



UCL Research, Innovation & Global Engagement (RIGE) Funding Call 2022–23:

Climate Crisis

Summary

What is the funding for?

Collaborative activities that address the climate crisis

When does the activity need to take place?

UCL financial year 2022–23, awards must be spent by 31 July 2023

Who can apply?

UCL staff and students, in collaboration with UCL or external partners

How much can I apply for?

Applications can be made for awards up to £10,000

What are the total funds available?

£30,000, which may be increased if budgets permit

What is the application deadline?

Monday 3 October 2022, 9am

Which RIGE teams are coordinating the call?

UCL Grand Challenges and UCL Environment Domain

Call Outline

‘Human-induced climate change is causing dangerous and widespread disruption in nature and affecting the lives of billions of people around the world, despite efforts to reduce the risks. People and ecosystems least able to cope are being hardest hit.’¹ We are at a crossroads. The decisions made now can secure a liveable future for people and the planet, and research will continue to play a vital role in driving change at national, regional and global scales.

The most recent IPCC report recognizes the interdependence of climate, biodiversity and people and integrates natural, social and economic sciences more strongly than earlier IPCC assessments. The extent and magnitude of climate change impacts are larger than estimated in previous assessments (high confidence). Widespread deterioration of ecosystem structure and function, resilience and natural adaptive capacity, as well as shifts in seasonal timing have

¹ [IPCC Sixth Assessment, Press Release February 2022](#)

occurred due to climate change (high confidence), with adverse socioeconomic consequences (high confidence).²

This challenge cannot be addressed by one discipline alone and requires collaborative, cross-disciplinary and cross-boundary responses. Examples of current UCL research interest and researchers addressing the breadth of this challenge can be found at the [UCL Climate Hub](#) and the [UCL Environment Domain](#).

UCL Grand Challenges' special initiative of *Climate Crisis*, one of the most urgent global challenges being addressed across UCL³, provides the opportunity for researchers to identify topics that require cross-disciplinary attention as a basis for further research, for problematizing current debates, and considering critical issues.

Funding call criteria

Applications for projects costing up to £10,000 will be considered. The total funds allocated for this scheme is £30,000, pending finalisation of RIGE budgets; this will be increased if budgets permit.

Applications should address Place & Displacement in one or more of the following ways:

- Cross-disciplinary research collaborations (i.e. from two or more faculties)
- Cross-border collaborations (i.e. with a global partner)
- Cross-boundary collaborations (i.e. between UCL-based researchers and staff of non-academic civil society organisations such as community groups, non-governmental organisations or independent think tanks)
- Collaborations between 'types' of activity at UCL (i.e., staff and/or student applications that combine research, teaching, operational and/or student extra-curricular activities)

Grants can support activities that generate societal impacts leading to outputs, including, but not limited to:

- Research or policy workshops, symposia or conferences
- Articles or comment pieces in peer publications or media channels
- Preparatory or exploratory research towards larger grant applications
- Public and community engagement activities
- Improvements to, or new, policies or operational activity at UCL
- Development of curricular, co-curricular or extra-curricular activity
- Research-led performance/public art-based outputs, including documentary films

Examples of previously funded activities can be found in Appendix A.

² [Climate Change 2022, Impact, Adaptation and Vulnerability, Summary for Policymakers](#), IPCC WGII, 2022

³ [Evolving the UCL Grand Challenges](#), UCL 2022 – 2027 Strategic Plan consultation

Exclusions

Allowable costs include payment for part-time research assistants. Please note the following items are not fundable under this scheme:

- Activities that will incur costs after 31 July 2023.
- Capital equipment costs
- Studies in basic science or research that is exclusively lab-based
- Article processing costs (publication fees)
- Staff 'buy-out', maintenance fees or bench fees

The UCL fiscal year-end is 31 July. All expenses must be invoiced by that date, with costed activities completed by Friday 21 July 2023. Use of awarded funds cannot be deferred to a later date.

Eligible applicants

At least one of the named applicants must be a member of UCL-based staff in an academic faculty, Professional Services division or Vice-President or Vice-Provost office.

Applicants can be a combination of:

- Member(s) of UCL staff
- UCL student(s)
- External academic partner(s), e.g. at another UK university or overseas
- Non-academic partner(s), e.g. a local authority, NGO, community or business organisation.

We strongly welcome and encourage external collaborators, including third sector organisations, policy, think tanks, industry, and charities whose expertise and missions focus on societal impact.

Applications must nominate a first applicant, who will act as the point of contact for communications and financial/budget transactions. **This must be a member of UCL staff.**

If the second applicant is also from UCL, they must be based in a faculty or unit that is different from the first applicant.

As this is a RIGE-based funding initiative, UCL RIGE staff members are not eligible to stand as Lead or 1st Applicant (i.e. they are not permitted to be grant recipients), but may stand as 2nd Applicant or as an Additional Collaborator.

As part of our commitment to equity and inclusion in relation to the Equality Act 2010, we would particularly like to encourage applications from colleagues who identify as underrepresented groups including, but not limited to, women, BAME, LGBT+ community and disabled individuals at UCL to apply for this opportunity.

Assessment of applications and notification of decisions

Applications will be assessed by panels comprising members of RIGE, professional services staff and academic colleagues from across UCL.

The scoring criteria will include:

- Quality of the application and originality of topic and/or approach
- The extent to which the funded activity is cross-disciplinary, cross-activity and cross-boundary (academia to civil society)
- Strengths of the collaborating applicants and any external partners
- The extent to which the activity addresses the climate crisis
- The extent to which the proposal is achievable within the timeframe and budget

The deadline for applications is Monday 3 October 2022, 9am. Funding decisions will be announced in late October/early November 2022, to enable access to awarded funds between 1 December 2022 and 31 July 2023.

Terms and conditions

By submitting this form, applicants indicate their agreement if successful to:

- Provide a short report at the end of the academic year to describe activities, outputs, and impact.
- Permit UCL RIGE to publicise the immediate, medium, and long-term outcomes attributable to funded projects.
- Acknowledge UCL RIGE support in publications or external communications, using our visual identity guidance.

Submitting your application

To submit your application, please read this guidance carefully, [download and complete the application form](#) and [submit it via the online platform](#).

Please direct any questions to:

Becca Burns, Strategic Research Facilitator for the Environment Domain
environment@ucl.ac.uk

James Paskins, Deputy Director, UCL Grand Challenges j.paskins@ucl.ac.uk



Appendix A: Previous awards with UCL Environment Domain

2020–21: Green Recovery

Complex Risk Governance for a Green and Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19

Award: £7,302.87

Tom Pegram (Political Science) and Carina Fearnley (Science & Technology Studies)

Microbial Buildings: A Radically New Approach To Sustainable Buildings Using Beneficial Microbes

Award: £9,944.2

Richard Beckett (Bartlett School of Architecture) and Sean Nair (Eastman Dental Institute)

Practice-based Learning in Cities for Climate Action “PELICAN” Dashboard

Award: £10,000

Ryan Bellinson (Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose) and Martha McPherson (Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose)

2021–22: Climate Emergency

Case study research exploring the variation of secondary schools' engagement with climate change and sustainability education in England

Award: £10,000

Professor Nicola Walshe (Department of Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment) and Dr Kris de Meyer (King's College)

COPS: A COMpLex Systems approach to peri-urban development for climate resilience and just futures in the Global South

Award: £9,967

Dr Lakshmi Rajendran (The Bartlett School of Architecture) and Dr Raul Leal (UCL Department of Space and Climate Physics)

UCL Team Glasgow - post COP26 moving towards COP27 with a low carbon footprint

Award: £10,000

Dr Priti Parikh (The Bartlett School of Sustainable Construction) and Professor Mark Maslin (Geography)

A global economy that works for people and the planet – how do we get there?

Award: £4,842.71

Dr Tom Pegram (Political Science) and Dr Nick Hughes (Bartlett School Environment, Energy & Resources)

Energy Communities Podcast

Award: £5,000

Hannah Knox (Anthropology) and Britt Jurgensen (Carbon Coop)

Climate change and adverse pregnancy outcomes: a data-driven global-scale investigation (GESTATION)

Award: £19,345.73

Dr Mohammad Shamsudduha, (Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction) and Dr Anwar Musah (Geography)