Shanghai Jiao Tong University - Adelaide University Partnership Fund 2026

Call for Proposals

The strategic aim of the Shanghai Jiao Tong University – Adelaide University Partnership fund is to provide a mechanism to build strong education and research links between Adelaide University (AU) and Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU).

Building on the connections established, the 2026 round focuses on following strategic areas:

- Sustainable energy and resources
- Agriculture
- Engineering
- Health sciences
- Education

The Partnership Fund 2026 will support professional staff, academics and researchers from both universities to advance joint education and research initiatives, share expertise, and leverage institutional strengths, catalysing applications for larger external grants, and creating sustainable partnerships.

Funding Details

- Grants of up to AUD$10,000 or 50,000 RMB per project are available with a total of AUD$50,000 from AU for AU-led initiatives and 250,000 RMB from SJTU for SJTU-led initiatives. Each initiative will only receive funding from one institution. 5 projects per institution can be funded in this round.
- Applications submitted to SJTU will be funded by SJTU and allocated to SJTU-based staff, while applications submitted to AU will be funded by AU and allocated to AU-based staff.
- Applications open on **Monday 16 February 2026** and will close on **Sunday 15 March 2026**, 11:59 pm ACDT | 11:59 pm, Beijing Time.
- For AU-based staff, the funds must be spent by **30 November 2026**. Please note that the cut-off date for use of funds is subject to change as determined by AU. 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 2026.
- For SJTU-based staff, the funds must be spent by **31 December 2026**. Please note that the cut-off date for use of funds is subject to change as determined by SJTU. Once the budget is confirmed, no modifications or extensions will be permitted. Initiatives, including both in-person and virtual activities, can take place up to 31 December 2026.

Eligibility Criteria

- Proposals must clearly demonstrate benefits to engagement between AU and SJTU.
- Applications must have a primary applicant and include at least one member of staff from the other institution.
- SJTU project leads who are undertaking seed funding programs (including Global Initiative Fund, Academic Exchange Fund, Specialized Seed Fund, Collaborative Inception Fund, etc) are not eligible to apply as a project lead for this program.
- The primary applicant must be employed on a continuing contract or a contract exceeding the project duration by at least six months at either AU or SJTU.
- Applications require endorsement from a relevant senior leader (College Dean International and Engagement, Dean of School, Institute/Centre Director, or Branch Head) or equivalent positions at their institution.
- A support letter/email from the partner university is mandatory. (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 UoA and SJTU.
- For AU-led initiatives, expenditure related to production, interpretation, translation, advertising, graphic design, photography, and publications are eligible.
- For SJTU-led initiatives, funding is restricted to SJTU project team's international travel expenses (account for at least 90% of the funding amount) to carry out international cooperation on the applied project and service fee (accounts for no more than 10% of the fund).
- The funds must be administered in strict accordance with the awarding institution's policies and regulations, including but not limited to expenditure deadlines and eligible use of funds.

- AU applicants must participate in activities promoting Adelaide University's engagement.

Examples of Funded Initiatives

- Joint symposia, lectures, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, mobility projects, or webinars – delivered either face-to-face or virtual.
- Jointly organised academic and research exchange activities.
- Activities in Australia or in China to expand research and education engagement.
- Initiatives promoting academic, industry, and government linkages between AU and SJTU with global impact.
- Projects leading to external funding, co-publications, or speaking opportunities.
- Projects leading to student-focussed activities between AU and SJTU.
- Development of education projects (e.g., virtual modules, (Collaborative Online International Learning) COIL opportunities, hackathons, forums, group projects).

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

Ineligible Items

- Professional staff development not linked to strategic partnership activities.
- Laboratory costs, research data collection beyond preliminary data collection.
- Supplementary funding for existing events (e.g. AV, catering) not directly related to partnership.
- Equipment/research material purchase or transport.
- Ongoing salaries, administration expenses, research grants, or top-up funding.
- Entertainment or social activities not aligned with program goals.
- Transfer of funds between institutions.
- Applications for the same initiative can only be submitted by one of the institutions.
- Projects that have previously been awarded funding under the Shanghai Jiao Tong University -University of Adelaide Partnership Fund are not eligible for re-submission in this round.

Application Process

- Review the Shanghai Jiao Tong University - Adelaide University Partnership Fund 2026 guideline and consult with the relevant senior leader.
- AU applicants
    - o Complete the Registration Form and Budget Plan (via Smartsheet; login with @adelaide.edu.au credentials).
    - o Complete the Foreign Compliance Review (FCR).
    - o Submit all required documentation: budget plan, support letters/emails (Adelaide University and SJTU), and approved FCR or FCR submission email.

- SJTU applicants must complete the SJTU application through the online questionnaire system. The questionnaire can be accessed at https://wj.sjtu.edu.cn/q/TYrVTQDs.
- Applications must be completed and submitted together with all supporting documents by **Sunday 15 March**, 11:59 pm ACDT | 11:59 pm, Beijing Time.
- Once applications close, AU Global Partnerships and SJTU Division of Global Cooperation and Exchange will collate applications and present them to the relevant selection panels.
- The selection panels will meet to assess, rank and select projects for funding.
- Applicants will to be advised of outcomes in April 2026.
- Successful applicants will receive an Acceptance Letter that must be signed and returned within three working days to AU Global Partnerships or SJTU Division of Global Cooperation and Exchange.
- Project funds will be transferred to the awarded projects in May 2026.

Assessment Criteria

- Alignment to one of the strategic areas for collaboration. (10%)
- Potential and plans to create a strong integrated collaboration to build educational/research activities between AU and SJTU and increasing AU and SJTU profiles globally. (20%)
- Clear implementation plan and justified budget. (20%)
- Breadth and depth of engagement with partner and across the institutions. (10%)
- Measurable objectives and concrete outcomes. (20%)
- Plan for sustainable collaboration beyond the funding period. (20%)

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 2027. The report must include:

- Summary of activities undertaken.
- Project outcomes and achievements.
- Future plans and next steps for collaboration
- Acquittal of expenditure against the approved budget.

AU Global Partnerships may use report information for country engagement briefs, profiling, and communication channels (including website and social media).

Important Notes

- A review of unspent funds will be conducted in October 2026. Please notify AU Global Partnerships or SJTU Division of Global Cooperation and Exchange of any project changes and unspent funds before the review.
- Operational questions related to funding should be directed to your Finance Manager.

Key Dates

Date	Activity
16 February 2026	Applications open
15 March 2026	Applications close
April 2026	Results announced
May 2026	Awarded funding allocated to the relevant unit
October 2026	Financial review (AU)
30 November 2026	Funding to be spent (AU)
31 December 2026	Funding to be spent (SJTU)
26 February 2027	Report submissions due (or within 2 months of project closure)

Contacts

Adelaide University as lead applicant	globalpartnerships@adelaide.edu.au
Shanghai Jiao Tong University as lead applicant	icae@sjtu.edu.cn