

UC – UNSW Seed Fund 2024 Call for Proposals

Introduction

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (UC) and the University of New South Wales (UNSW) are pleased to announce a joint Seed Fund Call for Proposals to foster collaboration in research, teaching, and community engagement. This initiative aims to support innovative projects that create significant impact in key areas for both institutions, aligned with contemporary challenges and the strengthening of international strategic alliances.

The purpose of this call is to support research and collaborative projects that bring together interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary teams, including students, and foster connections with local communities and relevant stakeholders, contributing to social and environmental well-being.

1. Objective of the Call

The UC - UNSW Seed Fund aims to foster collaboration between both universities in the areas of research, teaching, and community engagement. The goal is to generate new alliances that can scale up to larger initiatives and external funding opportunities. The fund encourages interaction between various disciplines and approaches, integrating the work of academics, students, and other key stakeholders.

2. Thematic Areas

Projects must fall within one or more of the following strategic areas:

1. **Social Cohesion and Citizenship:** Initiatives that promote peaceful coexistence, social equity, active citizenship, and the strengthening of democratic institutions.
2. **Interactions between Nature and Society:** Projects exploring the relationships between human communities and natural ecosystems, with an emphasis on sustainability, conservation, and adaptation to climate change.
3. **Health and Well-being:** Research aimed at contributing to the physical, mental, and social well-being of people, addressing topics such as public health, emerging diseases, and quality of life.
4. **Creation in Arts and Culture:** This area promotes projects that drive artistic and cultural innovation, fostering dialogue between the arts and society, as well as preserving cultural heritage.

3. Requirements

- Each proposal must be led by at least one academic from each university (UC and UNSW). The inclusion of more professors/researchers from different academic units of both institutions is encouraged, as well as student participation in the project teams.



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- When appropriate, it is recommended to include researchers from various disciplines and non-academic actors for inter- and transdisciplinary approaches.
- Team leaders should have a strong track record in research, preferably holding a PhD.
- Applicants must have institutional endorsement from their universities to participate in the proposal.

4. Funding

Each project may request up to 10,000 AUD, distributed as 5,000 AUD per participating university (UC and UNSW). The funds must be evenly distributed.

5. Eligible Expenses

Eligible expenses include mobility costs (travel, stays), hiring support staff, acquisition of materials necessary for the research, teaching or outreach, and other operational costs directly related to the project's execution, duly justified. Publishing costs, personnel costs, equipment, and flights in classes higher than economy will not be funded.

6. Project Duration

Projects must have a minimum duration of 6 months and a maximum of 12 months from the day of the funds transfer, with the possibility of extension without additional funding. Final results or outputs must be delivered within the established time frame, although extensions may be requested for the delivery of publications or specific results.

7. Application Process

Applications must be submitted through the [online form](#) and must include:

- **Project Leader Information:** Please provide the details of the project leader from each participating university, including their email, gender, and affiliation (faculty and/or research center).
- **Project Title**
- **Nature of Research:** Please specify which of the four strategic areas the project addresses/encompasses (social cohesion / nature-society interaction / health and well-being / creation in art and culture).
- **Executive Summary:** Brief description of the project, aim for the collaboration, and the rationale for why this collaboration is important and how it will contribute to securing funding (500 words, incl. references).
- **Justification:** The novelty of the approximation and the specific actions the applicants will undertake leading up to a joint proposal with an external financier, outlining the expected outcomes of these actions (1,000 words, incl. references).



- **Collaboration Plan:** Details on how collaboration between the universities will be organized, including roles, methodology and communication mechanisms (500 words, incl. references).
- **Expected Outcomes:** Concrete information on joint follow-up funding possibilities (250 words, incl. references).
- **Detailed Budget:** Clearly explain how the funds will be used and distributed between the universities. The funds must be evenly distributed among the participating universities.
- **CV:** Brief CV and track record of main researchers from each university and possible co-researchers (1,000 words per CV).
- **University endorsement:** all applications must include formal commitments from participating institutions.
- **Additional details:** Any additional documentation that are deemed appropriate may be attached to the application.

Novelty of Proposals: Proposals must be innovative; previously established collaborations will not be funded.

8. Selection Process

Each proposal will be evaluated by a committee composed of representatives from both universities, based on the following criteria:

- **Novelty, quality and rigor of the proposal (40%):** The clarity of the project, the relevance of the research, teaching or community engagement problem, and the methodological coherence, as well as expected results will be evaluated.
- **Expected impact and potential for scaling to larger projects (30%):** The project's potential for securing external funding and its impact on research, teaching or community engagement within the priority areas will be assessed.
- **Collaboration and synergy between universities (30%):** The level of cooperation between the teams from both universities will be considered, as well as the diversity of inter and transdisciplinary approaches (if relevant), student involvement, and the potential to strengthen long-term partnerships.

9. Timeline

- **Call launch:** December 4th, 2024
- **Deadline for proposal submission:** January 24th, 2024
- **Results announcement:** Mid- March 2025
- **Project start:** Late March 2025



10. Obligations

- **Ethics approval:** Awarded projects must comply with ethical regulation in each involved university.
- **Letter of acceptance:** The lead academics of awarded projects are required to sign the letter of acceptance.
- **Progress reports:** Teams must submit a progress report six months after the project start date.
- **Final report:** A final report must be submitted at the end of the project, along with the financial statement.
- **Publications and dissemination:** All publications or resulting products must mention the Seed Fund as a source of funding.
- **Dissemination:** Researchers must participate in meetings, conferences, seminars and events to present project results.

11. Contact

For additional inquiries, academics may contact:

- **UC Chile:** Catalina Cea cacea@uc.cl (VRAI); Ignacia Isla, ignacia.isla@uc.cl (VRI).
- **UNSW:** globalventures@unsw.edu.au