**LSE-Tsinghua University Sustainability Research Fund**

**Application Form 2025/2026**

**Notes to applicants:**

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

**One joint application form should be submitted to** **Global@lse.ac.uk** **and** **wenjuan\_dong@tsinghua.edu.cn** **by Friday 14 November 2026 (4pm BST, 11pm CST).**

The following documents must be submitted as part of the application:

1. **LSE-** **Tsinghua University Sustainability Seed Research Fund application form**
2. **CV of LSE Lead Principal Investigator (max 2 pages each)**
3. **CV of Tsinghua University Lead Principal Investigator (max 2 pages each)**

**1: Applicants and Team**

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| Please enter names, job titles, academic units/centres/faculties and emails of the LSE and Tsinghua University Lead Principal Investigators and any other academic staff involved in the activities. |
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| ☐ I confirm that I hold PI status and have an open-ended contract at LSE. I have also discussed this application with my Head of Department/Centre Director and have their full support. |
| ☐ I confirm that I hold PI status at Tsinghua University. I have also discussed this application with my Head of Department/Centre Director and have their full support. |

**2: Project Overview**

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| Which sustainability theme of the LSE- Tsinghua University Sustainability Seed Research Fund call are you applying to? |
| ☐ Generating sustainable growth and energy transitions☐ Creating sustainable finance and business☐ Mobilising political, legal, and governance systems☐ Protecting and enhancing nature and biodiversity☐ Building sustainable societies☐ Promoting sustainability in public health and well-being |
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| **Project Title**Please enter the title of your project. |
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| **Project Abstract**Please provide a short abstract summarising your proposed project in terms suitable for an informed general audience, not one specialised in your field. (Up to 3000 characters) |
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| **Keywords**Please enter up to 4 keywords associated with your project. |
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| Proposed Start Date |  | Proposed End Date |  |

**3. Proposal Details**

The information below will be used to assess the proposal against these criteria. The proposals will be selected based on their originality, significance, methodology and implementation, and potential for joint external funding and/or contribution to high quality co-authored publications and/or strengthening long-term academic collaboration between LSE and Tsinghua University.

**3a: Originality**

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| This section should demonstrate the originality of the research idea/research question, and its potential to contribute to the state of the art and break new ground. (2000-5000 characters) |
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**3b: Significance**

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| This section should demonstrate 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? (2000-5000 characters) |
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**3c: Implementation**

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| This section should address the scientific merit, rigour, and feasibility of the research method and implementation plan, demonstrate the strength of the research design, feasibility and timeline of the project. (2000-5000 characters) |
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**3d: Potential**

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| This section should show how the project, if funded, may: 1) result in joint external 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 Tsinghua University. (2000-5000 characters) |
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**4. Project Team**

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| **Project Roles and Rationale** Please include a list of team members and roles of the project team. Please briefly explain how they will contribute to the success of the proposed project. (2000-5000 characters)  |
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1. **Project Budget**

Please see our Internal Funding Pages for information and contact details to support costing your project. **Eligible costs and example project activities are listed in the scheme guidance.**

**5a: LSE budget**

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| **Item** | **Amount in GBP** |
| **Directly-incurred non-staff costs** Please provide the total amount requested from the scheme for all directly-incurred non-staff costs.  |  |
| **Hourly paid staff costs**Please provide the total amount requested from the scheme for hourly-paid contracts, including Occasional Research Assistance, costed by the servicing team.  |  |
| **Directly-incurred salaried staff costs**Please provide the total amount requested from the scheme for eligible staff salaries, not including hourly-paid contracts, costed by the servicing team.  |  |
| **Total budget requested (up to £10,000 for one-year projects; up to £20,000 for two-year projects):** |  |
| **Contribution to the project from other sources**Please provide a list of any other funding sources supporting the proposed project whether internal or external.  |
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**5b: Tsinghua University budget**

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| **Tsinghua****Budget****(Filled out by Tsinghua applicant)** | **Item** | **Amount in RMB** |
| **Total budget requested**  | Up to 90,000 for one-year projects; up to 180,000 for two-year projects  |
| 1. Equipment cost (设备费) |  |
| （1）Equipment purchase cost (购置设备费) |  |
| （2）Other equipment cost (其他设备费) |  |
| 2. Please provide a detailed breakdown of business expenses (including material costs, experiment fees, travel expenses, conference fees, international cooperation and exchange fees, publication expenses, etc.). (业务费（包括材料费、试验费、差旅费、会议费、国际合作交流费、出版费用等）请详细列示) |  |
| 3. Please provide a detailed list of staff costs (including staff costs for students and research assistant, as well as consultant fees for experts). (劳务费（包括学生及研究辅助人员劳务性费用，及专家咨询费）请详细列示) |  |
| Note: (1) The total amount for travel, meetings, and international cooperation exchange fees must not be less than 70% of the total project budget. (2) The expenses for equipment, materials, and other laboratory-related costs cannot exceed 25% of the total project budget, and the purchase of equipment priced at 5000 RMB or above is not allowed. (3) Tsinghua University will allocate funds annually based on the "Annual Special Fund Demand Plan" for the project. Any unspent funds from the year will be reclaimed by the school during the year-end financial settlement.注：1. 差旅、会议、国际合作交流费合计**不得低于课题总经费的70%**。
2. 用于设备、材料及其他实验相关费用**不得高于课题总经费的25%，不允许购买单价5000元及以上设备**。
3. 清华按课题“年度专项经费需求计划”分年度下拨经费，未形成实际支出的年度结余经费学校将在**年终财务决算时收回**。
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**c: Justification of resources**

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| Please provide a detailed budget for both LSE and Tsinghua University, itemising the costs associated with each phase of your project, and explain the necessity of each budget item and how it will contribute to the success of your project. (2000-5000 characters) |
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