The Grand Challenge of Global Health (GCGH) will deliver the 2019-20 special initiative: **Green/Blue Spaces and Health**. Funding is available up to £10,000 to support one or more major activity to be taken forward by sandpit participants.

The sandpit is open to all UCL-based researchers and professional services staff. To be considered for participation, you should submit an expression of interest (EoI) using the online form by Friday 29th November 2019. The aims of the sandpit are to share, refine and combine participant’s ideas, leading to novel cross-disciplinary collaborations and research ideas.

**Expression of Interest**

EoIs should include:

1. Name(s) and research interests of cross-disciplinary collaborator(s)
2. Brief outline of project proposal and how it relates to the theme
3. Description of planned activities
4. Outline of expected outcomes
5. Estimated budget breakdown
6. Details of external collaborators, if applicable. We are interested in ideas that can lead to impact beyond academia.

The GC team, along with academic co-chairs of the GCGH Working Group will apply a first-step selection criteria, with those who meet these criteria (outlined below) invited to participate. We will specifically invite a diverse range of participants to the sandpit, so as to explore the scope of this call; prioritise issues to be addressed; define the outcomes to be achieved; and identify applications to be considered for funding.

Participants will be encouraged to use their EoIs as the basis for contributing radical ideas and innovative approaches at the sandpit with the aim to subsequently develop these into more detailed proposals. Funding will then be allocated after the event and having received the full proposals.

The sandpit will be held on **Thursday 12th December 2019** at UCL. **In order to be considered as prospective recipients of funding under this initiative, EoI submitters are required to attend on this date and for the duration of the sandpit.**
THEMES

The theme of **Green/Blue Spaces and Health** provides opportunity for researchers across UCL to identify topics that require cross-disciplinary attention as a basis for further research, for problematizing current debates, and considering critical issues. For example, provocations and possible questions to consider could include:

- The benefits of green and blue spaces for mental and physical health have been largely discussed – what about the adverse effects? How can we prevent or mitigate them?
- How can we ensure equal and fair access to green and aquatic environment, and encourage healthy lifestyles and fulfilling activities, particularly for disadvantaged people?
- To what extent can virtual environments substitute for the physical environment?
- How accurately can we measure the subjective and emotional links between individuals and nature?
- What is the relationship between water and population health in water scarce regions? In flood-risk or flooded zones? How does this link to wellbeing, stress, and trauma? How does it evolve over time, e.g. with the impact of climate change?
- What issues does the ownership and management of natural spaces spanning across borders pose, and how can we address them collaboratively?
- Is the valuation of natural landscapes a useful tool for health planning and advocacy? Can we move beyond a cost-benefit analysis? What are the implications of a utilitarian view of nature?
- How can cross-disciplinary approaches and other means of collaboration develop a better understanding of the relationship between green/blue spaces and health, and develop innovative approaches to improving individual and population health?

Ideas, however, need not be limited to these themes or topics. Additional documents that may further stimulate research ideas and contribute to thinking, include:

- “Environment, health and wellbeing: a systemic approach” (European Environment Agency)
- “Urban Green Spaces and Health” (WHO)
- “Public Health and Landscape” (Landscape Institute)
- “The impact of blue space on human health and well-being- Salutogenic health effects of inland surface waters: A review” (Völker & Kistemann, 2011)
- “Outdoor blue spaces, human health and well-being: A systematic review of quantitative studies” (Gascon et al., 2017)
- “Valuing Urban Green Space: Challenges and Opportunities” (UCL Public Policy)
- BlueHealth project
- Beyond Greenspace blog
- Globalwaters.org
- London National Park City movement
FUNDING & OUTPUTS

Funding of up to £10,000 is available under the initiative, for one or several emergent activities. Due to the UCL fiscal year end of July 31st, all expenses must be identified and invoiced by that date, with costed activities taking place by Monday 27 July 2020. Project outputs could include:

- Research or policy workshops;
- Symposia or conferences;
- Reports;
- Preparatory or exploratory research towards larger grant applications;
- Public and community engagement activities;
- Research-led performance/public art-based outputs, including plays and documentary films.

We encourage interaction with community groups, artists or arts organisations, and with UCL Culture. The call is by no means restricted to UK-based activities - proposed initiatives can focus on wellbeing and experiences in all parts of the world.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- How clearly does the applicant understand issues relating to the relationship between green/blue spaces and health?
- Is the applicant open to collaboration with those outside of their field?
- Does the proposed idea demonstrate societal relevance and impact?