

## Washington University in St Louis (WashU) and University of Warwick (Warwick): Collaboration Fund

### Purpose

The WashU-Warwick Collaboration Fund has been established to strengthen connections between the two institutions and stimulate high-impact collaborative research and education initiatives. The call invites proposals in all disciplines that are of mutual interest to the project teams and will deepen the partnership between WashU and Warwick. Eligible proposals must include at least one faculty member from each university.

The funding is intended to enable a wide range of joint activities, including:

- **Preliminary research, pilot studies, and exploratory experiments** that lay the groundwork for larger collaborative projects
- **Shared education initiatives**, such as efforts co-develop curricula or joint teaching innovations
- **Workshops, conferences, and symposia**, whether virtual, hybrid, or in-person
- **Reciprocal or non-reciprocal visits**, to build new collaborations or deepen existing ones

### Applicant eligibility

- **WashU:** The Principal Investigator must be full-time faculty at WashU at the time of application and remain so for the award's duration.
- **Warwick:** The fund is open to staff from all academic Departments and Centres at Warwick. Applications should specify a Principal Applicant who must be a permanent (including probationary) member of academic staff or hold a fellowship awarded by an external funder, the duration of which extends beyond the duration of the award.

### Funding amount and duration

Project teams can apply for one of two tiers of funding; both are for a 12-month period.

**Tier one:** up to \$10,000 USD will be awarded to successful teams. Each institution will provide funds to its own faculty members. A successful WashU applicant will receive up to \$5,000 USD; their Warwick counterpart will receive up to £3,750 GBP.

**Tier two:** up to \$20,000 USD will be awarded to successful project teams. Each institution will provide funds to its own faculty members. A successful WashU applicant will receive up to \$10,000 USD; their Warwick counterpart will receive up to £7,500 GBP.

Funding will be available from 1 August 2026. At Warwick, all costs must be incurred before 31 July 2027. Funds cannot be carried over from one financial year to another, and any unspent funds will no longer be available to award holders.

### Timeline

Call for proposals	24 March 2026
Deadline for submission of proposal	1 June 2026
Communication of results to applicants	1 July 2026
Start date of projects	1 August 2026

### Application process:

1. Only one proposal should be submitted per project on behalf of the team at WashU and Warwick.
2. The following documents should be compiled into a single PDF and submitted via email to [isr@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:isr@warwick.ac.uk) and [global@wustl.edu](mailto:global@wustl.edu), with 'WashU-Warwick Collaboration Fund' in the subject line, before 11.59pm (BST), on 1 June 2026
  - **Project title and abstract:** synopsis for a lay audience, limited to 150 words.
  - **Applicant information:** details of the lead applicants from each institution (name, title/position, and email)
  - **Project description**, limited to 1,000 words that includes the following elements:
    - i. Key objectives and strategic focus
    - ii. Articulation of joint capacity/complementarity of the project team
    - iii. Description of the planned activities, rationale, and timeline
    - iv. Expected academic theoretical or practical outputs, and the potential impacts and benefits for stakeholders and society
    - v. Description of how the partnership may evolve over time and the potential for long-term sustainability beyond the proposed timeframe.
    - vi. Budget: specify the total amount for which you are applying and provide a breakdown of how the funds will be spent
  - **Supporting documents:**
    - vii. Warwick requirements Form (Warwick PI only): The Warwick PI must complete the Warwick Requirements Form, which includes an ethics and export control check, and ensures that activities align with Faculty/Department priorities.
    - viii. Abbreviated two-page CV from the Principal Applicant at each institution.

### Assessment:

The WashU -Warwick Collaboration Fund uses a peer-reviewed process. All complete applications will be reviewed internally by both institutions, using the criteria outlined below. Following this, a joint committee will convene to finalise the decision and the outcome of the results will be announced by email to all applicants. The names of the reviewers are confidential. Please note that the reviewers are senior researchers from both institutions and are not necessarily experts in your field. Therefore, it is in your best interest to define all acronyms and to ensure that your proposal is understandable and compelling to a non-specialist audience.

### Evaluation

Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **Significance and meaningful contribution:** proposals should articulate the novelty of the project for a non-specialist audience, clearly demonstrating how the proposed project will contribute to disciplinary innovation.
- **Strategic focus:** proposals should state how the initiative advances the interests of both WashU and Warwick, and the impact of the proposed activity and expected benefits for the Schools/Departments and the strategic partnership.
- **Joint capacity:** proposals should include applicants' academic credentials, and details of their joint ability to carry out the project. Proposals should delineate the

interdisciplinary, team-based approach and highlight the complementarity of the partners.

- **Impact and potential:** proposals should demonstrate a clear pathway to impact and/or external funding. Applicants should outline how they envisage the collaboration developing beyond this project (e.g. student opportunity, building links with industry, using preliminary data collected to scale-up the project) and clearly indicate which external funding sources are available to sustain the partnership beyond the 12-month funded period.

### Costs:

Eligible costs include travel and subsistence, consumables and the cost of research assistants, research associates and technicians which are directly related to the project. Existing staff time, including the Co-PI's time, cannot be costed to the project. The fund does not support equipment, scholarships, conference attendance, PhD stipends, or tuition fees. All expenditure will require receipts.

Eligible Costs	Ineligible Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasonable travel costs including flights, visas, accommodation and subsistence (for WashU typically not to exceed 10% of total budget)</li> <li>• Research costs, including consumables and research assistants (up to 20% of the total requested budget).</li> <li>• Costs associated with organizing workshops and meetings that are directly related to the project's development</li> <li>• PhD stipends (for WashU)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replacement research/teaching costs</li> <li>• Directly allocated costs including applicants' time</li> <li>• Indirect costs/estates costs</li> <li>• Equipment</li> <li>• Scholarships</li> <li>• Conference attendance</li> <li>• Tuition fees</li> <li>• Per diems</li> <li>• Gifts</li> <li>• PhD stipends (for Warwick)</li> <li>• Salaries and honoraria of permanent and fixed term staff</li> <li>• Costs already incurred prior to submission of the proposal</li> </ul>

### Reporting Requirements:

All successful applicants will be required to provide a brief report within **three months** of the end of the funded project (before 1 November 2027). This report should detail the use of the funds; achievement of outputs and outcomes from the award; future plans to build on the work done, and further funding applications made or planned.

Warwick PI only: International Strategy and Relations will also request follow-up reports for three years following the completion of your project, in order to gauge the longer-term impact of the funding. A report proforma will be provided, and progress reports should be completed and returned by email to [isr@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:isr@warwick.ac.uk), prior to the established deadlines.

**Contact:**

For questions about the Collaboration Fund or the WashU-Warwick partnership, please contact:

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