



CDT in Delivering Quantum Technologies call for innovation award EureQa!

We invite proposals for proof-of-concept / demonstrator projects from UCL staff and students, in the emerging area of quantum technology.

Support of up to £50k may be requested through this scheme, the project duration will be of 6 months and will run from the 1st of October 2023 until the 31st of March 2024. In addition to financial support, the applicant will receive business mentorship to help develop their idea into a business plan by UCL Business and/or UCL Innovation & Enterprise.

Application will open on the 20th of July 2023 and will close on the 20th of August 2023, the shortlisted applicant will be asked to deliver a pitch to the interview panel.

Further details of the scheme can be found further below.

Further information

Eligibility

- The proposal should focus on an early-stage quantum tech project and/or ideas that require funding to investigate the viability to real-world product.
- The funding is suitable for ideas at the initial stage of development.
- The team is expected to be led by UCL students or postdoctoral researchers: the focus is on accelerating the beyond-academic impact of academic research.
- Funds can be used to support the time of applicant(s) (see "Eligible costs below", Students must have upgraded from MPhil to PhD status before a reduction to part-time status can be made). It is the responsibility of students studying in the UK on a visa to ensure that any proposal is consistent with the conditions of their visa.

Conditions of the award

- The award will be contingent on the incorporation of a company.
- Start-ups will be given mentorship throughout the period of the award.
- UCL will not seek to take an equity stake in companies in return for this funding.
- Applicants must provide a final report on the outcomes of the award and the use made of Innovation Fund resources
- Depending on the level of support sought, UCLQ funding may be supplemented by a venture partner (see *below*), which come with further terms and conditions.

Eligible costs

- Salary costs for applicant(s) (part-time or full-time)
- Consumables and facility costs
- Small equipment
- Outsourcing of services
- Patent and legal costs
- Travel and subsistence, (with clear justification for the technology development);

Size and duration of awards

- We expect to fund awards in the range up to £50k per bid.
- The duration of the award is 01/10/2023 to 31/03/2024
- Applicants must provide a roadmap for the development of the technology concept beyond the period of the challenge fund award.

Intellectual property

- Foreground intellectual property developed by the start-up under the award will be owned by the company, however, any arrangement for use of UCL facilities and associated cost will have to be agreed by the relevant Head of Department
- Applicants should identify any background IP owned by UCL (or other organizations) required for the progress of their project. Licensing of any necessary third-party background IP (including UCL-owned IP) does not need to be arranged before an application can be considered. The CDT will work with applicants to facilitate licensing arrangements with UCL Business.

Applications process

- Awards will be made by a panel made up of technical experts (from UCL) and business/enterprise experts (external to UCL).
- There will be a two-stage process:
 - outline application following the form below
 - pitch to the award panel
- Some feedback may be provided to shortlisted applicants following the outline stage, prior to the pitch, where it is felt this might help strengthen the application
- The application will open on the 20th of July 2023 and close on the 20th of August 2023
- Completed outline applications should be sent to Ms Ruby Hugh (r.hugh@ucl.ac.uk) with the subject "application to EureQa call".
- General questions about the scheme can be addressed to Dr Alfonso Ruocco (a.ruocco@ucl.ac.uk) or Mr Henry Bennie (h.bennie@ucl.ac.uk)

Application details

- Elevator pitch: in 50 words or less explain the proposed project and its potential impact
- List the team members, including name, affiliation and current position.
- Describe the strengths of the team – why is this the right team to carry out this project? (max 100 words per team member)
- In more detail, what is your idea for a proof-of-concept / demonstrator? (max 200 words)
- What will be the main impact(s) of this idea? (max 100 words)
- How does this innovation compare to what is currently available commercially, giving key figures of merit? What is your *technical advantage* (max 200 words)
- How will this project lead to commercial success for your business? What will your *commercial advantage* be? (max 200 words)
- What are the key milestones/deliverables for your project and when do you anticipate reaching them? (max 100 words)
- Gantt chart and risk management plan
- Assume your demonstrator project is successful – what happens next? (max 100 words)
- Budget – how much funding are you requesting for your project, and what is this for? (max 100 words)