UCL-TU Strategic Partner Funds 2022-23

The Office of Vice-Provost (Research, Innovation, Global Engagement) at University College London (UCL) and Tohoku University (TU) are contributing matching funds to support collaborative education and research initiatives through a joint call for proposals for the development of collaborative activities.

1. Projects

  i)   This call invites research proposals in the areas of mutual interest and complementary strengths that will strengthen the partnership between UCL and TU.
  ii)   Proposals must include participants from both institutions.
  iii)   Applications from all fields are welcome but proposals related to the following fields will be prioritised: Data Science, Disaster Science, Equality and Diversity, Higher Education, Material Science, Neuroscience and Aging.
  iv)   Up to four joint projects will be selected for funding. Proposals will be assessed by a committee composed of members from both institutions. Previous recipients of UCL-TU Strategic Partner Funds may apply again. If the funds are for a related or follow-up activity, applicants should explain how the proposed project (which is the subject of the new application) builds on previous outcomes.

2. Eligibility for UCL participants within the scope of this call

- Applications are open to UCL staff members with the following roles:
    a. Professor or equivalent
    b. Associate Professor/ Reader or equivalent
    c. Senior Lecturer/Principal Researcher/Principal Research Associate or equivalent
    d. Lecturer/Senior Research Associate or equivalent
    e. Post Doc/Researcher/Research Associate or equivalent
- Applicants from UCL must have an open-ended UCL contract or a fixed-term contract which lasts until at least July 2023.
- Applicants are not required to have a doctorate to apply, but do need to hold a role at one of the levels described above.
- PhD students are not eligible to apply, but are encouraged to take part in the project.
- UCL Professional Service & VP Office staff are not eligible to apply, but can take part in the project.

3. Collaboration Activities

Example types of activities with a project might include:

- Organising a joint seminar/workshop with UCL & TU partners (remotely or in person) which would lead to joint publications, future research collaborations, grant applications, or other follow-up activity. Funding might be used for any external services required to facilitate the event, e.g. professional moderation or technical support.
- Meetings, or preliminary scoping work and baseline research/data gathering, to underpin the preparation of a long-term collaborative partnership (e.g. preparation of a PhD summer school, double degree, future exchange agreement, etc).
- Stipends for research assistant and interns. UCL student casual wage costs for working on the collaboration can be covered, as can travel, accommodation and subsistence essential to

the activity, in line with UCL's expense policy, sustainability agenda and coronavirus guidance. Please note that teaching buyouts are not eligible.

• This list isn't exhaustive and we understand that there may be other ways you wish to conduct the project.

What cannot be funded by the UCL-TU Strategic Partner Funds?

• Activity which does not involve UCL & TU partners; work for which there is already a significant existing funding stream; activity that has already happened.

• Costings should be appropriate and relevant to the activity, for example the provision of alcoholic beverages for partners is not considered a valuable use of funds, unless it can be described how hospitality is critical for the building of this relationship or necessary/culturally significant for an event e.g. a public exhibition.

• Items which would normally be included in a research or teaching grant. This seed funding supports and develops UCL & TU collaboration, and lacks the scale and resources to support the core components of a research or teaching project.

• A Worktribe costing for UCL applicants is NOT necessary for UCL-TU Strategic Partner Funds.

• Teaching time buyout cannot be funded.

4. Value and Duration

Up to four successful proposals will receive up to £10,000. Funding will be jointly provided by UCL and TU, with 50% going to the academic at each respective institution. **However, only one proposal should be submitted.**

Please note that British and Japanese universities have different financial years and this will have an impact on funding schedule. Funds provided by UCL will be available shortly after the award has been made and must be spent by 31 July 2023 (activities for which the funds are allocated must take place before 31 July 2023), whereas funds from TU will be available from 1 April 2023 and must be spent by 31 March 2024. Applicants should take this into account when planning their proposed activity.

5. Timeline

Call for proposals	22 August 2022
Deadline for submission of proposal	17 October 2022
Communication of Results to applicants	14 November 2022
Start date of Awards (UCL)	14 November 2022
Start date of the Awards (TU)	1 April 2023

6. Submission of Proposals

i) Proposals are to be prepared and submitted jointly. Each proposal must be submitted by the lead-UCL academic by 9am UK on Monday 17 October 2022.
Proposals must be submitted to UCL at the following link:
https://form.jotform.com/221953680560357

7. Ethical approval

Please check each university's guidelines regarding research ethics. Applicants are responsible for reading these guidelines and ensuring projects adhere to each university's ethical approval policy and process.
UCL's ethical guidelines can be found here:
- [Research Ethics Committee at UCL guidelines](#)
- [Overseas Research Roadmap](#)

TU's ethical guidelines can be found here: Please check your department's ethical guidelines.
- [Research Ethics (in Japanese only)](#)

7. Adjudication

i) Proposals are received by UCL's Global Engagement team and forwarded to TU for separate review at each institution.

ii) **Selection Criteria**: Both internal review committees will assess each proposal according to 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 outcomes to the planned activities and performance indicators, such as joint papers, external funding applications, joint research with industry and proposal for policy recommendations)
- **Impact of collaboration** (is there a distinct advantage provided by this collaboration that is not possible by the two institutions working individually?)
- **Capacity for future collaboration** (what is the extent to which future collaborations are possible as a result of the proposed exchange activities.)

iii) A joint committee will convene to select up to four final proposals.

8. Communication of Results

Final results will be announced by means of a communication to the successful faculty members.

9. Reporting After Project Completion

All awardees must, as a condition of receiving an award under this call, complete a narrative report of achievements (of between 1 and 2 pages).

10. Queries & contacts

If you experience any problems making an online application, or have any questions about the UCL-TU Strategic Partner Funds, please contact either Sophia Hilt, Global Faculty Support Officer at UCL (s.hilt@ucl.ac.uk) or Taeko Misumi, Global Engagement Division Coordinator at TU (taeko.misumi.b1@tohoku.ac.jp), depending on your university affiliation.