



---

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**  
**Global Research Partnership (GRP) Programme**  
**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 **Global Research Partnership (GRP) Programme** 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 IITD. Following networking sessions and scoping to identify key areas of synergy between Exeter and IITD, submissions are encouraged in the broad thematic areas of:

1. Sport Science, Rehabilitation, and Elite Performance
2. Climate Science, Sustainability, Environmental Data,
3. Operations Research and Healthcare

Proposals must include at least one participant from IITD and from Exeter. In addition to applications from colleagues working in the sciences, we welcome applications from colleagues working in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Arts/Design, and Public Policy for the valuable insights they can bring to these topics. 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 GRP. Faculty members who are/were part of any two successful GRP calls as a Principal Investigator need not apply.



The joint projects at IITD will be operated as per the GRP guidelines (Link: [GRP 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. Only one application per applicant is admissible for seed funding. Working overseas, even for short periods, has implications on your employment contract, payroll, and benefits and therefore it should be carefully planned to protect yourself as well as the University. For more information, please visit the Global Employment webpages ([link](#)). If you have any questions or queries, please contact [globalemployment@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:globalemployment@exeter.ac.uk)

**Value and Duration of Award**

- i) Up to six awards are expected to be made.
- ii) Each successful project proposal will be granted a maximum of £5000 by the University of Exeter and INR 5.0 Lakh by IITD, for a total of approximately £9,000 / 11 Lakh per project. The funding is a one-time award for a maximum period of 1 year. **Exeter PIs** must spend the grant received by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2027.
- 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) Exeter funds cannot be used for conference registration fees.
- v) The budget provided by IITD and Exeter should be spent according to the norms and regulations followed in each institute.
- vi) 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. Particular attention to be paid to opportunities for securing external research funding, securing industry support or investment, and securing pathways for impactful publications or policy work.

**Timeline**

Call for Proposals Announcement	14 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Deadline for Submission of Proposal	29 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
Communication of Results to Applicants	24 <sup>st</sup> July 2026
Projects start date	01 <sup>st</sup> August 2026
Projects end date	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2027

**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](#)
- [Research Centres at the University of Exeter](#)
- [Find a University of Exeter Expert](#)



Please contact James Smith ([j.w.smith@exeter.ac.uk](mailto: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 GRP 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](mailto:GP-Funding@exeter.ac.uk)  
Since the IITD PI will submit the GRP proposal online, the Exeter PI should obtain the pdf file of the GRP submission from the IITD PI.  
*Format of GRP online form can be found in the link given below:*  
[GRP Funding Form](#)  
For this call, the budget for only one year is needed.
- iv) It is vital that both the IITD and Exeter counterparts are in full agreement on all aspects of the proposal prior to formal submission.
- v) 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.
- vi) Any travel undertaken for projects must be in accordance with institutional travel policies.



- vii) Applicants are required to ensure that project work considers and adheres to institutional **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion** policies ([IITD](#); [EXETER](#)).
- viii) The **IITD PI** must share the pdf of the final proposal submitted on the GRP-IRIS portal with the **Exeter PI** on/before 29th June 2026.

**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; what is the likelihood of securing further external funding?.)

**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><b>Professor Ashwini K Agrawal</b> Dean Research and Development <a href="mailto:deanrnd@admin.iitd.ac.in">deanrnd@admin.iitd.ac.in</a></p> <p><b>Dr Archana H Trivedi</b> Research Development Coordinator <a href="mailto:rnd_coordinator_ah@ird.iitd.ac.in">rnd_coordinator_ah@ird.iitd.ac.in</a></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: <a href="#">Our departments   University of Exeter</a></p>



**Professor Anil Verma**

Dean International Programs

[Intldean@admin.iitd.ac.in](mailto:Intldean@admin.iitd.ac.in)

**Professor Biswarup Mukherjee**

Coordinator IITD-Exeter Partnership

[bmukherjee@iitd.ac.in](mailto:bmukherjee@iitd.ac.in)

**Dr Divya Khatter**

Coordinator International Programs

[intlprogcoord@iitd.ac.in](mailto:intlprogcoord@iitd.ac.in); [intloff@iitd.ac.in](mailto:intloff@iitd.ac.in)

**James Smith** and the Global Partnerships Teams for administrative queries linked to the programme.

[j.w.smith@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:j.w.smith@exeter.ac.uk)

[gp-funding@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:gp-funding@exeter.ac.uk)