

Interaction Vouchers – Invitation to submit proposals

Introduction

Members of the Vax-Hub Users Group are invited to submit proposals for Interaction Vouchers for projects of up to six months' duration with a value of up to £10,000. Vouchers are designed to encourage and support collaboration between academic and industrial partners within the Hub and help to resource small interaction projects between the partners that are likely to lead to outcomes such as a longer-term relationship, a new or improved interaction or new research data.

Projects might include (but are not limited to):

1. Generating new experimental data to validate new tools and methods developed via the Hub research
2. Facilitating technology transfer of relevant Hub research
3. Solving a technological problem
4. Adapting an existing technology for a new application
5. Consulting with a partner organization
6. Funding staff time, travel, accommodation for a visit to a partner organization

Successful projects are expected to generate tangible outputs which could include one or more of the following:

- a) Preliminary data that is then used to apply for further funding to accelerate the route to adoption or application.
- b) Publication that demonstrates Hub results in a User context
- c) A new partnership between a manufacturer and an academic group

Up to £10,000 will be awarded for projects with a maximum duration of six months. All the projects must involve two partners (including academia-company interaction). Users are expected to provide industry supervision to the project and provide access to the necessary materials, equipment or data.

Confidentiality

All projects that are taken forward will be carried out under the terms of the Hub Collaboration Agreement, in compliance with the clauses around Intellectual Property, Confidentiality and Publication (Sections 7-9). In cases where separate CDAs and MTAs are required, over and above the clauses in the Hub Collaboration Agreement, the Hub will provide templates if required.

Application Process

Interaction Vouchers are awarded competitively. Applications will be via a one-stage process to facilitate a fast turnaround with submission of a detailed work plan for the study with milestones, costings and deliverables (see proposal form).

The Future Vaccine Manufacturing Hub Research Hub (Vax-Hub)
Interaction Vouchers

2019-20

Applications should be developed by the User organisation(s) in collaboration with the Hub Researcher(s), if they are involved in the project.

Vax-Hub Membership

Interaction Vouchers will be awarded to members of the Vax-Hub Users Group only, if you are not currently a member of the Hub but would be interested in joining to access this and other Hub benefits, please contact Dr Naveraj Gill, UCL Strategic Alliance Director (naveraj.gill@ucl.ac.uk or 0203 549 5619).

Assessment Process

Allocation of resource to these projects based on their potential impact will be decided by the Vax-Hub International Advisory Board following scientific review. Proposals will be assessed against the following

Eligibility questions <i>(yes or no)</i>
Is the proposed project and application within the scope of the Vax-Hub? Prompt: Is there a statement describing the relevance to one of three Vax-Hub technologies?
Are the project deliverables and outputs clearly of benefit to LMIC and relevant to a low income settings? Prompt: Is there a user statement describing the benefit for LMIC
Ratings criteria <i>(scores given for each of the questions below)</i>
Does the proposed project have a realistic plan with clear assessable deliverables and endpoints? Prompts: scope, activities, milestones and endpoint clearly described? Can success or failure be assessed?
Is there a clear commitment from the user partner? Prompts: Are there named contacts/supervisor(s) at user, with involvement stated? Are there resource commitments? for example access to data is regarded as a tangible benefit
Is there a clear plan to take the technology/approach forward afterwards, including seeking additional funding? Prompts: is the pathway to adoption and application set out? Does it have sensible milestones and timelines? Have potential funding routes been considered?
If successful, does this technology/approach have the potential to deliver real benefits to users (including building long-term relationship)? Prompts: Potential breadth of application, scale of impact for users

Key Dates

Activity	Date
Submission deadline for proposals	14 February 2020
Scientific Review	February 2020
Decision-making by International Advisory Board	February 2020
Announcement of successful proposals	February 2020
Earliest project start dates	March/April 2020

Examples of Interaction Voucher projects

- Collaborative development of training material and course on GMP and regulatory background
- Development of analytics for conjugate vaccine platform
- Technology testing from equipment provider's users
- Consultancy from partner company on application of new technologies
- Cost-benefit analysis of introduction of new technology/process step
- Platform analytics assessment for VLPs
- Collaborative organization of event at partner's site aimed at widening knowledge base of LMIC stakeholder