UCL-Wits University Joint Call for Collaborative Projects

Following a successful call in 2019, University College London (UCL) and the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) are contributing joint funds to support collaborative education and research initiatives through a joint call for proposals for the development of collaborative activities. The panel encourages PhD students and post-doctoral researchers to apply.

1. Projects

i) This call invites research proposals in areas of mutual interest and complementary strengths that will strengthen the partnership between UCL and Wits.

ii) Proposals on Migration and Strong Materials will not be considered due to those areas being funded by last year’s call. Proposals from all other fields are welcome.

iii) Proposals must include participants from both institutions.

iv) Proposed funding in each application should be somewhat evenly balanced between the UCL and Wits participants.

2. Eligibility for participants within the scope of this call

Principal Investigators (PIs) from UCL must have one of 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/PhD student/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

PIs from 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
Up to six projects will receive up to £5,000 or roughly the equivalent of R91,300. Funding will be jointly provided by UCL and Wits.

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 2021, whereas funds provided by Wits must be spent by November 2021. Applicants should take this into account when planning their proposed activity.

5. **Timeline**

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<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>Call for proposals</td>
<td>16 October 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for submission of proposal</td>
<td>20 November 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication of Results to applicants</td>
<td>7 December 2020</td>
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<td>Start date of Awards</td>
<td>7 January 2021</td>
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6. **Submission of proposals**

   i) Proposals are to be prepared and submitted jointly. Only one proposal should be submitted per project.
   
   ii) Proposals must be submitted by **20 November 2020**.
   
   iii) Proposals must be submitted by the lead Wits academic at the following link: [http://intranet.wits.ac.za/academic/uro/Pages/default.aspx](http://intranet.wits.ac.za/academic/uro/Pages/default.aspx)

   Please note only Wits applicants can access the online application system.

7. **Communication of results**

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

8. **Adjudication**

   - Proposals are received by Wits and forwarded to UCL for separate review at each institution.
   
   - **Selection Criteria**: Both internal review committees will assess each proposal according to the following criteria:
     
     i) Project design and rationale (how clearly presented and justified is the design and basis for the collaboration?)
     
     ii) 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?)
     
     iii) Impact of collaboration (is there a distinct advantage provided by this collaboration that is not possible by the two institutions working individually?)
     
     iv) Capacity for future collaboration (what is the extent to which future collaborations are possible as a result of the proposed exchange activities?)
   
   - A joint committee will convene to select up to six final proposals.

9. **Reporting**

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 the project.
There will be two reports: An interim report due by 31 March 2021 describing progress of activities and a short follow-up report by 2 August 2021.

10. Information about this call

All questions related to this joint call for collaborative projects should be directed to:

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