



Yale-USP Strategic Partnership Initiative

Joint Call for Project Funding - 2026

With the goal of facilitating cooperation within the framework of their Strategic Partnership, Yale University and the Universidade de São Paulo (USP) in 2024 established a joint seed money funding initiative, the **Yale-USP Joint Call for Project Funding**. This 2026 call is the second iteration.

Objectives

The objectives of the grant are to enhance collaboration in research and education across disciplines and to support programming for joint events or workshops. Visits to the partner institution will enable USP and Yale academics and researchers to identify complementary strengths and synergies, as the first step in the development of high-impact collaborative research and education projects.

The joint seed funding aims to support the first steps of cooperation projects but is not meant as complete project funding.

The proposed activities should have a clearly defined focus and serve as a catalyst for the development of new joint projects. The motivation for conducting each activity should be clearly explained, including how the involved USP and Yale institutes, departments, or research centers can benefit long term from this cooperation and what synergies can arise.

Proposals that include opportunities to foster educational initiatives – for instance, joint courses and/or collaborative online programs (e.g., COIL) – are encouraged and should be specified in the proposal.

Eligibility: Applicants

Applications can be submitted by senior or junior faculty/researchers of USP¹ and of Yale, both of whom will be named Principal Investigators (PIs).

The additional participants of the bilateral project team may be professors, PhD candidates, and post-doctoral researchers².

¹ USP applicants must be active professors of the permanent staff of the University; Post-doctoral researchers may be added to the team list but are not eligible for funding.

² For USP, please refer to footnote #1, above.



Applications for the joint seed funding are open to all academic fields. The activities can be either focused on one discipline or of interdisciplinary character.

Funding

The maximum amount of funding dedicated to this “Joint Call for Project Funding - 2026” is USD 25,000 from USP³ and USD 25,000 from Yale. The maximum amount of joint seed funding per project is USD 10,000 that could also incorporate programming and/or events. Eligible USP researchers will be encouraged and supported to apply for FAPESP travel grants so the funds from this USP-Yale joint fund can fund more of the research and programming expenses.

Eligible Costs

Funds from each partner shall be spent for the expenses of its own academics⁴, and expenses shall be restricted to air tickets, per diem (accommodation and subsistence), travel insurance, or event logistics costs for running an event or workshop at Yale or USP.

Observations:

- Planned expenditures should be in line with the financial policies of each institution.
- Grant funds must not be used to pay for scholarships, teaching, salaries, or tuitions, and must not cover direct staff support for projects.
- Purchase of permanent material and infrastructure costs should not be included.

Application

Proposals for the Yale seed money funding must be jointly submitted by USP and Yale faculty in English. Each Principal Investigator must submit the same proposal to the selection committee of their home institution, including the following information:

1. *Annex I* – Application Form⁵:

- Title of the project.
- Names and academic affiliation of the two Principal Investigators (PIs) with contact information.
- List of further participants (name, position/role/status, faculty/school/department/research center, university).
- 1,000-character summary/abstract of the proposed project and/or event, and a list of five key words.
- Project Overview (approx. 5,000 characters) including:
 - Description of the activities and engagements that the team intends to undertake while at the host institution. Activities may include but are not limited to: joint

³ Equivalent to Reais (R\$), upon conversion made based on the sale price of the US Dollar, published by the Central Bank of Brazil, referring to the date of the announcement of results, with no change due to any exchange variation.

⁴ For USP, please refer to footnote #1, above.

⁵ Please refer to page 5.



planning for a future workshop or conference that can also be funded through this joint fund; co-production of research or education programs; drafting and development of academic papers; funding opportunities and applications.

- An outline of the potential future collaborations and outcomes that will be possible as a result of the project.
- Timeline of current and planned activities.
- Budget justification.
- Budget table.

2. *Annex II* - Letters of support from the Faculty Dean or Head of Department at each home institution⁶.

Selection Process

USP and Yale will each set up an ad-hoc committee for the evaluation of the submitted proposals and the selection of awardees. The final decisions will be made jointly.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

- **Collaboration:** The potential to start new research networks between the partner universities and with their stakeholders (e.g., NGOs, start-ups, cultural institutions, non-university research institutes) or educational programs (e.g., joint courses, COIL etc.).
- **Feasibility:** Precise and clear description of the project and its deliverables, research, and/or educational focus.
- **Impact:** Clearly formulated goals and anticipated benefits of the activities.
- **Future Capacity:** Capacity to scale up the project in the future for the development of the Yale-USP Strategic Partnership.

Submission and Deadlines

Call opens on **April 6, 2026**. Joint proposals can be submitted by **June 15, 2026**. Results will be communicated by **August 28, 2026**. In case funding is granted, the proposed activities utilizing the funding should be concluded by **December 31, 2028**. Researchers must submit their joint proposal simultaneously to Yale and to USP.

Proposals must be sent electronically to the following addresses:

<p>Yale University:</p> <p>Office of International Affairs Yale and Brazil brazil@yale.edu cc: marcos.mandojana@yale.edu</p>	<p>Universidade de São Paulo:</p> <p>USP International Cooperation Office (AUCANI) https://uspdigital.usp.br/mundus/editalintercambiopublicoListar?nivpbcavo=D&codmnu=3144 (Call ref. #2257)</p>
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⁶ Please refer to page 7.



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Reporting

Successful applicants are required to follow the proposed project and to submit a two-to-three-page final report no later than one month after the end of the grant period. Periodic status updates on the progress of the project may be requested. The report should include the following information: objectives proposed and activities undertaken; project outcomes and achievements, including key findings and future plans; a brief assessment by the lead researchers of actual expenditure against the plan.

Reports must be sent to:

Yale University: Office of International Affairs E-mail: brazil@yale.edu cc: marcos.mandojana@yale.edu	Universidade de São Paulo: USP International Cooperation Office (AUCANI) E-mail: international.networks@usp.br cc aucanifin@usp.br
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ANNEX I – APPLICATION FORM
Yale-USP Strategic Partnership Initiative
Joint Call for Project Funding - 2026

Title of the project:

Names and academic affiliation of the two Principal Investigators (PIs):

- **Universidade de São Paulo**
 - Name:
 - Faculty/school/department/research center:
 - E-mail:
- **Yale University**
 - Name:
 - Faculty/school/department/research center:
 - E-mail:

List of further participants:

Name of participant	Position/role/status (professor, PhD student, post-doctoral researcher ⁷)	Faculty/school/ department/ research center	University (USP or Yale)

1,000-character summary/abstract of the proposed project and/or event, and a list of five key words:

Project Overview (approx. 5,000 characters) including:

- Description of the activities and engagements that the team intends to undertake while

⁷ For USP, post-doctoral researchers may be added to the participant list but are not eligible for funding.



at the host institution. Activities may include but are not limited to: joint planning for future workshop and conference that can also be funded through this joint fund; co-production of research or education programs; drafting and development of academic papers; funding opportunities and applications.

- An outline of the potential future collaborations and outcomes that will be possible as a result of the visit.
- Timeline of current and planned activities.
- Budget justification.

USP budget for 2026 (September-December):

Description of the planned spending in 2026	Amount (in USD) ⁸
Air tickets for USP professors	
Per diem (accommodation and subsistence) for USP professors	
Travel insurance for USP professors	
Financial aid for the mobility of doctoral students (total amount for: airfare, travel insurance, local transportation, subsistence and accommodation costs)	
Logistical expenses for workshops at USP (please specify)	
Total amount for 2026 (max. 2026+2027+2028 = USD 5,000)	

USP budget for 2027 (January-December):

Description of the planned spending in 2027	Amount (in USD)
Air tickets for USP professors	
Per diem (accommodation and subsistence) for USP professors	
Travel insurance for USP professors	
Financial aid for the mobility of doctoral students (total amount for: airfare, travel insurance, local transportation, subsistence and accommodation costs)	
Logistical expenses for workshops at USP (please specify)	
Total amount for 2027 (max. 2026+2027+2028 = USD 5,000)	

USP budget for 2028 (January-December):

Description of the planned spending in 2028	Amount (in USD)
Air tickets for USP professors	
Per diem (accommodation and subsistence) for USP professors	
Travel insurance for USP professors	
Financial aid for the mobility of doctoral students (total amount for: airfare, travel insurance, local transportation, subsistence and accommodation costs)	
Logistical expenses for workshops at USP (please specify)	
Total amount for 2028 (max. 2026+2027+2028 = USD 5,000)	

⁸ Equivalent to Reais (R\$), upon conversion made based on the sale price of the US Dollar, published by the Central Bank of Brazil, referring to the date of the announcement of results, with no change due to any exchange variation.



Yale budget:

Description of the planned spending	Amount (in USD)
Air tickets for Yale participants	
Per diem (accommodation and subsistence) for Yale participants	
Travel insurance for Yale participants	
Other expenses (please provide details)	
Total amount (max. 2026+2027+2028 = USD 5,000)	



ANNEX II – LETTERS OF SUPPORT
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(Two letters of support, in free format, one from each institution, signed by the Faculty Dean or Head of Department of affiliation of each PI.)