Adelaide-Nottingham Alliance Partnership Seed Fund Program Guidelines

## Summary

The Adelaide-Nottingham Alliance (the Alliance) provides an opportunity to develop broader and deeper collaborations in areas of strategic focus for each institution by leveraging complementary strengths and trans-disciplinary scholarship to advance research collaboration and academic exchanges. The University of Adelaide (UoA) and the University of Nottingham (UoN) are now accepting proposals for funding for the development of collaborations in the identified key priority research areas:

* Global Food Systems
* Intelligent Health
* Sustainable Futures

## Funding available

Grants of between A$10,000 and A$20,000 / £5,500 and £11,000 are available per application, with a total of A$100,000 / £55,000 available for 2023 (approximately 3-5 grants per institution).

## Schedule

The Adelaide-Nottingham Alliance Partnership Seed Fund will open for applications at midnight UK time (GMT) on **Monday 20 March 2023** and will close at midnight UK time on **Monday 10 April 2023** (BST). Complete applications must be received by the deadline. No extensions will be granted.

The Alliance Selection Committee will meet in April 2023, with results announced by early May 2023.

Funded projects must be completed within one year of the commencement date (date acceptance agreement signed).

It is recommended that funded researchers connect with the theme leads several times over the funding period.

## Purpose and Description

The Adelaide-Nottingham Alliance Partnership Seed Fund is designed to spur new research collaborations, with the expectation that funded projects will lead to more substantive engagement between the two institutions.

The Alliance Partnership Seed Fund intends to:

* Facilitate high quality and long-term collaboration between UoA and UoN faculty / researchers in the three priority areas of strategic importance as listed above and described below.
* Advance research partnerships and better position UoA and UoN faculty/researchers to achieve funding success.
* Result in the publication of high-quality outputs including international research training for graduate students and/or early career faculty, publication of joint papers from collaborative research, or follow-on joint research funding bids.
* Identify additional collaborators to expand the Adelaide-Nottingham network

## Priority Areas

### Global Food Systems

As the world’s population grows, it is more important than ever we take a multi-disciplinary approach to understanding and developing food production systems. Through our research in agriculture, food science, advanced technologies and data science, humanities and social sciences, Global Food Systems will contribute to the grand challenge of providing healthy food in a constantly changing environment.

**Nottingham lead:** [Professor Ian Fisk](https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/biosciences/people/ian.fisk), School of Biosciences

**Adelaide lead:** [Associate Professor Chris Ford](https://researchers.adelaide.edu.au/profile/christopher.ford), School of Agriculture, Food and Wine

### Intelligent Health

Innovative technologies and intelligent, data-driven social strategies will shape the future of healthcare. Our researchers explore how transformational biotechnologies and tools, better understanding of health systems and inclusive, evidence-informed socio-health policies will improve outcomes. Our multi-disciplinary, intelligence-informed approach will help make health systems more agile, tailoring care for the needs of individual patients while improving wellbeing for communities at a national and global scale.

**Nottingham lead:** [Dr Sally Eldeghaidy](https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/biosciences/people/sally.eldeghaidy), School of Biosciences

**Adelaide lead:** [Professor Amanda Page](https://researchers.adelaide.edu.au/profile/amanda.page), School of Biomedicine

### Sustainable Futures

The world faces complex environmental, social and economic challenges. By working in partnership to deliver sustainable solutions, we will help societies in Australia, the UK and beyond to adapt and flourish. Sustainable Futures will explore:

* planetary health and biodiversity restoration
* sustainable production and consumption through clean technologies
* resilient, healthy and sustainable communities, buildings and infrastructure
* sustainable governance and decision-making

**Nottingham lead:** [Dr Eleanor Binner](https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/engineering/people/eleanor.binner), Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering

**Adelaide lead:** [ProfessorVeronica Soebarto](https://researchers.adelaide.edu.au/profile/veronica.soebarto), School of Architecture and Civil Engineering

## Funding

Grants of between A$10,000 and A$20,000 / £5,500 and £11,000 are available per project and will be made available to lead investigators via their respective institutions after the announcement. Planned expenditures should be in line with the financial policies of the funding institutions. Proposals that include opportunities for the exchange of post-graduate and PhD students are encouraged.

### Allowable expenses

* Travel, accommodation, and subsistence
* Workshops, guest lectures, and seminars on multidisciplinary research areas
* Video-conference seminars
* Development of joint industry-research collaborations with global impact
* Delivery of joint publications or other scholarly output
* Collection of preliminary data to strengthen a full proposal to an external funding agency
* Creation and support of joint resources such as websites, research collaboration sites, or other social networking tools to facilitate the dissemination of results
* Support ad-hoc/short term research assistant costs.

### Non-allowable expenses

* Salary or salary supplementation of any kind
* Equipment
* Funding for the use of a partner’s laboratory facilities
* Indirect and overhead costs.

## Eligibility

* Applicants/PI’s must be academic staff or equivalent (at any stage of their careers) at either UoA or UoN, with the duration of employment sufficient to cover the applied funding period.
* Applications must include at least one member of staff from each institution
* Applications must be developed in consultation with research theme leads (see above)
* Additional external partners can be involved; industry partners are encouraged; however, a strong argument should be made if an external University is participating and their contribution exceeds 20% (no limits for industry partners), as the focus is the collaboration between UoA and UoN.
* Projects incorporating Early Career Researchers (ECRs) or postgraduate research students are strongly encouraged

## Selection Criteria

Proposals that meet the stated eligibility requirements will initially be evaluated by review panels at both universities. The Adelaide-Nottingham Alliance Joint Executive Committee (the Alliance JEC) will make the final decision for awards.

The criteria for consideration will involve the extent to which each proposal:

1. Seeks to address a research problem of global importance within one of the three themes
2. Explains how the project activities align with the goals of the Adelaide-Nottingham Alliance
3. Brings together, or builds on pre-existing research collaborations with, complementary expertise from the two institutions
4. Has a clear plan for implementation within and beyond the grant period
5. Articulates clear and measurable objectives and focus on the achievement of concrete outcomes and results, including:
   1. high impact publications
   2. collaborative application for external research funding
   3. student and staff exchange for training and research
6. Describes the plan for sustaining the collaboration beyond the grant period, including:
   1. applications for and award of external funding, including grants and fellowships
   2. industry engagement and contracts
   3. “higher degree by research” graduate student recruitment
   4. post-doctoral fellow recruitment
7. Has a clearly articulated and justified budget

## Application Process

Applicants should liaise with the relevant theme lead at their institution. Applicants must complete and submit the application form, which can be downloaded from UoN [here](https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/global/partnerships/featured/adelaide-nottingham-alliance/index.aspx) and UoA [here](https://www.adelaide.edu.au/global-engagement/international-partnerships/adelaide-nottingham-alliance), with any supporting documents (CVs, lists of relevant publications etc), to the email addresses listed below. Only one application is required from either lead applicant at UoA or UoN.

University of Nottingham as lead applicant: [uonglobal@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:uonglobal@nottingham.ac.uk)

University of Adelaide as lead applicant: [globalengagement@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:globalengagement@adelaide.edu.au)

### UoA PI only

Prior to the application, the primary PI at UoA will need to seek foreign compliance endorsement by completing a [Foreign Engagement Compliance Review (FECR) form](https://www.adelaide.edu.au/legalandrisk/compliance/foreign-compliance-obligations).

## Application results

Successful applicants will receive a letter of confirmation from their home institution and will receive an Acceptance letter that must be signed and returned by the due date to either UoA or UoN.

## Reporting

Recipients are required to submit a final report (developed in consultation with the theme leads) no later than one month after the end of the funded project. The report should include:

* a brief summary of the activities undertaken, using the bullets under “Selection Criteria” in this document as a guide
* project outcomes and achievements, including key findings and a brief assessment by the lead researcher on the impact (positive and negative) on their research
* a list of confirmed or planned publications
* future plans and next steps for the collaboration
* actual expenditure against the approved budget

Please note that where applicable, we may use information from the project to create media articles to further promote the Alliance. This will be done in consultation with the recipients.

## Forfeiture of grants

Grants not spent by the end date will be transferred back either to UoA or UoN as applicable.

## Change of investigator

If the principal investigator, or another team member, leaves the project, awardees must provide notification with an explanation to the Global Engagement at UoA or UoN. All changes must be approved in writing.

## Extensions to grant period

Under exceptional circumstances, no-cost extensions may be approved. Applicants seeking an extension must submit a written request for formal approval at least one month before the end of the grant, along with a revised budget and timeline of activities to Global Engagement at UoA or UoN. All changes must be approved in writing.

## Further information

University of Nottingham as lead applicant: [uonglobal@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:uonglobal@nottingham.ac.uk)

University of Adelaide as lead applicant: [globalengagement@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:globalengagement@adelaide.edu.au)