



Doctoral Mobility Award Program
between
The University of Toronto (U of T)
and
Université Paris Cité (UPCité)

The Partnership/Mobility Opportunity

Scientific Areas

Université Paris Cité and the University of Toronto are launching a joint call for proposals between the two institutions in order to further develop their research collaboration and doctoral program strengths. This call invites proposals from all disciplines.

The joint call is intended to fund up to 3 years of a PhD fellowship and 12 months of travel/living expenses in Paris or Toronto starting in September 2025.

Eligibility

Principal Investigators:

- **U of T:** U of T faculty members who meet [the University's definition of a Principal Investigator \(PI\)](#) are eligible to apply. PIs must hold an appointment for the full duration of the grant's funding period plus one year. Successful status-only PIs must hold grant funds at an account within the University.
- **UPCité:** Faculty members from doctoral schools or laboratories able to supervise PhD students. To apply with Université Paris Cité, the host research unit must be affiliated with one of the Université Paris Cité [Graduate Schools](#). The research project must be accepted by one of the [Graduate Schools](#).
- A PI cannot submit more than one application in the framework of this call.

Students:

- **U of T:** a PhD student who will be registered in the first or second year of their PhD program in 2025-26.
- **UPCité:** Students who have obtained or will obtain, a master's degree or equivalent diploma in 2024 or 2025.

Doctoral mobility and research collaboration

Each application must include one PI from U of T and one from UPCité, along with a nominated doctoral student, registered at either the U of T or UPCité, who is or will be co-supervised by both PIs.

An application will therefore create a research team of 3: 2 PI's, and 1 doctoral student.

The selected doctoral candidate from each institution will be co-supervised by the second PI under a jointly awarded PhD arrangement through [joint education placement](#). This mechanism aligns with the existing policies of both institutions.

PIs who do not already have a collaborator at the partner institution may consult the UPCité website or the relevant U of T faculty/departmental websites to find information on aligned faculty interests/expertise at the other institution.

The students will participate in the Doctoral Mobility Award Program scheme for a total of 36 months, although the period of time spent in the other institution will be a total of 12 months. During the period of the program the students will be co-supervised by the PI from the other institution.

Example of the timeline:

Student registered at U of T, commencing PhD program in either Sept. 2024 or Sept. 2025		Student registered at UPCité, commencing PhD program in Sept. 2025
Year 1	12 months in Toronto	12 months in Paris
Year 2	12 months in Paris, with co-supervision by the UPCité PI	12 months in Toronto, with co-supervision by the U of T PI
Year 3	12 months in Toronto, in some cases to be followed by at least one further year of study, not covered by the Mobility program (depending on whether the student commenced the program in 2024 or 2025).	12 months in Paris, completion of PhD program

Award Amount

In accordance with respective institutional policies, PhD students are expected to be financially supported by their home institution at the equivalent level of a PhD fellowship/funding package as provided under those policies, including when the student is visiting the host institution.

The award will cover mobility costs for the PhD students participating in the program to spend 12 of the 36 months at the partner institution. UPCité will provide up to 12 000€ to the PhD student from UPCité that will cover one return airfare ticket, as well as contribute to 12 months of accommodation costs in Toronto. U of T will provide up to CAD \$15,000 to the U of T student that will cover one return airfare

ticket, as well as contribute to 12 months of accommodation costs in Paris. Students will not receive mobility funding (travel or accommodation costs) during the remaining 24 months in which they are participants in the mobility program.

The mobility award must be used to cover the travel and accommodation costs of the PhD student—U of T students going to Paris, and UPCité students coming to Toronto. Tuition, salaries, equipment, conferences, and honoraria are not eligible expenses. Expenses such as tuition fees, salaries, equipment, conference attendance, and honoraria are not eligible under this project.

Program duration

3 years (of which 12 months of mobility)

Number of awards

Up to 1 award per institution will be distributed within the frame of this call. Each award will support 1 PhD student registered at either U of T or UPCité.

Call date

June 3, 2025

Submission date

July 16, 2025 (23:59 (CEST) / 5:59 PM (ETS))

Notification date

July 23, 2025

Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated and ranked by a joint U of T - UPCité committee according to the following criteria:

- Research quality and originality of the project
- Research merit of the teams
- Training environment for the PhD students involved
- Synergy, including interdisciplinary collaboration, between the teams
- Capacity for future collaboration & plans for raising external competitive funding (Horizon Europe, national research agency grants, etc.)

Successful recipients will be formally notified via email of the award and informed of funding conditions.

Reporting

At the end of each year (12 months from the approval of the award), awardees must submit a brief, plain language report (1-page) to UPCité and U of T.

This report should detail the outcomes of the collaboration to date and the ways in which the grant has enhanced or will enhance their research activities and/or leverage larger opportunities – including funding.

UPCité PIs: Funding for the subsequent year will be remitted after review of the report and confirmation of travel plans for the PhD students for that year.

As part of this report, PIs will be required to provide information on how the funds awarded for PhD mobility were spent, the total amount expended, and the budget for activities in the coming year.

Mode of application

Only one proposal is required and should be submitted by email to internationalisation.iro@u-paris.fr and international@utoronto.ca by one of the PIs in electronic format in pdf and **in English**. A PI cannot submit more than one application in the framework of this call.

The proposal must consist of the following sections, in one single file of up to 3 pages (not including references and the CVs of the UPCité and U of T participants).

PART A: Title Page

Title of the proposal, names of the principal investigators and their laboratories, their addresses, telephone, and e-mail. The names of the PhD student must be provided. Please specify on the Title Page of the application "This application is submitted for consideration for the U of T - UPCité Doctoral Mobility Program".

PART B: Description of the research project

The current state of the research landscape and how the project contributes to it, description of the project and domains of interest, historical context of application (if applicable), quality and originality of the project, objectives, methodology, expected results and their relevance, future perspectives. Explain how the PhD fellow will be supervised and mentored, and how the collaboration will enable and enhance the project.

PART C: Added-value of the international cooperation

Describe the added value of the international cooperation in fulfilling the aims of the project. Describe the expected benefits for the UPCité and U of T teams. Describe the balance between the contributions of the UPCité and U of T teams. If any additional industrial, governmental or community collaboration are involved in the project, please describe their role.

PART D: Planned activities

Describe the planned activities in the framework of the project and provide a timetable. Explain how these activities will help achieve the aims of the project.

PART E: Budget

Proposed budget including a breakdown of the division of funds, separated into distinct budgets for U of T and UPCité. The budget section regarding travel should contain explicit line items for travel of the PhD student.

PART F: Perspectives & external funding

Outline any proposed plans for raising external competitive funding (e.g. EU collaborative grants, Canada federal/provincial grants, etc.)

PART G: Research strength of the teams

Please attach in the Annex a list of up to ten detailed (complete) citations for publications related to the project for each team. This list does not count against the page limit. Authors from the respective teams must be clearly indicated in the author lists, with superscript or parenthesized letters corresponding to the respective countries, for example Dupont JP (FR), McFarlane H (CAN).

PART H: Short (maximum two-page) curriculum vitae of all PIs

PART I: For UPCité only: A letter of support from the director of the laboratory or the doctoral school.

PART J: Ethics

Does the project raise ethical questions? If yes, please describe them and how they will be addressed.

Enquiries

U of T: Office of the Vice-President, International international@utoronto.ca

UPCité: Ellianna Farazi, International Strategic Partnerships Manager internationalisation.iro@u-paris.fr