

2027 CANADA–AFRICA ACADEMIC COLLABORATIONS CONFERENCE (CAACC)

Call for Abstracts

Conference Dates: February 25–26, 2027

Format: Virtual

Submission Deadline: 30 October 2026

Conference Overview

The Canada–Africa Academic Collaborations Conference (CAACC) invites abstracts 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

1. Transforming Education, Knowledge, and Research Capacity

This subtheme focuses on strengthening education, research ecosystems, and institutional capacity through equitable Africa–Canada partnerships. It welcomes work on innovative pedagogy and curriculum development, academic and student mobility, mentorship, research training, institutional and academic leadership, interdisciplinary collaboration, and sustainable research infrastructure. Especially welcomed are works attentive to African, Indigenous, and other locally grounded knowledge systems, including approaches that challenge unequal knowledge hierarchies and promote reciprocal knowledge exchange.

2. Advancing Health, Wellbeing, and Sustainable Development

This subtheme brings together research and partnerships addressing the interconnected challenges affecting human health, wellbeing, communities, economies, and the environment. Areas may include public and community health, health systems, biomedical and clinical research, mental health, reproductive health, disease prevention, health technologies, health equity, climate change and resilience, environmental sustainability, clean energy, food and water security, and sustainable communities. It also encompasses inclusive economic development, entrepreneurship, livelihoods, and other approaches that strengthen community resilience. The subtheme particularly encourages work recognizing the interdependence of health, social, environmental, and economic conditions and demonstrating how cross-sectoral Africa–Canada partnerships can develop contextually relevant and sustainable responses to complex development challenges.

3. Leveraging Technology and Innovation for Development and Impact

This subtheme explores how Africa–Canada partnerships can harness technology and innovation for development and impact. Topics may include responsible AI, data governance and sovereignty, digital transformation, digital infrastructure, emerging technologies, open science, technology transfer, and locally responsive innovation. It also encompasses social innovation. Contributions are encouraged to move beyond innovation as an end and examine how technologies produce tangible benefits for communities and institutions.

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

This subtheme examines how equitable Africa–Canada partnerships can turn research into lasting policy and practice. It welcomes work on equitable partnership models, research governance, ethics, and community engagement. Areas may also include evidence-to-policy and evidence-to-practice approaches, implementation science, institutional change, research translation, public-sector uptake, and collaboration with government and industry. The subtheme particularly encourages work showing how partnerships and research outcomes can be scaled and sustained over time.

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 | Partnership governance | Institutional sustainability | Models of co-leadership

Submission Guidelines

Abstract Submission Deadline: 30 October 2026

[CAACC 2027 – Call for Abstracts Submission Form](#)

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 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**.

Register for #CAACC2027 today: [CAACC2027 Registration](#)

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.

The Africa Institute

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