

UCL-University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) Strategic Partner Funds

Following successful calls in 2019 and 2020, UCL and Wits are jointly contributing funds to support collaborative education and research initiatives through this call for proposals. **This is an open call for proposals in research areas of mutual interest. The panel encourage PhD and post-doctoral researchers to apply.**

1. Projects

- i. This call invites research proposals in areas of mutual interest and complementarity strengths that will strengthen the partnership between UCL and Wits.
- ii. Proposals must include participants from both institutions.
- iii. Proposals from all fields are welcome.
- iv. Proposed funding in each application should be somewhat evenly balanced between the UCL and Wits participants.

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

2.1. The PI's at UCL must be UCL staff members with the following roles:

- i. Professor/Professorial Teaching Fellow or equivalent
- ii. Senior Lecturer/Principal Researcher/Principal Research Associate/Senior Teaching Fellow or equivalent
- iii. Lecturer/Reader/Senior Research Associate/Teaching Fellow or equivalent, Post Doc/Researcher/Post Doc Fellow/ PhD students/Research Associate or equivalent – eligible provided the contract covers the spend and activity period.
- iv. Applicants are not required to have a doctorate to apply, but do need to hold a role at one of the levels described above.

2.2 The PI's at Wits must be academic / research staff or post-doctoral fellows who have a PhD.

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 the event, 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

4.1. The maximum funding that a successful project could receive would be £5000 or a rough equivalent of R91300. Funding will be jointly provided by UCL and Wits. **However, only one proposal per project should be submitted.**

4.2. Please note that British and South African universities have different financial years and this will have an impact on funding schedule. Funds provided by UCL must be spent by 31 July 2022, whereas funds provided by OU must be spent by November 2022. Applicants should take this into account when planning their proposed activity.

5. Timeline

Call for proposals	25 October 2021
Deadline for submission of proposal	1 December 2021
Communication of Results to applicants	21 December 2021
Start date of Awards	1 January 2022

6. Submission of proposals

- i. Proposals are to be prepared and submitted by lead applicants by **1 December 2021**.

- ii. Proposals must be submitted by the lead Wits academic at the following link:
<http://intranet.wits.ac.za/academic/uro/Pages/default.aspx>.
Only Wits PIs can access the online application system.

7. Communication of results

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

8. Selection process

- i. Proposals are received by Wits and forwarded to UCL 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, 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 exchange activities?)
- iii. A joint committee will convene to select up to six final proposals.

9. Reporting after project completion

- i. All awardees must, as a condition of receiving an award under this call, complete a narrative report (of between 1 and 2 pages) that describes the outcomes, project impact, student and early career researchers involvement and opportunities for future collaboration that evolved from their project. There will be two reports: An interim report due at the end of the first 6 months describing progress on the activities, and a short follow up report when the project is completed.

10. Information about this call

All questions related to this joint call for collaborative projects must be directed to Dr Mahomed Moolla, Wits Head of Strategic Partnerships (Mahomed.Moolla@wits.ac.za) and Elinor Kruse, UCL Senior Partnerships Manager for Africa & Middle East (elinor.kruse@ucl.ac.uk).