

LSE-Georgetown University Research Seed Fund Call for Papers 2024/2025

The LSE-Georgetown University seed research funding call aims to strengthen ties between the two institutions by supporting research projects rooted in a shared commitment to addressing key global challenges.

Goals:

- Enable researchers at LSE and Georgetown University to identify complementary strengths, explore synergies and develop outstanding research projects.
- Invite applications with a particular focus on political economy, sustainability, and health; however, applications are welcome on all themes that build on our existing strengths.
- Contribute to research excellence at both LSE and Georgetown University.
- Strengthen long-term academic collaboration between the two institutions.

Funding:

Each awarded project will receive up to £20,000 (approx. \$25,800) in total, with up to £10,000 contributed by each institution.

While each project is unique and may have different resource requirements, Principal Investigators (PIs) at LSE and Georgetown University are advised to aim for an equal partitioning of the budget when preparing their proposals. This will ensure that the grant can be divided and managed independently by both institutions.

Project timelines should not exceed 12 months from the project start date. It is expected that projects will start no later than **August 2025**.

Examples of activities

- Discrete pilot research with one researcher from each institution or larger team.
- Studies that evaluate the societal, economic, and environmental impacts of existing policies or proposed interventions.
- Expansion of existing LSE and Georgetown University research to provide further comparative analysis or greater impact with academic audiences.
- Collection of data and development of data resources for future analysis and research.
- Intensive research workshops or joint conferences.
- Short-term research visits for faculty.

Eligibility and allowable costs:

Please refer to the institution-specific guidance for **LSE (Annex A)** and **Georgetown University (Annex B)** regarding eligibility and allowable costs.

Assessment criteria:

All applications will be peer-reviewed and evaluated based on the following criteria. A joint selection Panel comprised of academics from LSE and Georgetown University will be responsible for reviewing and deciding on awarded projects.

Criteria	Seed Research Fund	Scoring Model
1	Originality <i>The Panel will consider the originality of the seed research idea/research question, and its potential to contribute to the state of the art and break new ground.</i>	4 – Outstanding 3 – Excellent 2 – Good 1 – Average
2	Significance <i>The Panel will consider the ambition and significance of the research idea. Why is this research important and timely? Why do we need it and how critical is the question it will answer?</i>	4 – Outstanding 3 – Excellent 2 – Good 1 – Average
3	Implementation <i>Quality of the methodology and research design. The Panel will consider the scientific merit, rigour, and feasibility of the research method and implementation plan, the strength of the research design, feasibility and timeline of the project.</i>	4 – Outstanding 3 – Excellent 2 – Good 1 – Average
4	Potential <i>The Panel will consider how the project, if funded, may: 1) result in external joint funding proposals, identifying potential funders or schemes; and/or 2) contribute high quality, peer-reviewed co-authored research papers for publication in top journals in the relevant field of research and/or high-quality policy-related papers; and/or 3) strengthen long-term academic collaboration between LSE and Georgetown University.</i>	4 – Outstanding 3 – Excellent 2 – Good 1 – Average

Reporting:

Successful applicants will be required to submit a brief post-award report summarizing the activities, achieved outcomes, and future collaboration plans.

Key dates:

- Call opens: March 2025
- Applications close: Friday 16 May 2025 (4pm BST, 12pm EST)
- Outcomes announced: by the end of June 2025
- Projects commence: no later than 31 August 2025
- Projects complete: no later than 31 August 2026.

How to apply:

All fields are mandatory and therefore must be complete before the application can be submitted.

One joint application form should be submitted to Global@lse.ac.uk by Friday, 16 May 2025 (4pm BST, 12pm EST)

The following documents (as a PDF) must be submitted as part of the application:

1. LSE-Georgetown University Research Seed Fund application form
2. CV of LSE Principal Investigator (max 2 page each)
3. CV of Georgetown University Principal Investigator (max 2 page each)
4. LSE Head of Department/Centre Director support letter
5. Georgetown University Head of Department/Centre Director support letter

Contact:

LSE staff should contact **Global@lse.ac.uk**, and Georgetown University staff should contact **viceprovostforresearch@georgetown.edu**.