Edital FAEPEX 54/2026

2026 Call for Proposals – PoliTo-UNICAMP Seed Fund Application Guidelines

1. Background

Politecnico di Torino (PoliTo) and Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP) have agreed on a framework for continued collaboration and investment to strengthen the strategic partnership between these institutions.

The partnership framework aims to deepen existing collaborations and develop wider faculty networks to build cognate research areas; broaden access to expertise, facilities and educational exchange; and reinforce strategic goals for institutional engagement.

To this end, the institutions have established a joint Strategic Collaboration Seed Fund for which permanent members of staff at each institution are encouraged to apply.

2. Criteria

The PoliTo-UNICAMP Seed Fund supports collaborative engagement between PoliTo and UNICAMP with the following priorities:

2.1 **Implementation Grants to support and strengthen existing researcher-to-researcher collaborations that lead to clearly defined outputs**.

Priority will be given to activities that have the potential to:

a) Advance joint research priorities;
b) Connect world-leading researchers;
c) Enhance our institutional research profiles through collaborative publications;
d) Build productive, impactful relationships with leading academic, scientific, cultural and policy communities in the region;
e) Serve as foundation for jointly-submitted proposals to external funding agencies for sustained support of developed research.

2.2 **Initiation Grants to encourage wider researcher involvement and expand institutional engagement.**

We invite applications from colleagues interested in developing new research relationships. Priority will be given to:

a) Applicants who can clearly demonstrate that they have established a potential area of collaboration with PoliTo/UNICAMP counterparts;
b) Activities with the potential to extend beyond individual links to wider – i.e., 'research group to research group' – collaborations;
c) Projects with the potential for sustained and scalable collaborative activity.

3. Guidelines

3.1 There are no restrictions on the forms of activity supported by the PoliTo-UNICAMP Seed Fund,

provided they meet the criteria outlined above.

3.2 The fund is available to support planning visits, workshops and exchanges with the partner institution for the purpose of developing the strategic partnership. The fund may also support meetings in third party locations where there is potential to develop and/or showcase collaboration.

3.3 Activities may include, but are not limited to:

a) Academic projects to expand PoliTo-UNICAMP academic networks and research outputs, such as joint conferences, workshops, symposia, collaborative experiments and co-authored publications;
b) Curriculum innovation and development of joint teaching and learning initiatives;
c) Trilateral activities that link research projects to wider PoliTo-UNICAMP strategic regions – including, for example, countries in Africa, Latin America, China, India, and Europe.

3.4 Applicants are encouraged to apply for the funding of reciprocal activities in order to broaden networks and cement engagement.

3.5 Applications that can demonstrate potential for relationships to become sustainable beyond the proposed project and initial seed funding term are strongly encouraged, whether through faculty and departmental commitment or the likelihood of securing externally leveraged grants and awards.

4. Financial Support

4.1 PoliTo seed funding will be allocated locally, with PoliTo paying the travel and accommodation costs of PoliTo staff travelling to UNICAMP, and the costs of projects occurring at PoliTo; and UNICAMP paying the travel and accommodation costs of UNICAMP staff travelling to PoliTo, and the costs of projects occurring at UNICAMP.

4.2 PoliTO-UNICAMP seed funding will be subject to the travel reimbursement and other relevant financial policies of the institution providing the funding to its faculty or units.

4.3 Requests of support for non-standard expenses such as research equipment or research assistant staffing shall be clearly justified.

4.4 The maximum funding available per project is up to Euro 20,000 in total, with an equal contribution from each partner.

4.5 The maximum funding available per call will be Euro 60,000 in total, shared equally between both parties.

5. Application Process

5.1 Applications must be submitted using the PoliTo-UNICAMP Strategic Collaboration Seed and provide the following information:

a) Identified PIs at both PoliTo and UNICAMP

b) Purpose and timescale of visit/programme activity.
c) Anticipated total cost and itemised budget for the proposed activities.
d) Academic rationale for support, including:
   i. the strategic importance or added academic value of the collaboration for your home department and University;
   ii. the anticipated shared outcomes and benefits for the collaboration
e) Anticipated means of sustaining the collaboration, including:
   i. funding available from other sources;
   ii. potential for securing future external investment
f) The information requested in items A through E must not exceed 10 pages.
g) Letter of commitment by the Director of the collaborating PoliTO unit/Department.
~~h)~~ Approval from the corresponding Executive Officer of the Unit / Dean. Email confirmation of this support will suffice and should be saved in PDF format and attached with the application.

5.2 Applicants from each institution must present evidence of availability of matching funds from its partner institution.

5.3 All proposals must be submitted through the FAEPEX system: https://sistcorp.unicamp.br/faepex/login.jsp (Editais Especiais - PoliTo-UNICAMP).

5.4 Further information can be found by contacting the International Relations office at PoliTo (international.relations@polito.it) or by contacting the Research Office, at the Universidade Estadual de Campinas (faepex@unicamp.br).

6. Assessment and reporting

6.1 The grant review panels at PoliTo and UNICAMP (the PoliTo–UNICAMP Steering Group) will liaise to jointly determine which projects will receive funding.
6.2 Proposals that do not comply with the terms of this Call for Proposals will not be considered for review.

6.3 Grant recipients will be required to submit a project report outlining the activities undertaken with the support of the award. Recipients may also be asked to present their outcomes to the PoliTo–UNICAMP Steering Group and, where appropriate, in departmental or institutional forums.
6.4 In addition, recipients will be asked to provide a follow-up update **two years after the funded activities** in order to assess longer-term outcomes that may not be apparent in the initial report.

7. Application Timeline 2026/2027

- Applications open: 25/08/2026
- Applications close: 13/10/2026
- Results announced: 14/12/2026