



UCL, Karolinska Institutet, KTH Royal Institute of Technology and Stockholm University 2022 Call for Collaborative Research Proposals

The Cities Partnerships Programme Stockholm, comprising UCL and the Stockholm Trio of Karolinska Institutet, KTH Royal Institute of Technology & Stockholm University (KI, KTH & SU), announces a new round of joint research funding to continue to support collaborative research projects and to build on the existing partnerships between the four institutions. The aim of the funding is to catalyze new collaborations and in the longer term to build international teams who are well positioned to apply for external research funding.

With these funds, and a workshop hosted in Stockholm in late March, the Programme intends to develop collaborations in five key research areas:

- **Social and/or institutional aspects of climate action** e.g. inequalities, public and/or market engagement, technology and behaviour, relationship with rights, regulations, law, etc.
- **Public health and mental health in climate adapting cities** e.g. climate-health governance, individual/social wellbeing, etc.
- **Digitalisation of climate change and/or health in cities** e.g. the role of Big Data, Metaverse, AI, etc.
- **Housing** e.g. affordability, supply, noise pollution, allergens in the living environments, access to green spaces, housing for young people, green gentrification, social segregation, etc.
- **Urban safety and security** e.g. urban crime, terrorism or warfare in the city, unsafe urban mobility, environmental and health disasters, etc.

This call gives an opportunity for academics to engage in the above-mentioned emerging networks, which are being actively developed between London and Stockholm. However, the fund is open to all areas and we encourage applicants from any discipline to submit collaborative proposals.

Proposals will be assessed and recommended for selection by a panel composed of academic staff from all four universities, starting with each university taking the lead on assessment and recommendation of its own proposals.

The call particularly welcomes proposals involving UCL and multiple institutions in the Stockholm Trio, in recognition of the quality and depth of collaboration between the universities (though the panel recognizes that some excellent projects will need to draw on scholars from UCL and a single Stockholm university, and will welcome such applications).

1. Projects and funding

- Each proposal MUST include a Co-I from UCL and at least one Co-I from KI, KTH or SU. Applications involving more than two partner institutions are particularly encouraged (though the panel recognizes that some excellent projects will be able to draw on scholars from a single Stockholm university, and will welcome such applications). There must be more than one researcher i.e. academic member of staff, post-doctoral researcher or PhD student, from each partner on the project team. For further info please see eligibility criteria.
- The seed funding granted will be up to GBP 5,000 (SEK 60,000) per participating university in each project. For 2-way projects, total funding will be up to GBP 10,000 (SEK 120,000) and for 3-way projects, total funding will be up to GBP 15,000 (SEK 180,000). We expect to fund up to 10 projects.
- The fund is open to proposals on the five research areas listed above, across all disciplines. We welcome applications on other topics too.
- Projects will be funded for a period up to 18 months (with review after 12), starting from December 2022. Funds held by different universities have different time constraints, UCL funds – for example – must be used by the end of July 2023.

- Proposals that can demonstrate follow-up and sustainability beyond the initial funding period are particularly encouraged.

2. Costs and proposal

- Proposals may include but are not limited to workshops (face-to-face and virtual), symposia, staff exchanges, research seminars/presentations and formation or development of a collaborative network.
- Eligible costs include travel and subsistence, consumables and the cost of research assistants e.g. PhD students, research associates and technicians which are directly related to the project. Existing staff time including the Co-PIs' time cannot be costed to the project. The fund does not support equipment, scholarships, conference attendance or tuition fees.
- UCL collaborators – A fEC costing is not required. Please note that only directly incurred costs are allowed and not directly allocated.
- Each institution will pay funds directly to its researchers. Approval of expenditure will be governed by each university for the portion of funding provided.
- Each partner should pay its own costs and there can be no transfer of funds between institutions. For example, travel costs for UCL staff should be in the UCL budget, costs for subsistence for KTH staff should be allocated in the KTH budget, costs of hosting a workshop at SU, should be costed in the SU budget, and so on.

Eligible costs	Ineligible costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel costs including flights, hotels and subsistence costs Directly incurred staff e.g. Research Assistant* Research costs including consumables Costs associated with organising workshops and meetings e.g. hiring venues, catering etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacement research/teaching costs Directly allocated costs including applicants' time ** Indirect costs/estates costs (however these <i>are</i> eligible at KI). Equipment Scholarships Conference attendance Tuition fees Honoraria

Directly incurred and directly allocated costs are terms used by UK funders:

*Directly Incurred costs are project-specific (i.e. they arise as a direct consequence of the project taking place).

** Directly Allocated costs are not project-specific (i.e. they are incurred whether or not the project takes place), and are estimated at project level e.g. Investigator time, Technician time (where not directly incurred).

3. Eligibility

- Academic staff members from all disciplines and at all levels are welcome to apply. We particularly encourage early career researchers to apply.
- Applicants do not need to have a permanent post, but they must have an existing contract (or, in the case of KI, affiliation) at the time of application, and that contract must cover the full period of the grant.
- Previous applicants and award holders are eligible to apply for this fund, as long as there is a clear rationale that the new project proposal is either an innovative development of the previous project, or a new project. The previous project needs to have submitted a final report in order for the new proposal to be eligible.

4. Timeline

Call for proposals opens	Tuesday 20 September (22h59 UK time, 23h59 Swedish time)
Deadline for submission	Monday 31 October (22h59 UK time, 23h59 Swedish time)
Applicants notified	End November 2022
Project start date	December 2022 or shortly after

5. Submission of Proposals

This is a joint call and a single application should be submitted online using [Jotform](#). Applicants can use the 'save and continue' feature to save the proposal and continue later (a link is sent to the applicant's email address). The majority of the form is a word document, and can be uploaded using the form.

The full proposal is comprised of the following elements:

- **Applicants' details – affiliations from each institution with contact details**
 - **Co-Investigator information**
 - **Project team information**
- **Research Proposal – details of the project**
 - **Title:** of the Research Project
 - **Abstract** (project design and rationale): a brief description of the project.
 - **Proposed Timeframe** (project design and rationale): project dates, a project timeline and a description of the planned activities.
 - **Project clarification:** if you have previously received a seed-funding grant, please clarify in which way your new project proposal is eligible, for example, if it is either an innovative development of the previous project, or a new project.
 - **Collaborator complementarity and impact:** A description of how the proposed activities combine mutual areas of interest and strength and the added value of this combined expertise. Include any corresponding deliverables, e.g. a publication, blog, a meeting, a report etc. Also include any involvement of early-stage/early career researchers and/or graduate researchers/PhD students and any direct anticipated benefits to those researchers themselves.
 - **Capacity for future collaboration/funding:** 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 graduate researchers, joint teaching, joint patent applications, joint reports to governments, joint funding applications etc.
 - **Potential impact:** The anticipated benefits of the collaboration to the faculty member's other active research projects and on strengthening the overall partnership between KI, KTH, SU and UCL. In addition, improvement and changes within/between the university/universities, the local community, wider society, country or globally.
- **Proposed budget**
 - A breakdown of the cost of the activity e.g. RAs, flights, travel, hotels etc.
- **Support documents**
 - Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae: (not more than 2 pages) of the Co-PIs with a selected list of publications.
 - A letter of support: from your Line Manager or Head of Department to apply for the grant, including an explanation of how the project aligns with your Department/ Faculty's strategy.
- **Communication feedback**
 - Confirmation of how you heard about this fund, this will help us to promote future funds.
- **Declaration and approval**
 - Confirmation you understand the rules and regulations of the fund.

UCL collaborators - A FEC costing is not required. The budget section of the application can be easily completed and should not require input from Research Services teams, however, please submit details and a clear justification of spending. If you feel you need costing support then please follow local Department/ School procedures for submitting grant applications.

6. Evaluation Criteria

A joint review panel will assess each proposal according to overall academic merit and the following criteria:

- **Project design and rationale (Abstract and Proposed Timeframe)**
How clearly presented and justified is the basis for, and design of, the project? How do the proposed activities assist with establishing new and emerging research collaborations? (25% of the evaluation score).
- **Collaborator complementarity and impact**
What is the added value of the new or emerging collaboration? How do the proposed activities combine mutual areas of interest and strength? What are the anticipated benefits of involving early career researchers and/or graduate researchers/PhD students? (25% of the evaluation score).
- **Capacity for future collaboration/funding**
What is the potential for this project to foster ongoing collaboration, and through what mechanism(s)? How well does the proposed collaboration plan to access external funding? (25% of the evaluation score).
- **Potential impact**
What desired outcomes do the planned activities set out to achieve? What are the anticipated benefits of the activities to local or international communities? (25% of the evaluation score).

7. Reporting After Project Completion

All awardees must, as a condition of receiving an award under this call, complete a 3,000 words narrative report that describes the outcomes, nature of collaboration, project impact, trainee involvement and opportunities for future collaboration that evolved from their project.

8. Further information about this Call

Karolinska Institutet

Lotta Lundqvist, International coordinator
e: lotta.lundqvist@ki.se

KTH Royal Institute of Technology

Christina Murray, Advisor to the President on international affairs
e: tina@kth.se

Stockholm University/Stockholms Universitet

Henrik Smedjegården, Engagement and collaboration officer
e: henrik.smedjegarden@su.se

UCL

Prof Catalina Turcu, Academic Director (Stockholm)
e: catalina.turcu@ucl.ac.uk

-&-

Bryan Taylor, Cities Programme Manager
e: bryan.taylor@ucl.ac.uk

