



The Bartlett Extenuating Circumstances Fund For Research Students Regulations 2019/20

IMPORTANT: Please read these regulations carefully before completing the application form

1. Purpose of the Fund

The Bartlett seeks to encourage more innovative, collaborative responses to the world's challenges from those involved in the creation of our cities, towns and settlements through education, ideas and research that are inventive, forward-thinking and cross-disciplinary. The principal aim of the Bartlett Extenuating Circumstances Fund is to provide financial support where the student's original approved programme is no longer viable due to adverse unforeseeable circumstances, when sufficient funds are unavailable from other sources to cover increased costs.

2. Eligibility

In order to apply to this Fund you must be:

- a) a student recorded on Portico as enrolled on a UCL MPhil/PhD or EngD degree with a supervisor located in The Bartlett, at the point of application. Students with Completing Research Student status are **not** eligible to apply to this Fund.
- b) able to demonstrate that your original approved programme is no longer viable due to adverse unforeseeable circumstances and that sufficient funds are unavailable from other sources to cover the increased costs.

Application forms and regulations are available from our website:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/programmes/funding-and-scholarships>

3. General Regulations

- a. This fund cannot cover the many kinds of change to a research programme that arise due to **new opportunities**: such as new methods, new data sources, new ideas, new collaborations and new case studies. Rather, the fund is intended to cover cases where the original approved programme is no longer viable due to **adverse unforeseeable circumstances**.
- b. The Built Environment Faculty Office is not in a position to cover the core costs of a substantial PhD field research programme, for which it is expected that arrangements will have been made before the beginning of the student's degree programme.
- c. Applicants are required to provide both evidence of (i) the original approved viable programme; and (ii) evidence and explanation of circumstances rendering this programme no longer viable.
- d. The Faculty Research Degrees Committee makes decision on applications.
- e. No more than one Extenuating Circumstances Fund award will be made to each student during their programme of study.
- f. Where applicants have been registered for 48 months (84 months for part-time students) or more, the supervisor must confirm that the student is actively progressing and is still (as affirmed at his/her upgrade) on course to complete his/her doctorate.

The following requests have been identified as being appropriate, but other suitable proposals will be considered. **Please note that the eligibility criteria above apply in all cases:**

- Trips to collect research material;
- Field studies where no other source of funding is available and where the need for such studies has genuinely arisen during the period of research;
- Travel to meet other scholars or teams;
- Short-term visits by UCL students to learn techniques from other institutes and organisations;
- Participation in relevant externally funded projects where no other source of funding is available;
- Items of equipment (but not personal computing, such as laptops or tablets);
- Instances where research had been planned on the basis of fieldwork in a given territory, but that territory is now out of bounds (e.g. the Foreign and Commonwealth Office currently advise against travel to country x due to dangerous conditions) and the research will need to be relocated and new groundwork started;
- Instances where research had been planned on the basis of access to a particular source (person, dataset etc.) but this source is now no longer available, or is now only available at prohibitive cost;
- Instances where research had been planned on the basis of actions – or observations of actions by subjects – but these are now prohibited or otherwise prevented or discontinued (e.g. a law on building codes or planning regulations has been changed and suddenly a given practice has been discontinued and is no longer possible or useful to study).
- Language skills training unavailable through the UCL Centre for Languages & International Education (CLIE).

The following requests will **not** normally be funded:

- Long-term research projects;
- Funds to cover project support, including research/field assistants or technical assistants;
- Retrospective applications (for expenditure already incurred on projects);
- The general maintenance of students, or the topping-up of existing Research Council or other maintenance grants;
- Generalised expenditure by departments on graduate students, e.g. a travel fund administered by a department;
- Personal computing equipment, e.g. laptops or tablets.

4. Expenses Policy

Please ensure that your expense claims comply with [UCL regulations](#).

When possible, if you are organising events they should be held on UCL premises. Catering should be arranged via your School / Institute office, who will use the services of UCL's [catering providers](#) when possible. Your School / Institute will pay and later claim back from the Faculty Office. Please inform the Faculty Office (lisa.cooper@ucl.ac.uk) after a catering order has been placed so that we can record the amount.

Food and drink for workshops, seminars, training events and conferences that you organise is counted as 'Staff and Student Entertaining / Hospitality' under the terms of the UCL Expenses policy. This applies to events where most of those present are UCL staff and students, with some or no visitors. Please refer to that section ([7.8 and 7.9](#)) Approval from the Built Environment Faculty Office must be sought before organising or paying for any 'Staff and Student Entertaining / Hospitality'. Your expense claims should therefore match those given in your application form.

If you are buying food or drink outside of the event venue, for example in a restaurant or bar, this counts as 'Business Entertaining' under the terms of the UCL Expenses policy. This applies to staff, students and visitors (e.g. guest speakers). Please refer to that section ([7.14 to 7.19](#)). Approval from the Built Environment Faculty Office must be sought before organising or paying for any 'Business Entertaining'. Your expense claims should therefore match those given in your application form.

5. Awards Available

The maximum amount of an award will be £2,000.

Applications are considered on an ad hoc basis (funds permitting). Each application is considered on its merits. However, the Fund is limited and there may be occasions when it is not possible to make an award. Occasionally, partial awards are made.

6. How to Apply

- a. There are no deadlines. You may apply at any time but please note that applications are considered by a committee that meets monthly. If you wish your application to be considered at a particular meeting, you will need to submit it at least one week in advance. Please contact the Built Environment Faculty Office (lisa.cooper@ucl.ac.uk) for committee dates. Please submit your application by email to the Built Environment Faculty Office, lisa.cooper@ucl.ac.uk. Alternatively, you may either hand in or post a paper copy of your application to the Built Environment Faculty Office, room 2.18 at 22 Gordon Street. Applications must be typed.
- b. Your completed application form must include a supporting statement from your Principal Supervisor, together with his/her signature. This must be handwritten or electronic, not typed. Alternatively, your Principal Supervisor may e-mail confirmation of his/her support to the Built Environment Faculty Office, lisa.cooper@ucl.ac.uk.
- c. Your completed application form must include a description of your proposed research, explaining its academic merit and how it meets the eligibility criteria for this fund. Your statement should include explanation of (i) the original approved viable programme and (ii) the circumstances rendering this programme no longer viable, demonstrating how this is due to **adverse unforeseeable circumstances** and that higher costs have been incurred.
- d. You will receive e-mailed confirmation of the outcome, normally within five working days of the Faculty Research Degrees Committee meeting at which the decision on your application is made. The e-mail will be sent to your UCL e-mail address only.

Regulations and application forms are updated each year. For the current versions, please check the Built Environment Faculty website:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/programmes/funding-and-scholarships>

Research students are advised not to apply to this fund until they are sure about their research priorities at all stages of the project.

Estimating Costs & Contributions

- Please give a full breakdown of all relevant estimated expenses, justifying your costs and providing quotations as appropriate. Please ensure your estimates are based on the most cost effective means (e.g. in relation to accommodation and fares).
- You may insure your travel free of charge. Please see the 'Business Travel' and 'To Insure Your Trip' sections of the following webpage (log on required): <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/finance/insurance/travel>
- If foreign currency is used, please state the exchange rate and convert the costs to pounds sterling (GBP), using www.xe.com.

Please be as accurate as possible in estimating your projected expenses. Awards are given based on the estimated costs. If the actual costs incurred are lower than those estimated, the award will be reduced accordingly.

7. Conditions of the Awards

If you receive an award from the Bartlett Extenuating Circumstances Fund and subsequently receive other funding towards your expenses, you should inform The Built Environment Faculty Office immediately by e-mailing lisa.cooper@ucl.ac.uk.

Items of equipment purchased will become the property of the Built Environment Faculty Office and, when appropriate, must be made available to other UCL students and staff. On completion of your funded research project, the equipment should be handed to your School or Institute's MPhil/PhD/EngD programmes administrator.

The Built Environment Faculty Office welcomes applications for the UCL aspect of joint ventures with other institutions, such as museums and galleries, provided that there is a reciprocal contribution from the other institution(s) and that the role of The Bartlett, UCL's Faculty of the Built Environment, is fully acknowledged.

Awards are made on the expectation that recipients provide a short 'output' report (of around 500 words) at the conclusion of their research, acknowledging the Bartlett Extenuating Circumstances Fund, for inclusion on the Bartlett Doctoral Hub (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/bartlett-doctoral-hub>).

8. Claiming an Award

If you are awarded funds, you will receive a confirmation e-mail and guidelines on how to claim your award. You will need to keep all your receipts, as you will need to submit them to the Built Environment Faculty Office. If your School/Institute has made contributions, these will need to be claimed directly from them.

IMPORTANTLY: please note that claims (complete and correctly made) must be submitted within 3 months of the purchase or event and all claims should be submitted before 24th July 2020. Any unclaimed awards after that date will be cancelled. Please plan the timing of your application accordingly.

If you have any questions about The Bartlett Extenuating Circumstances Fund, please contact:

Lisa Cooper
Built Environment Faculty Office
University College London
22 Gordon Street
London WC1H 0QB

E-mail: lisa.cooper@ucl.ac.uk