

## UCL-Tohoku University - Joint Call for Collaborative Projects and Exchange Activities

October 2021

University College London (UCL) and Tohoku University (TU) have again launched a joint call for proposals to develop collaborative education and research initiatives between the two universities.

### 1. Projects

- i) This call invites research proposals in the areas of mutual interest and complementary strengths that will strengthen the partnership between UCL and TU.
- ii) Proposals must include participants from both institutions.
- iii) Applications from all fields are welcome but proposals related to the following fields will be prioritised: Data Science, Disaster Science, Equality and Diversity, Higher Education, Material Science, Neuroscience and Ageing.
- iv) For this round, the panel also invite proposals aimed at addressing and mitigating the health, social, economic, cultural and environmental impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- v) Up to six joint projects will be selected for funding. Proposals will be assessed by a committee composed of members from both institutions. Priority will be given to emerging collaborations that have not previously received funding.

### 2. Eligibility for UCL and TU participants within the scope of this call

Applications are open to UCL and TU staff members with the following roles:

- Professor/Professorial Research Fellow/Professor (Teaching) or equivalent
- Associate Professor/Principal Research Fellow/Associate Professor (Teaching) or equivalent
- Lecturer/Senior Research Fellow/Lecturer (Teaching) or equivalent
- Research Fellow/Associate Lecturer (Teaching) or equivalent
- Post Doc/Researcher/Post Doc Fellow/Research Associate or equivalent – **eligible provided the 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.

### 3. Collaborative activities

Given the uncertainty surrounding international travel, we strongly encourage applicants to explore methods of remote collaboration. Activities can include:

- Developing joint research projects.
- Organising a joint seminar/workshop (remotely or in person, with travel restrictions in mind), including costs for any external services required to facilitate seminar/workshop. E.g. Professional moderation or technical support.
- Visiting a collaborator to work on a research paper/project or other research activity that cannot be carried out remotely.
- Stipends for research assistants, interns and students.
- Doctoral student mobility.
- Services used to disseminate results.

- This list isn't exhaustive and we understand that there may be other ways you wish to conduct the project.

#### 4. Value and duration

Up to six successful proposals will receive up to £10,000. Funding will be jointly provided by UCL and TU, with 50% going to the academic at each respective institution. **However, only one application should be submitted via the application link below.**

Please note that British and Japanese universities have different financial years and this will have an impact on the funding schedule. Funds provided by UCL will be available from 3 December 2021 and must be spent by 31 July 2022, whereas funds from TU will be available from 1 April 2022 and must be spent by 31 March 2023. Applicants should take this into account when planning their proposed activity.

#### 5. Timeline

<b>Call for proposals</b>	4 October 2021
<b>Deadline for submission of proposal</b>	16 November 2021
<b>Communication of results to applicants</b>	3 December 2021
<b>Start date of awards (UCL)</b>	3 December 2021
<b>Start date of awards (TU)</b>	1 April 2022

#### 6. Submission of proposals

- i) Proposals are to be prepared and submitted jointly. Each proposal must be submitted by the lead-UCL academic by 16 November 2021.
- ii) Applications must be submitted to UCL at the following link:  
<https://form.jotform.com/212701402806343>

#### 7. Adjudication

- i) Applications are received by UCL's Global Engagement Office and forwarded to TU for 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)
  - **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 exchange activities?)
- iii) A joint committee will convene to select the final proposals.

## **8. Communication of results**

Final results will be announced by means of a communication to the successful faculty members.

## **9. Reporting after project completion**

All awardees must, as a condition of receiving an award under this call, complete a narrative report (of between 1 and 2 pages).