University College London (UCL) - Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-D)  
Joint Call for Collaborative Projects and Exchange Activities

Introduction

University College London (UCL) and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-D) are contributing matching funds to support collaborative and interdisciplinary education and research initiatives, through a joint call for proposals for the development of collaborative activities that will lead to impactful research outcomes.

This funding call is similar to the Multi Institutional Faculty Interdisciplinary Projects (MFIRP) programme at IIT-D. It is expected that the participants of successful projects will prepare a suitable full proposal for further, possibly external, funding post completion of the project. This is in addition to research output(s) such as publications and is an important measure of the project's viability and sustainability.

1. Projects
i) This call invites research proposals in areas of mutual interest and complementary strengths that will strengthen the partnership between UCL and IIT-D.
ii) Proposals must include participants from both institutions and projects of an interdisciplinary nature are encouraged where relevant.
iii) Proposals from all fields are welcome, including Antimicrobial Resistance, Artificial Intelligence, Advanced Materials, Cyber Security, Global Health, Healthcare Engineering, Human-centric Design, Humanities and Social Sciences, Imaging, Nanobiotechnology, Robotics, Sustainable Environment and Urban Regeneration and Development.
iv) Applicants should ensure that their project proposal demonstrates the ability to deliver the research despite the impact of COVID-19.
v) Up to four joint projects will be selected for funding. Proposals will be assessed by a committee composed of members from both institutions.

2. Eligibility for participants within the scope of this call
i) Applications are open to UCL staff members in 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 their 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 Principal Investigators are encouraged to include PhD students in their project.

ii) Applications are open to all IIT-D faculty members.

3. Collaborative activities

Collaborative activities may be based on joint projects set up by faculty/staff members of both institutions, including:

- Joint research projects.
- Doctoral student mobility.
- Any other form of partnership, to be promoted and implemented jointly when both UCL and IIT-D find it mutually beneficial.

4. Value and duration of award

Up to four successful proposals will be chosen. Funding will be jointly provided by UCL and IIT-D, with 50% going to the academic at each respective institution.

Each successful proposal will receive up to £5,000 for UCL faculty and up to Rs 5 Lakh for IIT-D faculty, for one year. The total financial envelope per project is up to £10,000.

The budget provided by IIT-D and UCL should be spent as per the norms and regulations followed in each institute. Applicants need to ensure that the submitted project proposal demonstrates the ability to deliver the research despite the impact of COVID-19.

Projects will be selected by the last week of November 2020, and must begin shortly thereafter.

5. Timeline

<table>
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<th>Call for proposals</th>
<th>Monday 5 October 2020</th>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for submission of proposal</td>
<td>Friday 13 November 2020 by 4pm UK time, 9:30pm Indian Standard Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication of results to applicants</td>
<td>During week commencing 30 November 2020</td>
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<td>Start date of awards</td>
<td>During week commencing 7 December 2020</td>
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6. Identifying academics at IIT-D and UCL

i) To identify academics at either institution, please refer to the institutional websites in the first instance. These are www.ucl.ac.uk and www.iitd.ac.in.

ii) If further help is required, UCL applicants should contact Dr Archana H Trivedi (rnd_coordinator_aht@ird.iitd.ac.in) whilst IIT-D applicants should contact Dr Amit Khandelwal (amit.khandelwal@ucl.ac.uk).

7. Submission of proposals
i) Proposals are to be prepared and submitted jointly.

ii) Proposals will be received by IIT-D through a MFIRP online form. It is therefore crucial that UCL academics, in particular the Principal Investigator, liaise closely with their IIT-D counterparts who will be responsible for completing the form. The MFIRP online form can be found at the link below:

http://ird.iitd.ac.in/sites/default/files/ird_circulars/MFIRP-Proposal%20Format.pdf

iii) It is vital that both IIT-D and UCL counterparts are in full agreement on all aspects of the proposal prior to formal submission. A formal letter containing the agreement of both PIs needs to be uploaded to the MFIRP portal along with the project proposal or submitted via email communication.

iv) The lead IIT-D applicant will be responsible for submitting the final proposal by **Friday 13 November 2020, 4pm UK time, 9:30pm Indian Standard Time.**

v) IIT-D Dean R&D office will forward all proposals received before the deadline to UCL’s Global Engagement Office for adjudication.

8. Adjudication

i) Proposals received by IIT-D and UCL’s Global Engagement Office will be evaluated by a 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, such as joint papers, external funding applications, joint research with industry and proposals for policy recommendations?)
   - **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 activities?)

iii) Please identify any direct or indirect linkages of your proposal to COVID-19 research, and kindly identify which of the seventeen UN Sustainable Goals (sdgs.un.org/goals) your project falls under. This information is for internal use only and is not part of the selection criteria.

iv) A joint committee will convene to select up to four final proposals.

9. Communication of results

Final results will be announced by means of a communication to the successful faculty members or PI’s in each institution, during week commencing 30 November 2020.

10. Reporting after project completion

All awardees must, as a condition of receiving an award under this call, complete a narrative report of achievements (of between 1 and 2 pages) including how they intend to take the research forward beyond the funding period. This should be completed within three months of completion of the project.

11. Contacts

For any clarification points or questions about the joint call, please do not hesitate to contact colleagues listed below:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UCL</th>
<th>IIT-D</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Professor Monica Lakhanpaul</strong></td>
<td><strong>Professor Sunil Kumar Khare</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pro-Vice-Provost (South Asia)</td>
<td>Dean, Research and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:m.lakhanpaul@ucl.ac.uk">m.lakhanpaul@ucl.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:deanrnd@admin.iitd.ac.in">deanrnd@admin.iitd.ac.in</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Professor Sukumar Mishra</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Dean, Research and Development</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:assocdeanrnd@admin.iitd.ac.in">assocdeanrnd@admin.iitd.ac.in</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dr Amit Khandelwal</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dr Archana H Trivedi</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Partnership Manager (South Asia)</td>
<td>R&amp;D Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:amit.khandelwal@ucl.ac.uk">amit.khandelwal@ucl.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:rnd_coordinator_aht@ird.iitd.ac.in">rnd_coordinator_aht@ird.iitd.ac.in</a></td>
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