**Shanghai Jiao Tong University and University of Adelaide Partnership Funding Program 2025**

Closes: 2 March 2025

**Call of Proposals**

The strategic aim of the Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU) and the University of Adelaide (UoA) Partnership Funding Program is to provide a mechanism to build strong research and education links between the two institutions. The 2025 Funding Program will focus on three strategic areas:

* Sustainable energy and resources
* Agriculture
* Engineering

The 2025 Funding Program will support four awards, and each award supports work for up to 12 months. This fund will result in deepening of the collaborative partnership and to supporting joint education, research activities, and initiatives.

This is a joint grant scheme. Each project team must include one project lead from SJTU and one project lead from UoA.

Examples of the types of eligible initiatives that may be funded include:

* Organisation of face-to-face or virtual joint symposia, guest lectures, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, mobility projects between SJTU and UoA.
* Jointly organized academic and research exchange activities.
* Activities in Australia or in China to expand research and education engagement.
* Initiatives that promote the development of academic, industry and government linkages between SJTU and UoA with global impact.
* Initiatives that may lead to external funding applications and further engagement outcomes. Examples include, but are not limited to, co-publications, speaking opportunities or other scholarly outputs.
* Initiatives that lead to student-focussed activities between SJTU and UoA.
* Development of virtual course modules and Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) opportunities between SJTU and UoA students. Normally, two academic staff members, one from each institution, work together in parallel courses that link students in shared coursework that may involve activities such as hackathons, discussion forums, or group projects.

This list is not exhaustive and is presented for illustrative purposes only. Innovative projects that support partner engagement are encouraged.

**Funding details**

Each successful project will receive AUD$10,000 provided by UoA to UoA based staff, and 50,000 RMB from SJTU to SJTU based staff.

The funds must be spent by **30 November 2025**. Please note that the cut-off date for use of funds is subject to change as determined by UoA. Unspent funds cannot be carried forward to the following year. Initiatives, including both in-person and virtual activities, can take place up to 31 December 2025.

**Eligibility Criteria**

SJTU and UoA professional staff, academics and researchers are eligible to apply for the Funding Program subject to the following criteria:

* Proposals must clearly demonstrate the benefits to engagement between SJTU and UoA.
* SJTU project lead will need to complete SJTU application and UoA project lead must complete UoA application.
* For SJTU project lead who is undertaking seed fund programs (including Global Initiative Fund, Academic Exchange Fund, Specialized Seed Fund, Collaborative Inception Fund, etc.) is not eligible to apply as the project lead for this program,
* The primary applicant must be employed on a continuing contract or on a contract that exceeds the project duration at either SJTU or UoA.
* Applications must be endorsed by their Faculty Deputy Dean International, Head of School, Institute or Centre Director, Branch Head or equivalent positions at their institution.
* Applicants must have a letter of support from the partner university (usually the co-collaborator’s Head of School or equivalent).
* Additional external partners can be involved. However, a strong argument should be made if an external university or institute is participating and their contribution exceeds 20%, as the focus is collaboration between SJTU and UoA.
* For UoA-based staff, expenditure related to production costs (such as freight or artist’s fee), interpretation and translation costs, advertising and promotion, graphic design and photography, and publications and printed materials are eligible.
* For SJTU-based staff, funding is restricted to international travel expenses (account for at least 90% of the funding amount) to carry out international cooperation on the applied project and remuneration (accounts for no more than 10% of the fund)

For UoA applications:

* Applicants are required to submit evidence of an approved Foreign Engagement Compliance Review at the time of submitting their application.
* Eligible expenditure items must comply with UoA’s Financial Management Policy and Procedures.

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

* Professional staff development, such as attending a conference or workshop that does not benefit the broader strategic partnership between SJTU and UoA.
* Laboratory costs or research data collection.
* For an existing event, supplementary funding for AV facilities, catering etc. when it is not directly related to the partnership.
* Purchase or transport of equipment and research materials.
* Subsidy of general ongoing salaries or administration expenses.
* Research grants, ongoing salaries for research assistants, or top-up research funding.
* Entertainment costs, such as amusement, diversion, and social activities, as well as any expenses that are not directly related to the goals of these programs.
* Transfer of funds between institutions.

Application Process

* If the application involves more than one faculty, school, centre, institute or unit, there must be a primary applicant.
* UoA applicants need to log in to Smartsheet with your *@adelaide.edu.au* credentials and begin the application process by completing the [Joint Funding Program Registration Form](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/10e111405b464e6fa278e19e350fb72a); SJTU applicants must complete the SJTU application through the [online questionnaire](https://wj.sjtu.edu.cn/q/QFAa9jSy) system. The questionnaire can be accessed at: <https://wj.sjtu.edu.cn/q/QFAa9jSy>.
* Applications must be completed and submitted together with all supporting documents by **Sunday 2 March 2025: 13:30 Adelaide Time / 12:00 Beijing Time.**
* Once applications close, the UoA Global Engagement Brach and SJTU Division of Global Cooperation and Exchange will collate applications and present them to the relevant selection panels.
* The selection panel will meet to assess, rank and select projects for funding.
* Applicants will to be advised of outcomes by **mid March 2025.**
* Successful applicants will receive an Acceptance Letter that must be signed and returned within three working days to the UoA Global Engagement Branch or SJTU Division of Global Cooperation and Exchange.
* Project funds will be transferred to the awarded projects by **late March 2025.**

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed in accordance with the following criteria:

* Potential and plans to create a strong integrated collaboration to build educational/research activities between SJTU and UoA and increasing SJTU and UoA profiles globally.
* A clear plan for implementation within project timelines, including a clearly articulated and justified budget.
* Clear and measurable objectives with a focus on the achievement of concrete outcomes and results.
* Alignment to one of the strategic areas for collaboration.
* Plan for sustainable collaboration beyond the funding period, e.g. co-publication, application/award of external funding, industry engagement or contracts, or student engagement outcomes.

Reporting

Recipients are required to submit a final report using the provided template within two months of the project end date and no later than end of February 2026 for UoA-funded initiatives. The report should include:

* A summary of the activities undertaken.
* Project outcomes and achievements.
* Future plans and next steps for the collaboration and prospective opportunities for consideration.
* Acquittal of expenditure against the approved budget.

Please note that where applicable, the information in the report may be utilised by the SJTU Division of Global Cooperation and Exchange or the UoA Global Engagement Branch for briefs and profiling of the partnership. The information may also be used on further communication channels, including the university’s website or social media.

Forfeiture of grants

Awardees will have up to **30 November 2025** (subject to final confirmation by SJTU and UoA Finance) to utilise the funds in full for the planned project or initiative. A review of unspent funds will be conducted in **October 2025**. Funds that are not utilised within the specified period are to be returned to the SJTU Division of Global Cooperation and Exchange or the UoA Global Engagement Branch.

The primary applicant must notify the SJTU Division of Global Cooperation and Exchange or the UoA Global Engagement Branch of any changes to the project and unspent funds prior to the review. Any operational questions related to funding should be directed to your Finance Manager.

Extensions to grant period

No extensions to the grant period will be approved unless under exceptional circumstances. Applicants seeking an extension must submit a written request for formal approval at least one month before the end of the funding period, along with a revised timeline of activities to the SJTU Division of Global Cooperation and Exchange or the UoA Global Engagement Branch. All changes must be approved in writing.

Key dates

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| Date | Activity |
| **28 January 2025** | Calls for applications open  |
| **2 March 2025** | Applications due for submission  |
| **Mid March 2025** | Applicants notified via email regarding the outcome of their application |
| **Late March 2025** | Awarded funding allocated to the relevant unit |
| **October 2025** | Financial review  |
| **30 November 2025** | Funding fully utilised |
| **31 December 2025** | Project closure |
| **February 2026** | Report submission  |

**Further information**

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UoA as lead applicant: globalengagement@adelaide.edu.au