



# FIMPES – THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND SEED FUND 2026

## Call for Proposals

The *Federación de Instituciones Mexicanas Particulares de Educación Superior* (FIMPES) and *The University of Queensland* (UQ) invite the academic community to participate in the inaugural **FIMPES–UQ Joint Research Seed Fund Program**.

This initiative seeks to stimulate global mobility and early-stage collaboration, strengthen international academic networks, and support the development of sustainable solutions to shared global challenges.

### I. Objective

The objective of the FIMPES–UQ Joint Research Seed Fund is to **foster early-stage international collaboration** by supporting activities that establish or strengthen academic and research partnerships between FIMPES member institutions and UQ.

Funded activities should lay clear groundwork for future collaboration, including joint research projects, publications, sustained academic engagement, and applications for external funding.

### II. Strategic Research Domains

Joint proposals must clearly align with one of the following priority areas:

- Advanced manufacturing technologies
- Energy and resources
- Health and biomedical sciences
- Resilient communities and environment
- Urban design and sustainable infrastructure
- Sustainable agrifood

### III. Participant Profile

This call is open to collaborative research teams comprising researchers from FIMPES member institutions and UQ.

Each proposal must involve:

- Researchers from at least **two different FIMPES** member institutions and at least **one researcher from UQ**; and



- One Lead Investigator from UQ and one Lead Investigator from a FIMPES member institution, who will be designated as joint project leads.

Researchers are encouraged to leverage existing academic and professional networks, prior collaborations, conferences, and institutional contacts to identify potential collaborators and explore shared research interests when forming project teams.

FIMPES member institutions and UQ may support the facilitation of academic connections and introductions that align with mutual research interests and the objectives of the Seed Fund.

For the purposes of assessment and award administration:

- The **FIMPES Lead Investigator** must meet the eligibility requirements of their home institution and applicable FIMPES participation conditions.
- The **UQ Lead Investigator** must be a continuing academic staff member of UQ, or a fixed-term academic staff member with a contract covering the proposed project period.
- All team members must be able to commit to the project for the full duration of the seed funding period.

Questions about partner eligibility should be directed to the respective institution.

#### **IV. General Characteristics of the Funding**

Following assessment, seed funding will be awarded to **up to two research teams**.

Each team will receive a total of **USD \$10,000**, co-funded equally by:

- USD \$5,000 contributed by FIMPES; and
- USD \$5,000 contributed by UQ.

#### **Eligible Expenses**

Funds are intended to cover costs that facilitate collaboration, such as travel expenses and other project development activities.

Projects that can demonstrate co-funding (cash or in-kind) from the home institution or external sources will be viewed favourably, provided such support is clearly documented and does not duplicate costs or create a conflict of interest.

Project timelines should be clearly outlined and must not exceed **12 months** from the project start date.

Allowable expenses include:

- international or domestic travel directly related to collaboration;
- accommodation and local transport;



- workshops, symposia, or planning meetings;
- modest costs associated with hosting collaborative activities;
- publication or dissemination costs directly related to the collaboration.

Non-allowable expenses include:

- salaries or salary supplementation;
- scholarships, stipends, or tuition fees;
- major research equipment;
- indirect or overhead costs;
- routine computing equipment (e.g. laptops, printers).

## **V. Application Process – Two-Phase Process**

To support effective team formation and manage the scale of applications across the FIMPES network, the call will be conducted through a **two-phase process**.

### **Phase 1 – Expression of Interest (*FIMPES-managed*)**

Phase 1 is open exclusively to researchers from FIMPES member institutions and will be managed by FIMPES in accordance with its internal processes.

Applicants will be required to submit:

- a brief project concept note; and
  - relevant institutional information
- [\(See Annex Project concept proposal \(Phase 1\)\)](#)

This phase serves as an initial expression of interest and enables FIMPES to assess the feasibility and strategic alignment of proposed collaborations before progressing to the next stage. The project leader needs to send the Expression of Interest document ([See Annex Project concept proposal \(Phase 1\)](#)) to the following email address: [seedfunding@fimpes.org.mx](mailto:seedfunding@fimpes.org.mx).

### **Phase 2 – Full Proposal (*jointly managed by FIMPES and UQ*)**

Phase 2 is open only to teams shortlisted through Phase 1. During this phase, FIMPES member institutions and UQ may, where helpful and subject to capacity, support team development through facilitation and introductions, with the aim of strengthening the quality of collaboration and achieving balanced participation across institutions and researchers.

Each team must include:

- one Lead Investigator from a FIMPES member institution; and
- one Lead Investigator from UQ.

Following team formation, applicants will be required to submit a full proposal with more detailed project information, including researcher profiles, proposed activities, methodology, expected

outcomes, along with a completed budget document and a clear budget justification. Phase 2 proposals will be jointly assessed by FIMPES and UQ.

[\(See Annex Budget Template\)](#)

[\(See Annex Project Application Form – Phase 2\)](#)

## VI. Intellectual Property

Intellectual Property (IP) arising from activities supported by this seed fund will be managed in accordance with the existing policies of each participating institution. Where required, project-specific agreements may be developed and agreed prior to the commencement of funded activities.

## VII. Evaluation

Applicants must clearly outline the aims, proposed activities, and expected outcomes of the project and ensure that all criteria are addressed. Proposals will be jointly evaluated by multi-disciplinary, multi-faculty Selection Committees at FIMPES and UQ based on the criteria outlined below. Final selections will be reviewed by the FIMPES delegate and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global Partnerships), UQ.

### Assessment Criteria

Compliant applications will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- **Alignment with Strategic Priority Areas**  
The extent to which the proposed project aligns with one or more of the identified strategic research domains under this call and demonstrates relevance to shared priorities of FIMPES member institutions and UQ.
- **Academic Quality and Potential Impact**  
The academic quality of the proposed collaboration and its potential to lead to meaningful academic or societal impact and profiling. Where appropriate, consideration will be given to interdisciplinary approaches and the inclusion of early-career researchers or students.
- **Innovation**  
The extent to which the project will contribute to novel thinking and creative outcomes that create value.
- **Outcomes and Sustainability**  
The likelihood that the project will lead to long-term research relationships and generate ongoing collaboration. Expected outcomes may include, among other possibilities, publications, exhibitions, grant proposals, clinical interventions, technological innovations, enhanced networks and/or research-based seminar/conference/workshops.
- **Partnership**



How the research will be shared with broader academic communities as well as promote and consolidate the relationship between the participating FIMPES institutions and UQ.

## **Results**

Successful applicants will receive a letter of confirmation from their home institution (FIMPES or UQ) and will receive an Acceptance of Award letter that must be signed and returned by the due date.

Awardees will be responsible for managing project funds, reporting on expenditures, and for facilitating the sharing of funds with their partner Lead Investigator and team members where required. Awardees must submit completed award agreement documents to their respective institutions before the project may begin.

- FIMPES Awardees – FIMPES to insert any requirements here
- UQ awardees will be required to provide a relevant chart string for the project to enable the transfer of internal funds. It is the responsibility of the awardees to liaise directly with their finance department regarding the receipt of funds.

## **VIII. Other Grant Conditions**

### **Change of Investigator**

If circumstances change, for example, the Lead Investigator or a team member leaves the project, awardees must provide notification with an explanation to FIMPES and UQ Global Partnerships. All changes must be approved in writing for the project to remain valid.

### **Extensions**

Under exceptional circumstances, no-cost extensions of up to six (6) months may be approved.

Applicants seeking an extension must submit a formal written request at least one month prior to the end of the grant period, including a revised timeline and budget, for consideration by FIMPES and Global Partnerships at UQ.

All extension requests are subject to approval and must be confirmed in writing prior to the expiry of the grant.

### **Forfeiture of grants**

Grants not spent by the end date will be transferred back either to FIMPES and/or UQ as applicable.

### **Financial Obligations and Deliverables**

- FIMPES awardees must submit a brief end-of-project report and a follow-up impact update to provide visibility on the development and progression of the collaboration.



- UQ awardees must agree to adhere to all requirements associated with the receipt of funding, including deadlines and procedures for acquittal of funds and reporting on outcomes.

UQ recipients will be required to submit a [final report](#) within one month of project completion, using the template provided at the time of award. The report should include:

- evidence of acquitted funds against the approved budget;
- a summary of project outcomes;
- an indication of the project’s sustainability;
- key lessons learned through the collaboration; and
- the future direction of the partnership, including prospective opportunities.

Final reports may be used by Global Partnerships at UQ to support follow-up engagement, country briefing materials, and potential profiling on the Global Partnerships website.

UQ awardees undertaking international travel are required to comply with the official reporting, registration, and insurance requirements outlined in the UQ Travel Policy and Guidelines. Any additional costs incurred beyond the seed funding awarded will be the responsibility of the approving faculty, school or institute, or the individual applicant.

## IX. Further information

For further information, please contact the FIMPES Team: [seedfunding@fimpes.org.mx](mailto:seedfunding@fimpes.org.mx). At UQ, please contact the UQ Global Strategy and Partnerships Team: [globalstrategy@uq.edu.au](mailto:globalstrategy@uq.edu.au).

## X. Key Dates

Date	Details
6 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Official launch of the call (Phase 1)
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Deadline for submission of Phase 1 applications
1 <sup>st</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Evaluation and shortlisting of Phase 1 applications by FIMPES
16 <sup>th</sup> July – 30 <sup>th</sup> August	Phase 2: Formation of joint FIMPES-UQ project teams for shortlisted applicants.  Development of Phase 2 applications
1 <sup>st</sup> September	Deadline for submission of Phase 2 applications



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<b>2<sup>nd</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Joint evaluation of Phase 2 applications by FIMPES and UQ
<b>25<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Announcement of successful applicants
<b>31<sup>st</sup> October 2026</b>	Funding disbursed and projects commence
<b>31<sup>st</sup> October 2027</b>	Project completion date (funds must be expended by this date)
<b>20<sup>th</sup> November 2027</b>	Final Reports (Fund acquittal and outcomes report) due