

**UCL-U of T - Joint Call for Collaborative Projects**  
**October 2020**

University College London (UCL) and the University of Toronto (U of T) are contributing matching funds to support collaborative education and research initiatives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic through a joint call for proposals for collaborative multidisciplinary activities.

## **1. Projects**

- i. To be eligible, a single proposal must be submitted by a multidisciplinary team of researchers. All projects must be led by two researchers from different disciplines from each institution. Project teams are encouraged to include a mix of senior and junior faculty and post-doctoral fellows.
- ii. The proposal must address COVID-19-related challenges and/or impacts. This can be broadly interpreted to include the medical, social, technological, economic, or cultural aspects of the crisis, both in the current and future recovery context.
- iii. Applications from the thematic areas of: cities, education, brain health & mental health, and child health will be prioritised.
- iv. Up to six (6) joint projects will be selected for a funding period of one (1) year. Proposals with the potential for sustainability beyond the initial funding period are encouraged and successful projects may be invited to seek further joint funding from UCL/UofT for a second year to scale up the collaboration.
- v. Proposals may include, but are not limited to workshops, symposia, faculty exchanges, research seminars/presentations, and the formation of a collaborative network in virtual or physical formats. Proposals with the potential for building towards [international doctoral cluster \(IDC\)](#)/PhD mobility programme or developing a collaborative digital teaching model between the two universities are also encouraged.
- vi. The proposals will be assessed and recommended for selection by a committee composed of academic members from both institutions appointed by the Vice-Presidents, International or their designate.
- vii. The proposals must comply with the Universities' policies on health, safety and international travels. Due to the current and potentially long-lasting restrictions on international travel, projects that include elements of virtual engagement are strongly encouraged. Special consideration will be given to remote activities that can be funded if they achieve the same research and intellectual objectives as travelling and/or physical meetings. For example, research assistant stipends, subscription services for online platforms, external workshop facilitators, etc.

## **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 and Duration

Up to 6 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.

### 4. Timeline

<b>Call for proposals</b>	October 9, 2020
<b>Deadline for submission of proposal</b>	12:00 am EST, November 20, 2020
<b>Communication of Results to applicants</b>	December 21, 2020
<b>Start date of Awards</b>	January 4, 2021

### 5. Submission of Proposals

This is a joint call and a single application should be submitted online using: [insert link]

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
- 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**: Description of how the proposal addresses COVID-19-related challenges and/or impacts. If relevant, description of how the proposal links the priority theme with the areas of special interest in cities, education, brain health & mental health, and child health.
  - 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.

- 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.
- iii. **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.
  - iv. **An abbreviated Curriculum Vitae** (maximum 2 pages) 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 relevance to the priority themes** (how strongly does the project respond to the thematic priorities?)
  - **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 by 30 August 2021.

### **9. Information about this Call**

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

#### **At U of T:**

Julia Kulik, Research Officer  
Office of the Vice-President, International  
Email: [julia.kulik@utoronto.ca](mailto:julia.kulik@utoronto.ca)

#### **At UCL:**

Clement Leroy, Senior Partnership Manager  
Global Engagement Office  
Email: [c.leroy@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:c.leroy@ucl.ac.uk)