UCL-U of T - Joint Call for Collaborative Projects
May 2023

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**) 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) 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 one (1) joint project 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 from all disciplines are eligible to apply. Those demonstrating strong relevance to strategic priorities at the participating institutions are strongly encouraged. These include University College London's evolving [Grand Challenges](#) and the University of Toronto's [Institutional Strategic Initiatives](#). 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 from all disciplines are eligible to apply. Those demonstrating strong relevance to strategic priorities at the participating institutions are strongly encouraged. These include

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[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.

University College London's evolving [Grand Challenges](#) and the University of Toronto's [Institutional Strategic Initiatives](#). Proposals must be thematically linked and make the case for how the collaboration would improve the impact, reach, and/or quality of the research. 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.

iv. 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 one 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 one 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

• Travel costs including flights, hotels and subsistence • Costs associated with organising workshops and meetings • Research costs, including consumables and research assistants (up to 25% of total requested budget)	• Replacement research/teaching costs • Directly incurred staff e.g. Research Assistant • Directly allocated costs including applicants' time • Indirect costs/estates costs • Equipment • Scholarships • Conference attendance • Tuition fees • Honoraria

4. Timeline

Call for proposals	May 22, 2023
Deadline to communicate intention to apply	11:59 pm BST, July 31, 2023
Deadline for submission of proposal	11:59 pm BST, August 22, 2023
Communication of Results to applicants	September 2023
Start date of Awards	October 2023

5. Submission of Proposals

Applicants must communicate an intention to apply by July 31, 2023. Please provide PI names and the project's topic in an email to kevin.rowley@utoronto.ca and abel.dorantes@ucl.ac.uk. Those who are unable to meet this deadline must request and receive approval from the same address before submitting a final application.

After communicating an intention to apply, a joint single application should be submitted online using: https://eu.jotform.com/form/231352431592350

The **full proposal** is comprised of the following elements:
   i.   Proposal Cover through the JotForm portal that includes the faculty member and affiliations from each Institution with contact details and for the Emerging Global Talents whether each meets the ECR definition at their institution of employment.
   ii.   An application form with the **Project Description and Budget**, of maximum five (5) pages (excluding bibliography if included) following this form template.

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:

- o **Project design and rationale (10 points)**: How clearly presented and justified is the basis for, and design of, the project? How do the proposed activities assist with establishing new and emerging research collaborations? What are the anticipated benefits of involving ECRs and/or graduate researchers?
- o **Potential impact (10 points)**: What desired outcomes do the planned activities set out to achieve? What are the anticipated benefits of the activities to local or international communities? How does your proposal demonstrate strong relevance to strategic priorities of the participating institutions?
- o **Trainee involvement (10 points):** What are the 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?
- o **Capacity for future collaboration/funding (20 points)**: What is the potential for this project to foster ongoing collaboration, and through what mechanism(s)? How well does the proposed collaboration plan to access external funding?

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 UCL:
> Abel Dorantes, Global Engagement Manager
> Global Engagement Office
> Email: abel.dorantes@ucl.ac.uk

At U of T:
> Kevin Rowley, Regional Lead, Europe & UK
> Office of the Vice-President, International
> Email: kevin.rowley@utoronto.ca