UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Mental Health Platform Hubs Call 2023
UCL internal selection process

Interested applicants should read the full scope and eligibility criteria on the call webpages.

UCL internal EoI deadline via Microsoft Forms link	18th April 2023 before 12pm
UCL selection process	18th April to 2nd May 2023
UCL to feedback to candidates outcomes of review	w/c 1st May 2023
UKRI call EoI deadline (**Mandatory**) via Survey Monkey	9th May before 4pm
UKRI application deadline	13th June 2023 before 4pm
Further timeline available on UKRI call webpage	

UKRI have launched a call for funding to establish a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary mental health hub. Hubs will be flagship investments, that draw together relevant expertise from across the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) spectrum and engage relevant stakeholders, to carry out impactful research on serious mental illnesses. The hubs will together constitute the core of the mental health platform (MH platform).

UKRI have advised that **only one application with UCL as lead organisation is permitted**. Additional involvement in other applications is permissible. Therefore, we are organising an internal selection process for this call.

UCL selection process (all UCL) – deadline Tuesday 18th April 2023 before 12pm

All applicants interested in leading the UCL application (i.e. as Principal Investigator) must complete a short UCL expression of interest (EoI) form (via Microsoft Forms, in line with the UKRI EoI Survey) and submit this using the link below by **Tuesday 18th April at 12pm**. The EoI form comprises the following:

- Details of the Lead and Co-Investigators and any partner organisations and collaborators
- A short summary of the proposal for the hub (500 word maximum) which can be uploaded to MS Forms as a word document or PDF
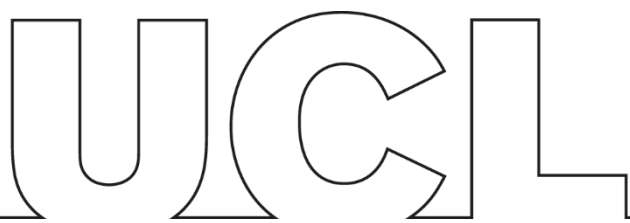-

Link to UCL EoI form on Microsoft forms: https://forms.office.com/e/BvaP5wxdSe

Applications to UKRI
Following the review by the panel and selection outcome, the selected applicant (Principal Investigator) **must submit an EoI to UKRI by 9th May 2023 at 4pm**, by completing the online survey linked on 'How to Apply' section of the call page. Applicants must submit to this EoI stage to be able to submit a full application through the new UKRI Funding Service online platform (which is replacing Je-S). The selected UCL lead will be given feedback on their internal EoI to allow them to finalise their EoI before this deadline. The UKRI EoI stage is not assessed. The details of what is required for the full stage deadline are on the call page.

Summary of Mental Health Platform Hub Call:
- This scheme funds up to £3.5M at 80% of the economic cost and up to five years in duration. Awards will have a fixed start date of 1 April 2024.
- The indicative budget for this call is up to £17.5 million and UKRI anticipate awarding up to five hubs. Together these hubs will form the Mental Health Platform and additional funding will be available for networking.
- Each funded hub will focus on one or more severe mental illnesses and include themes that will form cross-cutting strategic threads between hubs.

- Hubs will be flagship investments, drawing together relevant expertise from across the UKRI spectrum and engaging relevant stakeholders, to carry out multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary, impactful research at scale on key areas of strategic need in mental health. These areas include:
    - heterogeneity within (and overlap across) diagnoses
    - poor mechanistic understanding of mental disorders
    - variability in measures used and a lack of objective markers
    - lack of diversity in consented research studies
- The UKRI are looking for challenge-led applications through focus on severe mental illness. They particularly encourage applicants to make the most of opportunities offered by utilising the wealth of data and development in analytical techniques and capabilities to enable stratification by different population groups.
- The focus of this funding opportunity is on severe mental illness (conditions that have a significant impact on people's lives), including but not limited to:
    - severe depression
    - schizophrenia
    - bipolar disorder
    - obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD)
    - panic disorder
    - post-traumatic stress (PTSD) and borderline personality disorder
- Research within this overall focus may be across the life course. However, UKRI particularly welcome applications focused on children and young people's mental health, and on the mental and physical health interface (including when experiencing more than one illness concurrently).
- Research must be grounded in basic and fundamental understanding and determinants of serious mental illness. It can be drawn from across disciplines, from biological, social, environmental, physical and medical science to humanities, with interdisciplinarity across disciplines that may not typically work together encouraged.
- Research focusing on depression, (more common) anxiety and, general mental wellbeing is out of scope. Research should be primarily focused on the UK.
- Research focused on animal models including the development of new animal models is out of scope. However, discrete use of animals such as in backward translation opportunities may be incorporated.
- Once established, the hubs will be expected to network with each other to address shared challenges and develop common approaches, such as those with respect to methods, measures and ethics. Future funding will be made available through a separate process to enable this aspect.
- You should demonstrate strong engagement with people with lived experience (PWLE) throughout the research process, and clearly explain plans for this within your application. Your application must demonstrate a clear and compelling explanation of the potential impact on the lives of people with a severe mental illness. Additionally, your plans for engaging PWLE should include a description how under-represented communities will be incorporated.

UKRI will hold a webinar on 20th April 2023 midday. Register for the webinar via **Zoom**. Please do register interest if you are interested in leading an application for this call. The LMS Research Coordination team are attending the webinar and will report back to the selected applicant if they have not been able to attend this.

For full details of the call and what is required for full stage application, please see call pages here: https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/mental-health-platform-hubs/

Please contact lms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk with any questions about this call or the internal process.