaboration Awards".

#### **Annexure B – KTH (additional clauses for KTH researchers)**

<b>1. Eligible Grant Activities</b>
1.1 Activities that will be considered for funding include: Eligible costs include travel and subsistence and consumables. Existing staff time including the lead applicants'/PIs' time cannot be costed to the project. The fund does not support equipment, scholarships, conference attendance or tuition fees.
<b>Activities that will not be considered for funding:</b>
<u>Venue hire</u> : If event is held on KTH campus, we will take it on a case-to-case basis since some of the room bookings will be charged
<b>2. Travel Policy</b>
KTH – Must comply with KTH travel policy. <a href="#">Guidelines for meetings and travel</a> . <a href="#">Checklist for meetings and travels</a> .



**IIT Madras**

### **Further Information**

For further information please contact the campus coordinators:

<b>IIT Madras</b>	<b>KTH Royal Institute of Technology</b>
Prof Satyanarayanan Seshadri – Advisor, Academic Programs, Global Engagement	Dr. Shareq Mohd Nazir - Academic Head of KTH- India cooperation, School of Engineering Sciences in Chemistry, Biotechnology and Health
Ranjitha KV -JFBMP/JMP Coordinator	Pia Schmitt – Administrative Head of KTH-India cooperation
Office of Global Engagement	International Relations Office
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