



Wellbeing in a throw-away culture

A UCL Grand Challenges Special Initiative

Call for Expressions of Interest Mini-Sandpit 2019-20

The Grand Challenge of Human Wellbeing (GCHW) will deliver the 2019-20 special initiative: **Wellbeing in a throw-away culture**. 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 27th September 23:59**. 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

Eols 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 GCHW 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 Eols 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 24th October 2019, from 9:30am to 12pm** 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 **Wellbeing in a throw-away culture** 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:

- How could the reduction of food waste encourage healthier food-related behaviour and better quality consumption?
- What are the implications of trend-based industries, such as fashion or technology, on customer wellbeing – with unsustainable spending behaviours or feelings of inadequacy compared to peers? E.g. can we justify the impacts of operations like Black Friday on customers and retail staff?
- What are the effects of handling waste on the wellbeing on public service workers?
- What is the influence of education and cultural contexts on attitudes towards waste management and wasteful behaviour? How can we further encourage sustainable and pro-environmental behaviour, which has been shown to improve people's wellbeing?
- In what ways can we ensure the use of natural resources is sustainable, does not create volatility in commodity prices, and benefits local populations?
- How can cross-disciplinary approaches and other means of collaboration develop innovative approaches to wellbeing and waste?

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

- [UN Sustainable Goals \(12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns\)](#)
- [Culture and Health webinar series 2019: Waste and wellbeing: cultural waste disposal practices and health \(World Health Organisation\)](#)
- [IAS and UCL Urban Lab Waste research theme](#)

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 of wellbeing and wastefulness?
- Is the applicant open to collaboration with those outside of their field?
- Does the proposed idea demonstrate societal relevance and impact?