

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

XSeed: Expanding research impact through inter-disciplinary collaboration

XSeed is an interdivisional research funding program designed to promote multi-disciplinary research and catalyze new innovative partnerships between a coPI from the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering (FASE) and a coPI from outside Engineering (Partner Division). Funding is available for a maximum of ten (10) new collaborative projects beginning in early September 2019 according to the following breakdown:

Partner Division	No. of Projects (maximum)
Faculty of Arts and Science (FAS)	4*
University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM)	2
University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC)	2
Other Partner Divisions ^{†,‡}	2

*Two of these projects will be earmarked for FAS Humanities and Social Sciences coPIs.

[†]Letter of support from Other Partner Division is required.

[‡]Includes all other UofT divisions excluding the Faculty of Medicine and UofT's affiliated hospitals.

PI Eligibility:

- 1- Each coPI should be eligible to hold, as PI, tri-council agency grants (NSERC, CIHR, or SSHRC).
- 2- One PI should have a primary appointment with an Engineering unit, and one PI should have his/her primary appointment outside Engineering (with the exception of the Faculty of Medicine and UofT's affiliated hospitals).
- 3- Priority will be given to research teams that include at least one coPI in her/his first 10 years as a faculty member.

Application:

Successful proposals must demonstrate the following criteria:

(1) A new opportunity.

Typically, PIs have not previously collaborated – XSeed seeks to enable new partnerships.

(2) A clear overarching goal.

The project should have a clear end goal, such as a key finding, a compelling prototype, or a persuasive data set that paves the way for larger funded projects.

(3) Excellence in research.

The researchers should provide evidence of established or emerging leadership in their area(s); and should show how their expertise will compellingly be united to solve an important, unsolved, interdisciplinary problem.

(4) A clear plan on collaboration.

Successful applications should demonstrate how graduate students work together, and how goals and milestones for the students will ensure meaningful partnership. The graduate students will be jointly advised by the coPIs and will work together on an interdisciplinary project focusing on an important problem whose solution will unlock a large partnership or innovation opportunity. The proposal should also demonstrate how research planning, use of space, use of infrastructure, and supervision would all be shared and harmonized across the collaborating teams.

(5) Compelling annual milestones.

The project will offer compelling milestones that will form the foundation for continued collaborations and joint funding applications.

(6) A gateway to a major funded partnership.

Winning proposals should indicate how the anticipated results of the project will provide the basis of joint grant applications, to be submitted before the 2nd year anniversary of their XSeed project start, to programs

such as SSHRC Partnership, NSERC CHRP, NSERC SPG, ORF-Research Excellence, DARPA, etc. In addition, coPIs should specify the dates of competitions they intend to apply to.

Budget:

The budget for each XSeed project will be \$60,000 CAD/year for two (2) years. In exceptional cases, a no-cost extension for an additional year will be considered. The \$60,000 CAD/year amount for each project is the sum of total cash invested by each of the participating Faculties and departments/institutes, according to the following breakdown:

- **\$15k CAD/year from the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering.** That will be committed following a positive decision from the XSeed adjudication process.
- **\$15k CAD/year from the Partner Division.** For projects involving coPIs from FAS, UTM, or UTSC, no letter of support from the division is required. For coPIs from other Partner Divisions, a letter support from the Partner Division must accompany the XSeed application.
- **\$15k CAD/year from the participating Department or Institute within Engineering.** This must be committed via a letter from the collaborating Department Chair/Institute Director attached to the XSeed application.
- **\$15k CAD/year from the participating unit within the Partner Division.** An analogous commitment letter must be attached to the XSeed application. If not feasible/appropriate, this condition may be fulfilled via an additional \$15k from the collaborating division or other appropriate sources of funding.

Notes:

- 1-The above-mentioned contributions are cash contributions, i.e. the contributors must all explicitly agree to transfer the funds in support of the project into the PI account.
- 2- The above contributions will be conditional on success in the XSeed adjudication process.
- 3- Additional in-kind support, on top of and beyond the cash contributions, may also be expressed in the letters of support and will be taken into consideration in the adjudication process.
- 4- For PIs from a single-department Faculty, one letter of support indicating the cash support of \$30k/year will suffice

Use of funds:

XSeed will prioritize the use of funds to support the stipend and research expenses of one graduate student earning a degree in an Engineering unit and one graduate student (or in exceptional cases, one PDF) in the Partner Division.

Submission process:

Applications including all supporting documents are due by email to vdr@ecf.utoronto.ca by close of business Monday, March 11, 2019. Please include the term XSeed in the subject line.

Submissions should include the following: 1) completed application form (attached), 2) letters of support confirming cash contributions from each of the collaborating departments/institutes, 3) CVs of co-PIs (e.g. CCV or NSERC Form 100).

Adjudication process:

An adjudication committee composed of representatives from Partner Divisions will review proposals received by the submission deadline against program criteria. Decisions will be reported by the end of March 2019.

Reporting:

A final report should be completed and will be due upon the completion of the project.