The Responsible Innovation Award
from the Grand Challenge of Transformative Technology

Deadline for applications: Monday 29 January 2024, 17.00 (GMT)

Science and innovation play integral roles in modern society and hold the power to transform the world we live in. Transformative technology can lead to significant benefits for society, but those benefits might not be felt equally by all groups and can have unintended consequences. This call is based on the premise that innovation should be undertaken responsibly to maximise both the benefits, and those who can benefit, whilst minimising the harms.

The GCTT Responsible Innovation Award is offering up to **£20,000** to support innovative interdisciplinary and cross-boundary projects. This call is for work that supports the development of technology that can lead to positive societal outcomes as well as for work that considers the impacts that technology has on society.

The special initiative is open to both brand-new collaborations and ideas and applications that build on previous Grand Challenges funded projects and collaborations.

Themes

The Grand Challenge of Transformative Technology aims to foster interdisciplinary research at UCL that results in new technological developments and in work that examines the implications and potential of technologies and innovation. Project proposals should address the theme of responsible innovation, based on the idea that technological development should be aligned with societal needs and take the wider societal context into account. This includes developing new technologies, or new applications of existing technology, that address global challenges as well as investigating and minimising the negative social and environmental impacts of technological advances.

Applications should consider transformative technological innovation in relation to one of the original or emerging Grand Challenge themes:

Original Grand Challenge Themes	Evolved Grand Challenge Themes
Human Wellbeing	Mental Health and Well-Being
Sustainable Cities	Climate Crisis
Transformative Technology	Data-Empowered Societies
Justice & Equality	Inequalities
Cultural Understanding	Intercultural Communication
Global Health	

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Funding

Applications for projects costing up to £20,000 will be considered under this call. Due to the UCL fiscal year end, all funding must be spent, and expenses must be identified and invoiced by **31st July 2024.**

Grand Challenges funding cannot be used for the following:
- Activities that will incur costs after 31 July 2024. Use of awarded funds cannot be deferred to a later date
- 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

Awards can be used to support cross-boundary projects and activities that generate societal impacts, this may include (but is not limited to):

- Workshops, symposia or conferences
- Publications, reports, articles or comment pieces
- Preparatory or exploratory research towards larger grant applications
- Public and community engagement activities
- Policy engagement activities
- Knowledge exchange
- Network building
- Research-led performance/public art-based outputs, including documentary films

Eligible Applicants

First Applicants must be UCL staff – either researchers in academic Faculties or Professional Services.

Second Applicants can be either UCL staff (researchers in academic Faculties or Professional Services) or external partners – either academic (i.e. at another university) or non-academic (e.g. at a policy, third sector, charity, community, or business organisation).

Additional Collaborators

These can be from within, or external to UCL. We welcome and encourage external partners, including third sector organisations, policy, think tanks, industry, and charities. If not standing as 'Second Applicants', they can be shown as 'Additional Collaborators'.

Assessment of Applications

Applications will be assessed by a panel composed of members of the Grand Challenge Working Group and members of the Grand Challenges team.

The scoring criteria will include:
- Quality of the application and originality of topic and/or approach
- Cross-disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and cross-boundary (academia to civil society) strengths of the collaborating Applicants and any external partners
- Societal relevance and potential to deliver significant impacts
- Extent to which the proposed activities can be delivered within the timeframe and budget

Funding decisions will be announced in February 2024. Anticipated start date of projects is February 2024.

Terms and Conditions

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

- Complete a short evaluation and reporting form at the end of the project to describe activities, outputs, and impacts.
- Permit Grand Challenges to publicise the immediate, medium, and long-term outcomes attributable to funded projects.
- Acknowledge Grand Challenges support in publications or external communications, using visual identity guidance.

To submit your application, please fill in the application form and submit via the online platform.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact Lisa Juangbhanich, a.juangbhanich@ucl.ac.uk

GRAND CHALLENGES

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