

Mahidol University (MU) – University of York (UoY)

Seed Grant (Round 3: 26)

1. PURPOSE OF THE COLLABORATION

The Seed Grant Funding will support the cultivation or expansion of research collaborations to address global challenges and contribute to international development at both universities. The initiative intended to facilitate substantive research collaborations, with bids expected to result in demonstrable progress towards tangible outputs, such as workshops, co-teaching, co-supervising, publications, and grant applications, within one year of an award. Applicants are expected to demonstrate the feasibility of their plan.

Eligible activities would include, but are not limited to:

- Facilitating internationally co-authored publications.
- Visits to engage with research groups to establish new contacts and explore possibilities for future collaboration.
- Preparation of collaborative bids to attract research funding.
- Development of new interdisciplinary research programmes.
- Capacity building for research.
- Other items that facilitate collaboration among faculty at both universities.

2. SCOPE OF FUNDING CALL

University of York (UoY) and Mahidol University (MU) will agree to establish a competitive Seed Grant Program to foster cooperation and collaboration in research, academic services, and academic pursuits between colleagues at these institutions.

i. Eligibility for Applicants

- Project proposals are open for all academic staff at UoY and MU. Teams composed of or led by early-career researchers are especially encouraged.
- Full-time academics or researchers.
- Each project proposal will have a Chief Principal Investigator from the University of York and Mahidol University.
- A faculty member can be a Chief Principal Investigator on only one application per cycle, but there is no limit to the number of applications they can participate in as a team member.
- The new collaboration will be encouraged.
- Successful Applicants from one round may submit a proposal in a subsequent round, but priority will be given to those who have not received funding before.

3. AREAS OF RESEARCH COLLABORATION

We encourage applications that foster new research partnerships or propose innovative research ideas addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across all disciplines.

4. APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications must be submitted using the **MU–UoY Seed Grant Application Form**. Each Principal Applicant must also submit:

- **A complete list of team members must be provided in the application**, as proposals will be assessed in part on the **Quality of the Research Team** (30%). This includes naming co-investigators and relevant collaborators who will contribute to the success of the project.
- **Important:** Applicants should ensure their proposals are understandable to a non-specialist review panel. Both universities will share all submitted applications following the deadline.

i. Submission Period:

- **Application Opens:** November 17, 2025
- **Application Closes:** March 20, 2026

ii. Submit Applications To:

- Submit the electronic file of the completed application form via email to **Chatinee Kanayart** at chatinee.kan@mahidol.ac.th and **Deepa Parajuli** at deepa.par@mahidol.ac.th, and via the MU e-office portal with a faculty endorsement letter.
- **University of York (UoY):** Sophie Turbutt, sophie.turbutt@york.ac.uk, global-partnerships@york.ac.uk

5. REVIEW PROCEDURE

Applications will be jointly reviewed by the Seed Grant Panel, consisting of representatives from both institutions. Substitute panelists or additional academic reviewers may be consulted as needed.

The Joint Steering Committee will be responsible for:

- Meeting twice a year for assessment and presentation of the final report.
- Preparing and issuing joint calls for proposals.
- Assessing and selecting proposals.

6. FUNDING ARRANGEMENT

- Each selected project will receive a total funding of 20,000 GBP, with both Mahidol University and the University of York contributing 10,000 GBP (approximately 400,000 Thai Baht) per project.
- A maximum of three projects will be funded each year under this scheme.

- The funding will cover a project duration of 12 months. If a project cannot be completed within this timeframe, and subject to the availability of remaining budget and mutual agreement with the researchers, a one-year extension beyond the 2026–2027 financial year may be considered.

7. BUDGET OF PROJECTS

This includes consumables for obtaining pilot data, costs of travel, and subsistence. costs associated with networking events, costs for hiring student assistants (e.g., research support or data collection), administrative costs, and access to technical support, etc., which are usually included in accordance with each of MU's and UoY's policies for the recovery of such costs in the conduct of research activities.

The budget shall not include staff salaries, hardware purchases, costs of standalone events that are not part of the activity plan, or activities that would have taken place regardless (for instance, connected to an existing conference).

8. REVIEW CRITERIA

Proposals will be assessed based on the following weighted criteria:

- **Scientific quality of the proposal** – 40%
- **Quality of the research team** – 30%
- **Anticipated outcomes and deliverables** – 30%

The proposal must clearly demonstrate an intention to initiate and strengthen a sustainable research relationship in a shared area of expertise. It should outline a plan for developing the collaboration beyond the term of the grant.

This may include (but is not limited to):

- Explanation of how the collaboration will evolve (e.g., through joint workshops, shared equipment access, pilot studies, sample collection, prototype development)
- Submission of a joint grant application by the end of the project period
- Researcher exchange or visits
- Exploration of future commercialization opportunities
- Supervision of Ph.D. students

9. JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT TIMELINE

The timeline for the Joint Seed Grant funding for the fiscal year 2026.

Month	Seed Grant Process
November 17, 2025	Announcement of Seed Grant Funding / Call for joint applications
March 20, 2026	Joint application submission deadline
March 2026	Joint assessment of projects
April 2026	Announcement of successful
May 2026	Commencement of research projects
April 2027	Completion of research projects

10. ANTICIPATED OUTCOME

- Each team is required to submit an **interim progress report** within **six months** of the start date of the **Research Collaboration Agreement**.
- A Final Report will be submitted within 3 months of the Research Collaboration Agreement End Date.
- The final report will include a 15-minute presentation and a short, 1–2-page report. The presentation will bring together groups of researchers from both institutions and will provide an opportunity for prospective collaborators and applicants to find out more about the funding scheme.

11.REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Recipient researchers are required to submit both interim and final reports detailing project progress and outcomes, including updates on any planned publications or proceedings. The partner institutions may use these reports for promotional and outreach purposes.

12.RESEARCH MATCHMAKING SESSION

To facilitate and enhance collaborative research efforts between academics from two universities by providing an online platform for them to present their research projects, identify common interests, and explore potential partnerships.

13.FURTHER INFORMATION

Applicants are encouraged to consult the Grant managers at their respective institutions:

- **Mahidol University:**
Chatinee Kanayart – Global Partnerships Division
Email: chatinee.kan@mahidol.ac.th

Deepa Parajuli-Foreign Expert
Email: deepa.par@mahidol.ac.th
- **University of York:**
Sophie Turbutt – Global Opportunities Administrator
Email: sophie.turbutt@york.ac.uk / global-partnerships@york.ac.uk