

U of T India Foundation. University of Toronto, & School of Cities India

Research Catalyst Grant 2025-2026: Frequently Asked Questions

1) Will the grant be awarded in INR or CAD?

The grant funding will be in INR and will be awarded to the Indian Partner Organization.

2) I am interested in applying for the grant but do not have an Indian/U of T partner. Can I still apply?

The grant application requires a collaboration between an Indian Partner Organization and a U of T faculty member. If you are an Indian partner seeking connections with potential U of T Co-PIs, please contact andrea.russell@utoronto.ca. If you are a U of T faculty member seeking connections with potential Indian partner organizations, please reach out to shruta.rawat@uoftindiafoundation.com. Please allow adequate time for these connects and reach out to us well in advance to facilitate connections.

3) Can the application include researchers from different institutions?

Multidisciplinary and collaborative proposals from researchers across different institutions are welcome, as long as lead applicants meets eligibility requirements (at least one Indian partner and one U of T co-PI). Individuals who are not affiliated with Indian partner organizations or U of T should be listed as consultants.

4) Can a U of T faculty member be listed a co-PI on multiple grant applications?

A U of T faculty member can be listed as a co-PI on multiple grant applications. However, the U of T faculty member can be a co-PI on a maximum of two awarded grants in the same grant cycle.

5) Does the Indian co-PI have to be affiliated with an academic institution?

No. Indian co-PIs can be from community-based organizations and other diverse not-for-profit entities, including academic institutions and government bodies.

6) What are the criteria for the Indian co-PI for this grant call?

Indian co-PIs must be working full-time with the Indian partner organization and must have experience working on the proposal's core thematic area. An Indian co-PI from non-academic institutions would need to have project- and team management skills. While research experience is highly desirable for Indian co-PIs, Indian co-PIs with demonstrated experience of managing and implementing projects; technical expertise of the issue in Indian contexts; and/or field experience will be considered equally to academic research experience.

7) Can for-profit Indian companies apply for this grant?

This round of the Catalyst grant is only open to not-for-profit entities and academic institutions. You can reach out to shruta.rawat@uoftindiafoundation.com if your company works on

thematic areas that contribute toward building a sustainable India for exploring potential collaborations and engagement opportunities.

8) Can we submit multiple applications for this grant call?

PIs and organizations may submit up to two applications for this call. However, the applications must be distinct and should focus on different thematic areas and/or different research questions.

9) We have emailed our application but would like to make some key changes to the application. How do we proceed?

Please email the revised application with the subject: ***Revised Application of Interest: Catalyst Grant 2025-2026*** and indicate the attached files as revised. Only revisions received within the deadline will be considered for review.

10) We submitted a revised application but did not indicate it as a revised version. What happens now?

Only applications indicated as “revised” will be considered for review. If your email does not indicate an application as “revised”, then the original submitted application will be considered for review. Please refer to the CfP for more details.

11) Can we apply for the grant if our research is already underway?

Yes, you can apply for funding for ongoing research projects, as long as the proposed project aligns with the objectives of the grant call and requested funds would be used to cover costs/research activities that are not budgeted in the original research.

12) Do we need to submit additional materials, like ethical- or IRB approvals?

If your research involves human subjects, animals, and/or sensitive data, you may be required to submit ethical approval or Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval prior to initiating any project work, if you are awarded the grant.

13) What happens if we miss the application deadline?

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered under any circumstances. We recommend submitting your application well in advance to avoid last-minute technical or logistical issues.

14) Who can we contact if we have specific queries pertaining to this call for applications?

Please direct all your queries to shruta.rawat@uoftindiafoundation.com. Please allow up to 2 working days for response.

15) We are unsure of applying for this grant call but would like to be in touch and receive updates on potential future opportunities.

Please email contactus@uoftindiafoundation.com and request to be added to our mailing list. You can also share a short profile of your/your organization’s work and request for a connect. Our team will add you to our mailing list, and if requested, will connect with you shortly for a conversation on our larger work.