

(Un)equal lives, (un)equal outcomes: visioning the future

Deadline for applications: Monday 11 December 2023, 17.00 (GMT).

The UK's social inequalities have certainly been accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic but long pre-existed it. It sharpened understanding that inequalities in health, education, housing, the economy and labour market are multiple and overlapping in nature. Moreover, experiences of inequalities are inextricably intertwined with place and social class.

Foregrounding intersectionality and an interdisciplinary approach, the special initiative of *(Un)equal lives, (un)equal outcomes: visioning the future* will support projects that adopt a future-focused lens that aim to generate solutions to societal inequalities, whether structural or intersectional in nature, rather than research the underlying issues of inequalities.

The special initiative seeks to understand 'what works where and why' to take steps toward more equal futures. It will support solutions-focused projects generating ideas of how to redesign systems and structures ideas, in line with UCL's tradition of disruptive thinking.

THEMES

of the call is '(Un)equal lives, (un)equal outcomes: visioning the future'. Project proposals are asked to address the foundations of different and intersecting inequalities, exploring their implications (and outcomes) at any and all levels and, critically, addressing possible responses - 'what works' locally or systemically.

The list below provides examples of the types of project that could be funded: it is neither prescriptive nor exhaustive:

- Understanding and addressing livelihood security
- Linking socio-economic inequalities to labour market precarity
- Tackling place-based inequalities
- Coproducing inclusive social change
- Supporting equitable educational outcomes
- The social class basis of unequal outcomes
- Protected characteristics and the formation of health inequalities
- Quality of housing / quality of life
- (Disruptive) technology and inequalities

FUNDING

Applications for projects costing up to £10,000 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 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 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 January 2024. Anticipated start date of projects is January 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 Ethne James-Souch (e.james-souch@ucl.ac.uk).