

Place: Equality & Prosperity

Deadline for applications: 23:59, 9th January 2022

Conceptions of prosperity and experiences of inequalities are inextricably intertwined with place. Place-based prosperity has become a key policy priority for national, regional and local government in the UK and elsewhere in recent years. However, considering these issues at local and hyper-local levels is needed now more than ever with the COVID-19 pandemic starkly highlighting - and exacerbating - health, economic, educational, and social inequalities.

Recent conflicts and political events have also served as a sharp reminder of the place-based dimension of human rights and how hard-fought struggles for equality can dissipate rapidly. This year's call will therefore also welcome applications that consider issues of displacement.

The special initiative of Place: Equality and Prosperity will support projects that adopt a place-based lens to engage with local communities - whether in London, the UK, or internationally - generate solutions to societal challenges and allow for sharper focus on the intersection of specific geographies with wider structural inequalities.

THEMES

The theme of *Place: Equality & Prosperity* provides opportunity for researchers across UCL to identify topics that require cross-disciplinary attention.

For example, topics that could be incorporated and addressed under this theme could include:

- place and race
- place-based health inequalities
- societal recovery from covid-19
- vaccine nationalism
- digital inequalities and conceptions of 'place/space' in a digital world
- 'levelling up' agendas
- rurality and land use
- displacement
- human rights
- equality as a component of global governance / localised governance
- fostering cultural understanding and attitudes toward wellbeing in different cultures
- climate justice
- equitable and local-led solutions toward sustainability

FUNDING

Applications for projects costing up to £10,000 will be considered under this call.

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 Friday 22nd July 2022.

Please note the following are exempt from funding under Grand Challenges schemes:

- Activities that will incur costs after 31 July 2022. 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):

- Research or policy workshops
- Symposia or conferences
- Reports
- Articles or comment pieces in peer publications or media channels
- Preparatory or exploratory research towards larger grant applications
- Public and community engagement activities
- Briefings or reports focused on policy
- Research-led performance/public art-based outputs, including documentary films

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

First Applicants must be UCL-based researchers holding academic positions or postdoctoral appointments. [Doctoral students are not eligible to stand as lead applicants, but can be funded as project research assistants].

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 strongly 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'.

STRATEGIC LINKING POSSIBILITIES ACROSS UCL

Grand Challenges special initiatives also act as a means to partner with other UCL initiatives and central offices. For *Place: Equality & Prosperity*, applicants may wish to align work with Co-Production Collective, UCL Culture (in particular UCL Public Engagement's work in East London), UCL Public Policy, PVP (UK) and PVP (London).

ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS

Applications will be assessed by panels composed of members of Grand Challenges Working Groups from UCL Academic and Professional Services departments, 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 between late January and mid-February 2022, to enable access to awarded funds between 1 March and 31 July 2022.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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

- Provide a short report to GC at the end of the academic year to describe activities, outputs, and impact.
- Permit GC to publicise the immediate, medium, and long-term outcomes attributable to funded projects.
- Acknowledge Grand Challenges support in publications or external communications, using our [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 Siobhan Morris (siobhan.morris@ucl.ac.uk).