**UCL Collaborative Social Science Domain**

**Social Science Plus**

**Scheme Guidance & Evaluation of Applications**

**Application deadline: 1pm, Monday, 6th September 2021**

*Our scheme has been generously funded by several faculties including Engineering Sciences, Institute of Education, Mathematical & Physical Sciences, Population Health Sciences, and Social & Historical Sciences.*

**Scheme aim and Characteristics**

* The aim of the Social Science Plus scheme is to support pilot studies that seed new collaborations between social science and other disciplines across UCL in order to foster future (medium or large) interdisciplinary collaborative projects with a strong social science component
* £10,000 for a social science led cross-disciplinary (social science and non-social science) pilot/seed research project that will lay the basis for an external funding application
* Applications must be genuninely inter/cross-disciplinary, innovative~~,~~ and research based
* This round of the scheme will fund a total of 3 projects
* Projects must be a minimum of 6 months duration and funds **must be spent by 31 July 2022**
* The scheme **supports** the cost of employing a researcher and non-staff costs (e.g. travel and subsistence, equipment)
* The scheme **does not support**: payment for faculty applicants’ time; the extension of previous activities; studies that do not have a social science lead; or studies that are not cross/inter-disciplinary
* The scheme is competitive - in the last round we had 30 applications for 2 grants

**Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator Eligibility**

Principal Investigators and Co-investigators must be of post-doctoral standing and be employed by UCL during the life of the project (i.e., able to complete the proposed project within the terms and conditions of their current contracts)

* Principal Investigators must be **social scientists**, i.e., they need to be within the UKRI (ESRC) broad [definition of social science disciplines](https://esrc.ukri.org/about-us/what-is-social-science/social-science-disciplines/)
* Principal Investigators can be a UCL social scientist based in any department or faculty

**Research Team Composition**

These are small grants, and the team needs to be appropriate in skills and size. At a minimum, in addition to the Principal Investigator, the team must include a non-social science Co-Investigator and an Early Career Researcher

* Up to two UCL Co-Investigators can be named on an application:
* One Co-Investigator must be a **non-social scientist** from across the disciplinary spectrum who **must not** be based in the same department as the Principal Investigator
* The second Co-Investigator can come from any discipline (including social science) but **must not** be based in the same department as the Principal Investigator or the non-social science Co-Investigator
* The Principal Investigator will need to submit CVs (max. 2 pages) for themselves and the Co-Investigator(s). NB: applications with CVs longer than 2 pages will be returned
* Teams need to include at least one UCL Early Career Researcher who can be:   
  - either doctoral; immediately post doctorate; or transitioning to being an independent researcher ([see UKRI definition if you need more info](https://esrc.ukri.org/skills-and-careers/postgraduate-careers/early-career-researchers/)).   
  - come from any discipline   
  - based in any UCL department/faculty
* If a clear justification is made, Additional Collaborators may be included in the team, these may be UCL employees, honorary fellows, researchers at other institutions (UK/international), or non-academic partners (UK /international)

**Budget and external funding application**

* If successful, the Principal Investigator's department, rather than CSSD, will administer awarded funds on behalf of the Principal Investigator
* It is not necessary to submit a Worktribe costing with this application. However, applicants are advised to check if their departments have a requirement for them to complete a Worktribe costing for internal funding applications
* This scheme aims to support small pilot studies to seed future medium to large interdisciplinary collaborative external funding applications with a strong social science component, rather than individual fellowships or career development grants

**Please Note**Click [here for an overview](https://form.jotform.com/211523167558356) of scheme requirements (scroll down to Sections 2 & 3) that you must accept on submissions of an application

* [**Download the application form**](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/research/domains/collaborative-social-science/research/social-science-plus)(scroll down to the *How to Apply* section)
* Successful applicants will be expected to:
* submit an Outcomes Report in the autumn following the 31st July 2022
* acknowledge CSSD in dissemination activities and publications
* Principal Investigators will receive feedback on their proposal

**Evaluation of Applications   
Stage 1:** All applications need to meet the scheme’s eligibility criteria – please see the guidance on the scheme’s aims, Principal and Co-investigator eligibility, team composition etc. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Reade, Strategic Coordinator, CSSD, [m.reade@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:m.reade@ucl.ac.uk) **Applications that do not meet the criteria will be rejected**.

**Stage 2:** Eligible applications will be assessed on their relevance to the 8 evaluation criteria below which articulate the scheme’s aims and characteristics.

**A: Track records**1. Principal Investigator’s and Co-Investigator(s)’s track records relative to career stage

**B: The extent to which the project’s:**2. Aims, objectives and Research Question(s) relate to the aims of the Collaborative Social Science Domain’s Social Science Plus scheme

3. ECRs are included in the project

4. Design and methodology integrate disciplinary research expertise/ knowledge to generate innovative research

5. Outcomes and workplan are feasible and relevant

6. Budget is justified and offers value for money

**C: The potential of the project to:**7. Establish a new collaboration between social science and other disciplines

8. Provide a foundation for a future (medium or large) UCL interdisciplinary collaborative external funding application with a strong social science component

**Review Panel**A review panel of 6-10 members of the CSSD Steering Group will be constituted and each application will be reviewed by a min. of 2 panel members. Applications will be ranked on each of the above criteria - from 1 (not met) to 5 (outstanding), and a holistic reviewer comment provided. Where scores vary significantly the CSSD Chair will serve as a third reviewer.

**Stage 3**: The application reviews will be collated and discussed by the panel and ranked. The panel decision making process will also consider the need to ensure potential future applications are spread across different fundersand to seed collaborative conversations across depts/Faculties.

Principal Investigators will be provided with reviewer scores and feedback