



University of Copenhagen International Strategic Partnership Seed Fund

Applications for collaboration projects in 2026/2027

The University of Copenhagen (UCPH) invites researchers of all disciplines to apply for funding of up to DKK 100,000 per project to stimulate new or deepen ongoing collaboration with international strategic partners whilst also highlighting opportunities for collaboration within the Nordic region.

UCPH has set aside DKK 1.2 million in strategic funding for an International Strategic Partnership Seed Fund to strengthen UCPH's Global Perspective, a key pillar of the University's *2030 Strategy*.

The International Strategic Partnership Seed Fund is a new initiative with earmarked funding for international cooperation. The list of selected eligible partner universities will develop over time and can change between calls.

Deadline for applications is **11 August 2026, 12:00 CET**.

Purpose

This call invites projects that foster international collaboration and enhance UCPH's global engagement through innovative research, education and innovation activities with partners from a selected list of universities in accordance with the Strategic Framework paper on Global Perspective.

The list is based on where UCPH - for this year's call - seeks to establish, facilitate and support joint initiatives that will strengthen and deepen the collaboration within UCPH and the selected universities. UCPH invites applications from researchers across all disciplines. The call is open to colleagues at all career stages, however, early-career researchers are particularly encouraged to apply.

The selected universities for this round of applications are set on two tracks:

1. A strategic track aiming at developing, deepening and strengthening collaboration with already established strategic partners.
2. A thematic track aiming at deepening and strengthening collaboration within a selected region. The theme for the 2026 call is collaboration with selected universities within the Nordic region. A majority of UCPH's co-publications already exist within the Nordic region and UCPH wants to further develop opportunities for closer collaboration with Nordic Universities.

The International Strategic Partnership Seed Fund aims at providing UCPH researchers with the opportunity to seek collaboration and establish joint research, education or innovation projects with researchers from the following selected universities:

Eligible partner universities

Track 1 – Strategic partners: University of Edinburgh^[1], Imperial College London, University College London, Cornell University, University of Toronto, University of Tokyo

Track 2 – Nordic collaboration: University of Oslo, University of Bergen, Lund University, Uppsala University, University of Helsinki, Aalto University, University of Iceland, Ilisimatusarfik University, University of the Faeroe Islands

Eligibility criteria

- The proposal must contain the name of the identified co-principal investigator at UCPH as well as at the partner university/universities.
- Applicants must submit CVs for the UCPH Principal Investigator and the identified co-Principal Investigator(s).
- The funding is managed by the UCPH Principal Investigator and can be used freely, as long as the activities concern the proposed projects and strengthen the collaboration.
- Applicants must uphold employment with the University of Copenhagen throughout the project period.
- Applicants are required to submit the proposal with approval by relevant Heads of Department (HoDs).
- Projects must involve collaboration with one or more of the eligible partner universities listed above.
- Research projects, innovations projects as well as educational initiatives are eligible.

Please note following conditions

Only UCPH researchers can apply for funding.

Use of funds to cover flights and hotels must be done in accordance with [UCPH's guidelines for travel and representation](#) in terms of both expenses and sustainability.

Please note: Funding cannot be used for permanent staff salaries.

Amount

The amount applied for must be at least DKK 25,000 and maximum DKK 100,000.

Deadline for applications

Once completed and agreed upon by all partners, the application must be submitted via the online application portal by the UCPH Principal Investigator no later than 11 August 2026 at 12:00 CET. On the application portal the specific information requirements can be found.

Evaluation and selection criteria

Selection will be handled by the Committee for Global Perspective consisting of representatives from all faculties - securing research expertise in a wide range of areas. The Committee decides on the distribution of funds.

Selection will consider the following criteria:

- Credibility of the proposed research track.
- Realistic budget description.
- Strategic potential for further collaboration.
- Potential for future external funding.
- Excellence potential.
- Preference will be given to applications that present matched funding.
- Preference will be given to establishment of new collaborations.
- Junior researchers are encouraged to apply.
- Applications are encouraged to reflect the priorities of the UCPH 2030 Strategy.
- Consideration will be given to distribute funds across innovation, educational and research activities, as well as the breadth of UCPH's academic fields.
- Consideration will be given to attain a balanced distribution between track 1 and 2 and to distribution between partner institutions.

Reporting

When the activity has been completed, the grant recipient must send a brief one-page report with information on how the activity progressed, including achieved results and a budget of the actual expenses. Please send the final report to the Rector's Office at ISPA@adm.ku.dk

Furthermore, recipients can be called upon to share experiences in UCPH settings in order to foster further network building.

Schedule

Call announcement: 10 April 2026

Application deadline: 12:00 CET, 11 August 2026*

Pre-processing of applications: Ultimo August 2026

Decision on applications: September 2026

Response to applicants: September/October 2026

Allocation of funds: October 2026

**Please be advised that the secretariat is on holiday in the period between 20 July – 4 August 2025 and will not be able to accommodate questions regarding the call in this period.*

Contact

If you have any questions, please contact the Rector's Office: Jonas Husum Johannesen jhjo@adm.ku.dk, Tobi Egelund: spt571@adm.ku.dk or at ISPA@adm.ku.dk

- [1] Due to the in-depth nature of UCPH's partnership with University of Edinburgh, amount is earmarked for projects with this university.