

UCL-U of T - Joint Call for Collaborative Projects
July 2022

University College London (UCL) and the University of Toronto (U of T) are contributing matching funds to support collaborative research initiatives through a joint call for proposals for collaborative activities.

Two funding schemes exist, a) **Seed-Funding for Emerging Global Talents**, and b) **Strategic Challenges Fund**. Applicants who are eligible for both, may apply for both. Each applicant can only be funded once under this call.

1. Projects

a) Seed-Funding for Emerging Global Talents

- i. To be eligible, a single proposal must be submitted by a team of researchers including at least one PI at each institution. PIs must qualify as an Early Career Researcher (ECR) as defined by their institution of employment.¹ Co-investigators may be researchers of any seniority.
- ii. Up to three (3) joint projects will be selected for a funding period of one (1) year. Proposals should demonstrate the potential for sustainability beyond the initial funding period and foreseeable growth in the number of researchers involved.
- iii. Proposals may include, but are not limited to workshops, symposia, faculty exchanges, research seminars/presentations, joint publications, and the formation of a collaborative network in virtual or physical formats.

b) Strategic Challenges Fund

- i. To be eligible, a single proposal must be submitted by a team of researchers including at least one PI at each institution. PIs with existing collaborations and who propose to scale-up their projects are encouraged to apply. Investigators may be researchers of any seniority.
- ii. Up to one (1) joint project will be selected for a funding period of up to two (2) years. Proposals are encouraged to demonstrate the potential for sustainability beyond the initial funding period and foreseeable growth in the number of researchers involved.
- iii. Proposals must be thematically linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and make the case for how the collaboration improve the impact, reach, and/or quality of the research.
- iv. Proposals may include, but are not limited to workshops, symposia, faculty exchanges, research seminars/presentations, joint publications, and the formation of a collaborative network in virtual or physical formats.

¹ UCL: using the definition of UKRI ECR stages, from doctoral students to researchers with experience up to 6 years from PhD award; Toronto: an individual who is within five years of their first faculty appointment. This duration excludes any period of career break.

- v. In addition to research outputs, proposals must consider reputational/translational outputs including public engagement through, for example, conferences and media articles.

2. Eligibility

- i. Eligibility to **submit proposals**: faculty members in continuing U of T and UCL appointments are eligible to submit proposals.
- ii. Eligibility for the **exchange activities**: faculty members in continuing U of T and UCL appointments, and students and fellows under their supervision at U of T and UCL, are eligible to participate in exchange activities.

3. Value, Duration, and Eligible Costs

a) Seed-Funding for Emerging Global Talents

Up to 3 successful proposals will be selected and will receive up to the following funding:

- i. UCL will provide each approved project up to £10,000 for one year to support UCL applicants.
- ii. U of T will provide each approved project up to \$15,000 for one year to support U of T applicants.

c) Strategic Challenges Fund

Up to 1 successful proposal will be selected and will receive up to the following funding:

- iii. UCL will provide each approved project up to £20,000 per year for up two years to support UCL applicants.
- iv. U of T will provide each approved project up to \$30,000 per year for up two years to support U of T applicants.

Eligible Costs	Ineligible costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel costs including flights, hotels and subsistence • Costs associated with organising workshops and meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement research/teaching costs • Directly incurred staff e.g. Research Assistant • Directly allocated costs including applicants' time • Research costs, including consumables • Indirect costs/estates costs • Equipment • Scholarships • Conference attendance • Tuition fees • Honoraria

4. Timeline

Call for proposals	July 21, 2022
Deadline for submission of proposal	9:00 am BST, October 3, 2022
Communication of Results to applicants	November 14, 2022
Start date of Awards	January 2023

5. Submission of Proposals

This is a joint call and a single application should be submitted online using:

<https://form.jotform.com/221981797706369>

The **full proposal** is comprised of the following elements:

- i. Proposal Cover that includes the faculty member and affiliations from each Institution with contact details and whether each meets the ECR definition at their institution of employment.
- ii. A **Project Description**, maximum three (3) pages (excluding bibliography if included) that includes the following items (in alignment with the **Selection Criteria** listed below):
 - a. **Abstract** that describes the project.
 - b. **Description of the planned activities** (for example, seminars, short courses, visits to other institutions that carry out research/teaching activities in cognate areas, workshops, etc.) including rationale and timeline. The activities must also be specified according to their format (virtual or in person).
 - c. **Relevance to the priority theme (Strategic Challenges Fund only)**: Description of how the proposal is linked to SDGs, and how international collaboration is planned to improve the **impact, reach** and/or **quality** of the research.
 - d. **Project impact**: Description of the expected academic gains for the project as a result of the proposed cooperation and mobility, and the identification of corresponding performance indicators. For example: a publication, blog, meeting report etc. Strategic Challenges Fund proposals should also consider public engagement outputs such as media articles and conferences.
 - e. **Impact of collaboration**: Anticipated benefits of the collaboration to the faculty member's other active research and/or teaching projects and on strengthening the overall partnership between U of T and UCL.
 - f. **Trainee & Early Career Researcher involvement**: Any opportunities for graduate student(s) and early career researcher(s) engagement and anticipated benefits to the project and the student(s) themselves as applicable.
 - g. **Capacity for future collaboration and project sustainability**: A description of the potential future collaborations and outcomes that will be possible as a result of having undertaken the current collaboration. For example: joint publications, joint supervision of PhD students, joint teaching, joint patent applications, joint reports to governments, joint funding applications.

- v. **Proposed budget:** The amount for one year as outlined in section 4, including a breakdown of the cost of the activity e.g. virtual workshop facilitation, flights, travel, hotel, meals, etc. If applying to the Strategic Challenges Fund and proposing a two-year project, include a separate budget for the second year.
- vi. **An abbreviated Curriculum Vitae** (maximum 2 pages each) of the lead PIs.

6. Adjudication

- i. Applications are received by the U of T Office of the Vice-President, International and UCL Global Engagement Office, and forwarded to a respective internal review committee along with a template for ranking applications.
- ii. **Selection Criteria:** The internal review committee will assess each full proposal according to the academic merit and compelling elements covered by the following criteria:
 - **Project design and rationale** (how clearly presented and justified is the design and basis for the collaboration?)
 - **Project impact** (how clearly linked are the academic gains to the planned activities and performance indicators?)
 - **Impact of collaboration** (how strong is the link being between the proposed collaboration and current research or teaching project(s)?)
 - **Trainee involvement** (are opportunities provided for students to engage in the collaboration? What are the anticipated benefits of student engagement to the project and for the students themselves?)
 - **Capacity for future collaboration** (what is the extent to which future collaborations are possible as a result of the proposed exchange activities? Does the project have the potential to scale up?)
- iii. Respective reviews are returned to the U of T Office of the Vice-President, International and the UCL Global Engagement Office, and results/scores tabulated to rank proposals.
- iv. Joint Committee convenes to select up to six final proposals.

7. Communication of Results

Final results will be announced via email to the successful faculty members.

8. Reporting After Project Completion

All awardees must, as a condition of receiving an award under this call, complete a narrative report (of between 1 and 2 pages) that describes the outcomes, nature of collaboration, project impact, trainee involvement and opportunities for future collaboration that evolved from their project. The final report will be due three months after the project ends.

In addition, awardees of the Strategic Challenges Fund, must provide a one-page mid-term report one year after the start of their project. This report should detail the progress and outcomes of the collaboration to-date and detail what funds have been expended. Funding for the subsequent year will be remitted after review of this report.

9. Information about this Call

All questions related to this Joint Call for Collaborative Projects must be directed to:

At U of T:

Kevin Rowley, Research Officer
Office of the Vice-President, International
Email: kevin.rowley@utoronto.ca

At UCL:

Clement Leroy, Senior Partnership Manager
Global Engagement Office
Email: c.leroy@ucl.ac.uk