2027 CANADA–AFRICA ACADEMIC COLLABORATIONS CONFERENCE (CAACC)

Call for Abstracts: Deadline Extended

Conference Dates: February 25–26, 2027
Format: Virtual
Submission Deadline: 25 November 2026

An Invitation to Students, Trainees and Emerging Scholars

The deadline for CAACC 2027 abstracts has been extended to 25 November 2026. We are specifically inviting students, trainees and emerging scholars to bring their research, ideas and leadership to the conference.

Emerging scholars are central to the future of Africa–Canada academic partnerships, and the 2027 theme, Co-Creating Equitable Futures, is theirs to shape. Submissions are welcome under any of the four conference tracks, as an oral presentation, a poster, or a panel or symposium proposal.

Completed studies, emerging findings and new partnership ideas are all welcome. The CAACC 2027 programme is built from what the community brings, and the submissions we receive from students, trainees and emerging scholars will shape the program agenda, specifically Day 1, which is designed to give emerging scholar voices a prominent place and to open conversations on leadership and partnership. If you have an idea for a session led by emerging scholars, include it in your submission.

Submit your abstract by 25 November 2026: CAACC 2027 – Call for Abstracts Submission

Conference Overview

The Canada–Africa Academic Collaborations Conference (CAACC) invites abstracts, panels and posters for its 2027 virtual conference.

CAACC is a multidisciplinary platform for researchers, students and trainees, academic institutions, communities, governments, civil society organizations, industry, funders and other partners to exchange knowledge, showcase research and innovation, strengthen partnerships, and advance meaningful collaboration between Africa and Canada. Building on the first two editions of CAACC, the 2027 conference will explore how equitable Africa–Canada partnerships can move from collaboration toward **co-creation and sustainable impact**.

The conference welcomes contributions across disciplines and sectors and particularly encourages work demonstrating how research, education, innovation and partnership can contribute to locally relevant policies, practices, services, technologies, institutional capacity and community outcomes.

CAACC 2027 Conference Theme

Co-Creating Equitable Futures: Africa- Canada Academic Partnerships for Impact

This theme explores how Africa–Canada partnerships can co-create knowledge, strengthen institutions, advance innovation, and generate meaningful and sustainable societal impact. While academic collaboration is central, the theme extends beyond university-to-university partnerships to include civil society organizations (CSOs), communities, governments, health and social service organizations, industry, professional associations, funders, and other knowledge and implementation partners.

It emphasizes reciprocal and equitable approaches to collaboration that value diverse knowledge systems, promote shared leadership and mutual learning, strengthen sustainable capacity, and translate research and innovation into locally relevant policies, practices, services, technologies, and community outcomes.

Abstract tracks

Transforming Education, Knowledge, and Research Capacity

- Pedagogy, curriculum development, and academic/student mobility
- Mentorship, research training, and interdisciplinary collaboration
- Sustainable research infrastructure and locally grounded knowledge systems

Advancing Health, Wellbeing, and Sustainable Development

- Public, community, and planetary health, health systems, and health equity
- Climate resilience, environmental sustainability, and clean energy
- Food and water security, and inclusive economic development

Leveraging Technology and Innovation for Development and Impact

- Responsible AI, data governance, and data sovereignty
- Digital transformation, digital infrastructure, and open science
- Technology transfer and locally responsive innovation

Policy, Partnerships, Governance, and Research-to-Impact

- Equitable partnership models and research governance
- Evidence-to-policy and evidence-to-practice approaches
- Implementation science and scaling collaborative outcomes
- Security, democratization, and democratic governance

Cross-cutting priorities

All abstracts should aim to address across all tracks: Equity and inclusion | Reciprocity | Co-creation and shared leadership | Youth and emerging scholars | Knowledge sovereignty | Community engagement | Sustainable institutional capacity | Research-to-

impact | Power imbalances | Equitable funding | Authorship | Decolonization | Security and democratization | Partnership governance | Institutional sustainability | Models of co-leadership

Updated Submission Guidelines

Abstract Submission Deadline: 25 November 2026

Submissions should clearly demonstrate their relevance to the CAACC 2027 theme and at least one conference track. Preference will be given to presentations that demonstrate the impact or potential impact of the initiative on Africa–Canada academic engagement, partnership, knowledge exchange, institutional capacity, policy, practice or community outcomes.

Submissions from students, trainees and emerging scholars are strongly encouraged.

Presentation Categories
Please indicate the preferred presentation format:

- Oral presentation
- Poster presentation
- Panel/Symposium
- Workshop format

Abstract Format
Submissions should include:

1. Title
2. Author(s) and academic credentials
3. Institutional affiliation(s)
4. Country/countries represented
5. Corresponding CAACC 2027 track
6. Presentation category
7. Abstract (300 words) focusing on:
    - Background/context
    - Purpose/objective
    - Methods/approach
    - Outcomes/findings or anticipated outcomes
    - Relevance and impact for Africa–Canada academic engagement
    - Future work/implications

Panel/Symposium Proposals
For proposed panels or organized sessions, please include:

- Session title
- Session purpose and relevance to the CAACC 2027 theme
- Proposed moderator/chair
- Proposed speakers/panelists and affiliations

- Brief description of each participant's contribution
- Intended participant/audience outcomes

Review and Selection
Submissions will be reviewed by the CAACC 2027 Abstract Review Committee based on criteria including:

- Alignment with the conference theme and selected track
- Academic/scholarly quality
- Relevance to Africa–Canada collaboration
- Clarity of the submission
- Equity, reciprocity and/or co-creation, where applicable
- Potential contribution to policy, practice, institutional development, innovation or community impact
- Contribution to the multidisciplinary nature of CAACC

Successful applicants will be notified in **December 2026**.

About the Organizer

The Africa Institute at Western University is a multi-disciplinary research centre advancing knowledge sharing, partnerships, context-specific and collaborative research and academic engagement across Canada and Africa.

The Institute works to strengthen reciprocal relationships between researchers and institutions in Canada and Africa and to create opportunities for research, education, knowledge exchange, capacity strengthening and partnership development across disciplines. Find out more about The Africa Institute.

CAACC forms part of this commitment by creating a multidisciplinary platform through which researchers, students, institutions and partners can exchange knowledge, develop relationships and advance sustainable Africa–Canada academic collaboration.

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