UCL-Tohoku University - Joint Call for Collaborative Projects and Exchange Activities

October 2021

University College London (UCL) and Tohoku University (TU) have again launched a joint call for proposals to develop collaborative education and research initiatives between the two universities.

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 Ageing.
  iv)   For this round, the panel also invite proposals aimed at addressing and mitigating the health, social, economic, cultural and environmental impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.
  v)   Up to six joint projects will be selected for funding. Proposals will be assessed by a committee composed of members from both institutions. Priority will be given to emerging collaborations that have not previously received funding.

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

Applications are open to UCL and TU staff members with the following roles:

- Professor/Professorial Teaching Fellow or equivalent.
- Reader or equivalent.
- Senior Lecturer/Principal Researcher/Principal Research Associate/Senior Teaching Fellow or equivalent.
- Lecturer/Senior Research Associate/Teaching Fellow or equivalent.
- Post Doc/Researcher/Post Doc Fellow/Research Associate or equivalent **– eligible provided the contract covers the spend and activity period.**
- 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.

3. Collaboration Activities

Given the uncertainty surrounding international travel, we strongly encourage applicants to explore methods of remote collaboration. Activities can include:

- Developing joint research projects.
- Organising a joint seminar/workshop (remotely or in person, with travel restrictions in mind), including costs for any external services required to facilitate seminar/workshop. E.g. Professional moderation or technical support.
- Visiting a collaborator to work on a research paper/project or other research activity that cannot be carried out remotely.
- Stipends for research assistants, interns and students.
- Doctoral student mobility.
- Services used to disseminate results.

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

4. Value and Duration

Up to Six 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 application should be submitted via the application link below.**

Please note that British and Japanese universities have different financial years and this will have an impact on the funding schedule. Funds provided by UCL will be available from 3 December 2021 and must be spent by 31 July 2022, whereas funds from TU will be available from 1 April 2022 and must be spent by 31 March 2023. Applicants should take this into account when planning their proposed activity.

5. Timeline

Call for proposals	4 October 2021
Deadline for submission of proposal	16 November 2021
Communication of Results to applicants	3 December 2021
Start date of Awards (UCL)	3 December 2021
Start date of Awards (TU)	1 April 2022

6. Submission of Proposals

i) Proposals are to be prepared and submitted jointly. Each proposal must be submitted by the lead-UCL academic by 16 November 2021.
ii) Applications must be submitted to UCL at the following link:
https://form.jotform.com/212701402806343

7. Adjudication

i) Applications are received by UCL's Global Engagement Office 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)
- **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 the 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 between 1 and 2 pages).