

UQ-CUHK-Exeter Joint Fund 2022 - Environmental Sustainability Programme Guidelines

Background:

Recognising the complementary research strengths between the Global Environmental Futures Group of the [QUEX Institute](#) and the [CUHK-Exeter Joint Centre for Environmental Sustainability and Resilience \(ENSURE\)](#), The University of Queensland (UQ), The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), and the University of Exeter (Exeter) jointly delivered a virtual trilateral symposium and exploratory workshop in 2021 on the theme **Environmental Sustainability** with the aim of fostering sustainable development through international collaboration.

To enable the researchers to build stronger links and support joint research initiatives, a Joint Fund has been established to seed fund a number of trilateral projects in 2022–2023 through a co-funding arrangement.

Joint Funding Aims:

The funding is intended to support new collaborative research projects and facilitate academic collaborations among UQ, CUHK, and Exeter in the field of Environmental Sustainability. Priority will be given to projects which demonstrate a clear intent to use the award as a step towards applying for external funding.

The key aims of this joint funding are:

- To support enabling activities that bring together academic staff with complementary expertise.
- To address and tackle environmental sustainability challenges and demonstrate potential for significant impact by leveraging the collective strengths of the three institutions.
- To facilitate the exploration of novel concepts.
- To encourage the development of bigger projects to a point at which external funding can be sought.
- To add value to both international collaboration and multidisciplinary research between the three institutions.

Joint Funding Arrangement:

UQ, CUHK, and Exeter have each agreed to allocate funding amounts to this joint funding scheme. The allocation of funds **by each institution** is as follows (table A):

UQ	CUHK	Exeter
AU\$20,000	HK\$100,000	£10,000

This Joint Fund will award a total of **three projects** with each institution being awarded one project as lead and two projects as collaborators as outlined in the below table (table B):

Role	Amount per Award	Funding Awarded By
Chief Investigator	A\$12,000 / HK\$70,000 / £7,000	Chief Investigator's home institution
Collaborator(s)	A\$4,000 / HK\$15,000 / £1,500	Collaborator(s)' home institution
Collaborator(s)	A\$4,000 / HK\$15,000 / £1,500	Collaborator(s)' home institution

Eligibility:

- a) The funds will be available to the academic communities of UQ, CUHK, and Exeter. Academic staff members holding full-time employment at all levels are welcome to apply. Award holders are required to remain in university service for not less than a year upon completion of the project.
- b) Each project will be led by a Chief Investigator from one institution with collaborators from the other two institutions (at least one collaborator from each partner institution).
- c) The Chief Investigator is required to maintain their appointment at the home institution within the research project implementation period.

Eligible Costs for Support:

- Travel for visits or workshops, including visas, accommodation, and subsistence.
- Venue and catering costs of events and workshops.
- Travel and accommodation costs of external speakers to participate in joint events or workshops.
- Assistance from individuals required to deliver core elements of the proposed activity (e.g., student assistant).
- Field works.
- Data collection.
- Development and implementation of survey instruments.
- Research consumables (no more than 20% of total costs).

Given current travel restrictions, it is anticipated that meetings are likely to take place virtually. Should travel become possible, the award holders should follow the travel policy of their home institution.

The following items are **not** eligible for funding under this scheme:

- Salaries or salary supplementation.
- Student fees/tuition and scholarships.
- Indirect costs and overheads (e.g., general ongoing administration of an organisation such as electricity, phone, rent, honorariums, or administrative charges levied by the applicant's organisation).
- Publication costs.
- Costs associated with internal research facilities.
- IT/computer equipment (hardware or software).

Administration of Funds:

- Each institution will pay funds directly to the successful project based on table B.
- Award holders are responsible to distribute and allocate funding according to project budget plan.
- Award holders should adhere to the purchasing guidelines of their respective institutions.
- Administration of expenditure will be governed by each institution for the portion of funding provided. There will be no transfer of funds between the institutions.
- Reimbursement of each expenditure item will be capped at the approved amount and should be sought within one month from the time the purchase is made or the service is used.
- Expenditure of funds will be approved for successful submissions and reporting of the project expenditure will be submitted to each relevant institution upon acquittal of the project.
- Award holders must seek approval from the respective institutions should there be any change in the budget plan.
- The Chief Investigator is responsible for overseeing the project completion with reporting and financial reconciliation processed at his/her home institution.
- All joint projects are required to align with the theme of **Environmental Sustainability**. In this round, priority will be given to three sub-themes, namely **Marine Ecosystem, Environment and Health, and Climate Change**.

Assessment Criteria:

A panel with representatives from the three institutions will be formed to review the applications. Applications will be assessed via a competitive selection process using the following criteria:

- **Project quality and impact:** How clearly are the objectives and methodology presented; what academic gains are anticipated from the planned collaboration; and how will it contribute to the discipline and field of research?
- **Relevance:** How does the proposed collaboration align with the Environmental Sustainability theme and the sub-themes?
- **Need for collaboration:** How dependent is the project on the proposed collaboration? Would it be possible to complete the project and achieve the results without this partnership?
- **Capacity for future collaboration/funding:** To what extent is the proposed work likely to lead to further collaborations and future external funding?

Reporting:

A project completion report will be required from the Chief Investigator no more than six weeks after the project has concluded, with a 12-month follow up report to be provided listing any additional outputs and deliverables after that. The report will outline the activities accomplished/outcomes achieved and opportunities for future collaboration.

Application Process:

Call open: 21 June 2022

Call close: 15 July 2022

Award announcement: 29 July 2022

Project duration: 12 months (starts no later than 1 August 2022 and ends no later than 31 July 2023)

Application Submission:

This is a joint call and **one joint application per project** should be submitted [online](#) by the Chief Investigator.

The following documents should be submitted along with the application:

- Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae of the Chief Investigators and collaborators with a list of selected publications (maximum one page each).
- A budget plan (using the template provided) outlining all areas of expenditure, with an itemised breakdown and the cost to be borne by each institution.

Application Enquiries:

The University of Queensland: globalstrategy@uq.edu.au

The Chinese of University of Hong Kong: oal@cuhk.edu.hk

University of Exeter: GP-Funding@exeter.ac.uk
