

## Northwestern-Tel Aviv-Toronto Joint Call for Proposals: Longevity and Healthy Aging

**Deadline: 31 January 2025**

Northwestern University, Tel Aviv University, and the University of Toronto are contributing matching funds to support collaborative bilateral and trilateral research initiatives through a joint call for proposals from all research areas related to **Longevity and Healthy Aging**.

The aim of the call is to encourage and provide initial support (seed funding) for the development of high-quality research activities that will enable principal investigators (PIs) to collaborate across institutions and successfully apply for external funding to support the next phase of their joint research.

### **Activities and Scope**

Proposals must be **Bilateral** (between two universities) or **Trilateral** (between all universities) and may include targeted research support for activities such as joint research projects, joint workshops, researcher exchanges, and the formation or development of a collaborative network.

Doctoral students, post-doctoral fellows, and adjunct faculty may participate. However, they (and external collaborators such as researchers from other universities, or those working in non-academic contexts) cannot lead an application. External collaborators cannot be funded by this grant and must participate at their own expense.

### **Costs**

This funding is intended to support expenses, including but not limited to: costs of travel (PIs, post-doctoral fellows, research associates, graduate researchers) between the institutions, research running costs, and costs associated with workshops/meetings. See details of eligible and ineligible costs below.

Eligible Costs	Ineligible costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel, including flights, hotels and subsistence</li> <li>• Costs associated with organising workshops and meetings</li> <li>• Research costs, including consumables</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replacement research/teaching costs</li> <li>• Directly incurred staff e.g. Research Assistant</li> <li>• Directly allocated costs e.g. applicants' time</li> <li>• Indirect costs/estates costs</li> <li>• Equipment</li> <li>• Conference attendance</li> <li>• Tuition fees, scholarships or honoraria</li> </ul>

## **Eligibility**

Eligible proposals will include PIs from **at least two** institutions. Eligible applicants (below) may only lead one application as co-PI but can be listed as a co-investigator on others.

- **Northwestern:** Faculty from any of Northwestern's schools and colleges are welcome to apply.
- **Tel Aviv:** All TAU PIs from all faculties are eligible to apply and participate in exchange activities.
- **Toronto:** Applicants who are Faculty members in continuing Toronto appointments or AGE-WELL affiliated researchers are eligible to submit proposals. Faculty members in continuing Toronto appointments, AGE-WELL-affiliated researchers, and the students and fellows under their supervision are eligible to participate in exchange activities.

## **Value and Duration**

Up to 8 proposals will be funded for a period of up to 12 months.

- Trilateral proposals (PIs from all three institutions) can access funding from all three institutions.
- Bilateral proposals (PIs from two institutions) can access funding from the two institutions represented by the PIs.
- Each institution will pay funds directly to its PI and approve expenditures for those funds.
- Significant variations from the proposed budget will require approval from all three institutions.

Recipients will be awarded up to:

- 10K USD from Northwestern;
- 10K USD from Tel Aviv; and
- 14K CAD from Toronto.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

A joint committee composed of members of all three institutions appointed by the Potocsnak Institute for Northwestern, the Healthy Longevity Research Center for Tel Aviv, and AGE-WELL for Toronto will assess each proposal according to its merit using the following criteria:

- **Project design and rationale (25 points):** How clearly presented and justified is the basis for, and design of, the project? How do the proposed activities assist with establishing new and emerging research collaborations?
- **Collaborator complementarity (15 points):** What is the added value of the new or emerging collaboration? How do the proposed activities combine mutual areas of interest and strength?
- **Innovation (15 points):** What about the proposed idea for collaboration is new and cutting-edge?
- **Potential impact (20 points):** What desired outcomes do the research and planned activities set out to achieve? What are the anticipated benefits of the activities to local or international communities? How does your proposal demonstrate strong relevance to strategic priorities of the participating institutions? What are the expected scholarly gains?
- **Capacity for future collaboration/funding (25 points):** What is the potential for this project to foster ongoing collaboration, and through what mechanism(s)? How well does the proposed collaboration plan to access external funding?

## **How to Apply**

One joint application per project should be submitted through our Monday.com [portal](#).

All applications should use [THIS FORM](#), where you will enter the required elements listed below, and then upload the form to the [portal](#) referenced above:

- 1) Project Team** – list project participants, and include abbreviated CVs for each Co-PI (with a selected list of publications)- up to two pages per PI.
- 2) Research Proposal (max 3 pages)**
  - i. Title of Research Project**
  - ii. Abstract** – a brief description of the project (200 words)
  - iii. Project timeline and planned activities** (200 words)
  - iv. Complementarity** (250 words) – describe how the proposed activities combine mutual areas of interest and strength, and the added value of this combined expertise.
  - v. Research proposal** (up to 1000 words)
    - i. Specific aims of the project (up to 200 words)
    - ii. Innovation/novelty of the project (up to 200 words)
    - iii. Research plan (up to 600 words)
  - vi. Rationale and potential impact** (4x 250 words)
    - i. **Scholarly impact** – describe expected academic gains resulting from the cooperation, and identification of corresponding performance indicators (e.g. a publication, blog, meeting report etc.).
    - ii. **Broad impact** – alignment with the participating institutions’ strategic priorities and anticipated benefits of the project to local or international communities.
    - iii. **Early career and graduate researcher involvement** - opportunities for their engagement and anticipated benefits to the project and to the early career and graduate researchers themselves, as applicable.
    - iv. **Capacity for future collaboration** - a description of future potential collaborations that will be possible as a result of receiving seed funding.
- 3) Budget** – provide a breakdown of activity costs (e.g. flights, travel, hotels etc.)

## **Reporting**

As a condition of receiving an award, and within three months of the project end date, all co-PIs must submit a joint, 1-2 page narrative report describing the outcomes and impact of their project.

## **Timeline**

Deadline for submission	January 31, 2025 (5pm EST)
Communication of results	March 2025
Start date of awards	April 2025
End of project reports due	(3 months after end of funding)

**Queries should be directed to:**

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