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**£12,000 available for staff exchange**

## Staff Exchange Programme

In the spirit of cross-disciplinarity, Bridging the Gaps is offering funding that will allow academics to experience life in another department.

The Bridging the Gaps Staff Exchange Programme is a funding opportunity that will develop cross-disciplinary research partnerships by taking researchers out of their usual environments. The programme provides the opportunity for an early career researcher (up to and including reader) to work in another department, or for two researchers to work together in UCL's Chorley Institute.

There are 4 awards of up to £3,000 each available. To apply you must be an early career academic at UCL, and the staff exchange must be in order for you to work on an activity that supports or develops research into sustainable urban spaces.

The programme works by reimbursing your home department for the cost of covering your teaching

and other duties while you are taking part in the exchange.

To apply you should identify an area of sustainable urban spaces research that requires a cross-disciplinary approach, then you should let us know how you intend to work together on an activity that develops this area.

**4 awards  
of up to  
£3,000**

You need to have the permission of two heads of department. These will be either the head of department that is releasing the member of staff and the head of the hosting department. Or, if both staff wish to work away from their home departments in the Chorley Institute, the heads of both departments that are releasing staff.

After the exchange you will be expected to write a report on your work, and prepare a presentation for a forthcoming Bridging the Gaps event.

There is no deadline for this call, which will run until all the awards have been made.

## Seminar Funding

Bridging the Gaps Seminar Funding offers support for a seminar or a series of seminars.

If you need financial assistance to arrange one or more seminars that address sustainable urban spaces from an interdisciplinary viewpoint, apply for Bridging the Gaps Seminar Funding.

## The Open Programme

At the time of writing the Bridging the Gaps Open Programme still has just over £2,500 available for 2008.

So, if you need up to £1,000 to develop an interdisciplinary research idea with someone in a different UCL department, fill in our online application form.

## Bridging the Gaps on iTunesU

The Bridging the Gaps Launch Event featured a presentation from Jonathon Porritt, co-founder of Forum for the Future and chair of the UK Sustainable Development Commission. He is one of the foremost thinkers and commentators on sustainable development. His presentation, *Interdisciplinary Decision-making in an Interdependent World*, included a wide ranging and informative picture of the challenges facing sustainable development.



He set out the challenges posed by energy prices, climate change and population pressures in an engaging and thought provoking way, and also presented a realistic but positive strategy for the future. The presentation is highly recommended for anyone with an interest in sustainable development.

The launch event began with an introduction from UCL's Provost and President, Malcolm Grant,

who stayed on to introduce Jonathon Porritt's presentation and chair the subsequent discussion.

Sarah Bell who is the PI for the Bridging the Gaps set out how the programme aims to support cross disciplinary research into sustainable urban spaces at UCL, and announced the first calls for funding.

The video is can be found under Research in the UCL section of iTunesU, or by following the link from the Bridging the Gaps website.

### Web Links

Bridging the Gaps Launch Event page  
[www.ucl.ac.uk/btg/launch](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/btg/launch)

Forum for the Future  
[www.forumforthefuture.org](http://www.forumforthefuture.org)

UCL on iTunesU  
[itunes.ucl.ac.uk](http://itunes.ucl.ac.uk)

## Funding So Far

So far the Bridging the Gaps Programme at UCL has funded around £27,500 of cross disciplinary activities, involving eleven different departments, centres and institutes across UCL.

### Open Programme

The Open Programme provides up to £1,000 for activities that lead to, or support, interdisciplinary research collaboration. Since the start of the programme we have funded

- Novel approaches to street-scale pollution dispersion modelling
- Sustainable urban spaces for people with disabilities
- A collaborative session at UCL's inaugural National Environmental crime conference
- Natural ventilation for greener and healthier buildings

### MSc Competition

The winning entries to the MSc competition, which awarded £6,000 to each pair of supervisors were:

- Contribution of rooftop rainwater harvesting to the water supply-demand balance in London - a case study
- A New Hydride Fuel Cell Hybrid for Zero Emissions Vehicles
- Uncertainty in building performance simulations

### Seminar Funding

Bridging the Gaps is funding a series of workshops on Megalopolises in partnership with UCL's Environment Institute. The workshops which will run in 2009, more details will be announced soon.

**We still have over £190,000 to funding left for the next two and a half years. Find out how to apply at [www.ucl.ac.uk/btg/apply.html](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/btg/apply.html).**