UCL Environment Domain
Opportunities & Notices

May 2017

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Opportunities

NERC Follow-on Fund Pathfinder
Open deadline, apply early 2017 to qualify for Follow on Funding
http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/available/schemes/pathfinder/

NERC Pathfinder awards complement Follow-on awards. Follow-on awards of up to £125k (£100k NERC contribution at 80%) fund development projects whose objective is to realise the commercial potential of NERC-funded research via a combination of complementary technical and commercial engagement work programmes. Successful applications to the Follow-on Fund are invariably built upon a good understanding of the likely market potential for the technology around which the project is based.

If you are confident that you already have a sound assessment of these, and the other, issues described in Follow-on Fund - Guidance for applicants, you are ready to submit an application to the Follow-on Fund (call opening Spring 2017). If, however, there are gaps in your knowledge, you are strongly advised to first apply for a Pathfinder award.

This will give you the best possible opportunity to secure Follow-on funding by enabling you to carry out work that will help you develop a greater understanding of the commercial aspects and possibilities of your research, and hence produce a more robust, better informed proposal for Follow-on funding. Pathfinder awards enable you to fill such knowledge gaps via activities such as market assessment and competitor analysis, intellectual property searches, engaging with potential commercial collaborators and end-users, and ‘milestone 1’ technical work where the technical feasibility of the whole project depends on it. Pathfinder awards are normally between £7k and £10k, but in exceptional circumstances a maximum of £25k is available (NERC will contribute £20k at 80% FEC).

BBSRC Future Leader Fellowships (FLF) and David Phillips Fellowships (DPF)
Deadline: 11th May
http://www.ucl.ac.uk/slms/slms-intranet/research/facilitation/application-guidance-and-resources/BBSRCFLF_UCLguidance

BBSRC are inviting applications for their Future Leader Fellowships (FLF) and David Phillips Fellowships (DPF) schemes: both have a deadline of Thursday 11 May (4pm).

The FLF will provide support for researchers wishing to undertake independent research and gain leadership skills. The FLF will support the transition of early stage researchers to fully independent research leaders. As such FLFs represent part of our commitment to the supply of highly skilled professional scientists to the UK. The DPF will provide support for researchers wishing to establish their first independent research group. The DPF will invest in scientists who have shown high
potential, can demonstrate that they are on an upward trajectory with clear evidence of strong scientific outputs and leadership qualities, and are aiming to establish their own fully independent programme of research. As such the DPF represents part of our commitment to the supply of highly skilled professional research leaders to the UK.

The FLF scheme has been running for 3 years but UCL hasn’t yet been awarded one. The UCL SLMS team have therefore developed some additional guidance to help HoDs and applicants understand what is needed for this scheme. It is based mostly around specific feedback from BBSRC fellowships team on common reasons why UCL applications haven’t succeeded (plus other general advice); it’s mostly targeted to FLFs but is generally relevant for DPFs as well.

**UCL Grand Challenges Small Grants 2017**

Deadline: 22 May  
https://www.ucl.ac.uk/grand-challenges/funding-opportunities-for-UCL-researchers/gcsmallgrant201718

Up to £4,000 available for a wide range of research-informed, societally relevant, cross-disciplinary activities undertaken from 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018.

Up to £6,000 is available for proposals that address the GCSC Priority Theme of Urban Mobility, with additional funding from the UCL Transport Institute. Further details

Proposals **must address a Priority Theme** relating to one of the six UCL Grand Challenges

Applications must be led by UCL academic staff members (honorary researchers included) at postdoctoral level (or equivalent) or above

Eligible academic researchers:
- **must be based in different faculties**
- **must only submit one application as a First Applicant in this round**
- may also lead applications with research-users (as Second Applicants) who are based in UCL Professional Services

**Regional Studies Association Funding Opportunities (Research Grants, Research Networks, Travel Grants, Awards)**

http://www.regionalstudies.org/funding/

The Regional Studies Association has allocated financial resources to support its members and offers a range of funding opportunities to suit different career stages. These opportunities provide members with the chance to apply for financial help to support their research, run networking events, receive awards for excellence and help towards the costs of travel to attend non-RSA events and present their work to international audiences.

There is up to £10k available for each award
NERC International Opportunities Fund

Deadline: 6 June

http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/partnerships/international/iof/news/ao2017/

NERC is inviting proposals to its International Opportunities Fund (IOF). The IOF scheme provides resources to NERC-supported researchers to allow them to forge long-term partnerships with overseas scientists that add value to their current NERC-funded science.

Please note that applicants to this call must be a PI or Co-I on an active NERC grant, or a NERC Research Centre Scientist leading a NERC supported programme or project.

NERC call: Innovative monitoring approaches for infrastructure, oil and gas and offshore renewable energy

Deadline: Outlines on 15 June, full proposals mid September

http://www.nerc.ac.uk/innovation/activities/naturalresources/oilandgasprog/roundtwo/

2 Full day brokerage events 26 April (Edinburgh) and 5 May (Southampton).

Projects should be challenge-led, focusing on the application of existing environmental science monitoring capabilities and expertise (eg technologies, techniques and tools for measuring and modelling, deployment and interpretation). Projects should tackle industry, policy, regulator or other relevant end-user defined challenges and opportunities within the infrastructure, oil & gas and offshore renewable energy sectors. Challenges and opportunities within these sectors are often similar; however different sectors may use different approaches or techniques. Proposals which address challenges across these sectoral boundaries, or which transfer approaches across sectors, are encouraged.

All proposals must involve an 'end-user' project partner or partners (ie private, public or third sector organisations or institutions, private industry, public bodies (such as government departments, local government, regulatory authorities), non-government organisations or charities).

NERC will invest up to £3.5m in this call. Projects may be feasibility studies (up to six months) or innovation projects (up to 18 months). The maximum that can be applied for per project is £250k (at 80% full economic cost). Projects are expected to start on 1 January 2018.

NERC Innovation placements

Deadline: 29 June 2017

http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/available/schemes/innovation-placements/

NERC wishes to award a number of Open Innovation Placements. Placements will work within a host organisation, on a specified project or one of their choosing, which is organised independently of NERC. Researchers will explore and demonstrate how partner organisations can make use of scientific knowledge, data, models or other tools to understand and manage their impacts and/or dependencies on the environment.
Applications for placements should focus on accelerating and amplifying economic impact and improvements in quality of life from NERC-funded research, by working with business, NGOs or government bodies. This could include:

- strengthening existing partnerships
- developing new relationships that lead to collaborative projects
- researching new market opportunities
- providing case studies of knowledge exchange from NERC-funded research
- providing briefings and reports suitable for policymakers.

NERC will cover 100% of the placement's salary on a pro-rata basis, including superannuation, National Insurance and specific allowances, plus travel and other associated costs. Placements cover direct costs only and do not include overheads.

**British Council Newton Fund Institutional Links Grants**

**Deadline:** 13 June 2017


These grants are funded under the Newton Fund, a UK Government initiative funded by the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), together with partner funders from around the world. The Fund aims to promote the economic development and welfare of either the partner countries or, through working with the partner country, to address the problems of low-income and vulnerable populations. Applications under this call can be submitted for collaborations between the UK and Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, the Philippines, and Thailand. Each proposal must have one Principal Applicant from the UK, as well as a Principal Applicant from one of the partner countries listed above.

Multidisciplinary proposals are welcome in five panel areas: Biological and Medical Sciences; Engineering and Physical Sciences; Environment, Agriculture and Food Sciences; Social Sciences; and Arts and Humanities.

The challenge areas include:

- Agriculture;
- Climate and environment (e.g. climate change, green technology, sustainable development, ecosystem services, resource scarcity);
- Sustainable energy for all;
- Water and sanitation;
- Rural and urban development;
- Infrastructure (including civil engineering, information and communication technologies, big data for social and economic development, transportation);
- Humanitarian disasters and emergencies, disaster risk reduction;

Projects should cost between £50k-300k for up to 2 yrs, depending on the partner country.

**Coming soon**

**NERC Innovation Follow-on call: enabling innovation in the UK and developing countries - Pre-announcement of Opportunity**
Call opens: 24 May 2017, Deadline: 12 July 2017
http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/available/schemes/innovation-followon/

This call will be used to support projects which focus upon generating user applicable outputs from past and/or current research and which translates them into outcomes that achieve impact within the NERC remit (in the UK and/or in developing countries). Research outputs may be commercial or other potential outcomes, but should benefit third parties and not just the principal investigator's institution. Proposals should have a primary focus on the translation of research and/or knowledge. It is essential that end-users are involved in both the development and delivery of proposals.

Whilst projects can be purely UK-focused, NERC also welcomes projects that are aimed at improving economic growth and welfare in developing countries.

£1.65 million is available in total for this call, with up to £750K of the available funding dedicated to support projects that meet Official Development Assistance criteria. A maximum of £125,000 (£100,000 NERC contribution at 80% full economic cost) may be requested per project. Project proposals may run for up to 18 months.

Changing Arctic Ocean research programme - Timetable for the second call for proposals
Call opens: mid-May 2017, Deadline: mid-September (TBC)
http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/funded/programmes/arcticocean/news/ao2/

NERC would like to announce the indicative timing of the Changing Arctic Ocean research programme's second, and final, call for proposals.

The over-arching goal of the Changing Arctic Ocean research programme is to understand how change in the physical environment (ice and ocean) will affect the large-scale ecosystem structure and biogeochemical functioning of the Arctic Ocean, the potential major impacts, and to provide projections for future ecosystem services. The NERC contribution to this joint announcement of opportunity would be around €4 million and it is anticipated that this will fund the UK contribution of up to ten joint projects with German scientists.

NERC Pre-announcement of public engagement call
Call opens: late-May 2017 (TBC)
http://www.nerc.ac.uk/about/whatwedo/engage/public/pe-call/

NERC will launch a call towards the end of May 2017 for projects to support our long-term commitment to public engagement, building strong engagement between members of the UK public, environmental science and researchers.

The call will invite proposals for consortium and capacity-building projects, the most successful of which will be invited to bid for a single second-stage, large-scale project that will deliver an ambitious, national-scale public engagement initiative.

NERC will be looking for innovative, interdisciplinary partnerships that challenge the current status quo, both in adopting best practice in public engagement and
developing confidence in engaging with contemporary issues of environmental science that matter to the UK public.

NERC Evidence Synthesis Training pilot scheme 2017-18
Call opens: 31 May 2017, Deadline: 13 June
http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/available/postgrad/advanced/evidence/

NERC invites proposals to deliver training to early career researchers and PhD students at the point of submission relevant to the theme of evidence synthesis to inform policy and business decision-making, developed and delivered in collaboration with the users of NERC research. Training can be in a variety of forms relevant to both particular strands of NERC research or in the broad themes of evidence synthesis relevant across NERC remit. All applicants are required to engage with relevant non-academic stakeholders when developing and delivering training. Applicants proposing training without this engagement will not be considered for funding. There is a total budget of £500,000 for this scheme.

Notices

Upcoming EPSRC CDT call - UCL event: Pitches to Deans
Pitching dates: 10th May 2-5pm and 18th May 3-5pm
http://uclbeams.simplybook.me/sheduler/manage/event/12

The next EPSRC CDT call is expected to be announced in September 2017, with submission being in December 2017. With this in mind, the BEAMS team have arranged a couple of “town hall” style pitch opportunities for academics to pitch their ideas to their Deans. The pitches are scheduled for:

- 10th May, 2-5pm: Ivan Parkin, Nigel Titchener-Hooker & Geraint Rees attending
- 18th May, 3-5pm: Alan Penn, Ivan Parkin, & Nigel Titchener-Hooker attending

Interested parties should register on the BEAMS Research Facilitation website. Please feel free to attend both events if you are interested in getting a feeling for the wider UCL landscape, but each team is only allowed to present at one of the events. Details on the venue and the agenda will be circulated at a later date.

UCL Beacon Bursaries
Deadline: June 19th 2017

Up to £2000 is available for projects or activities that will help connect UCL research or teaching with people outside the university.
UCL Beacon Bursaries have funded outstanding engagement projects and project teams since 2009. To find out more, and to download the guidance and application forms, visit the Public Engagement Unit’s website. We particularly encourage applications for projects in East London as UCL is aiming to develop relationships with local people in advance of the building of UCL East.

**UCL Developing Early Career Researchers Consulting Skills**

Dates: 19-23 June

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/consulting-skills-career-development-programme-for-ucl-researchers-tickets-29304592826](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/consulting-skills-career-development-programme-for-ucl-researchers-tickets-29304592826)

A full-time one-week programme designed to equip researchers with the skills required to engage and collaborate with businesses as a consultant. This course will encourage participants to take their own development to the next level by working in teams to solve real business problems and undertake key skills sessions from a select group of experienced consultancy trainers.

**Places are limited, sign up now**

**Environmental Domain Early Career Network (EDEN) - Networking Social and General Meeting**

Date: 16th May

[https://www.ucl.ac.uk/research/domains/environment/eden/events/GM_agenda_May_17](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/research/domains/environment/eden/events/GM_agenda_May_17)

UCL’s EDEN are holding a Networking, Social and General Meeting on **Tuesday 16th May, 16.00-18.00, Rockefeller Building G02**. If you are an early career researcher with an interest in finding out more about UCL’s Environmental Domain, please come along.

**NERC Pre-announcement: Forthcoming Newton Fund activities**

[http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/application/currentopportunities/newton-activities/](http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/application/currentopportunities/newton-activities/)

NERC has secured funding for a number of new Newton Fund programmes and is currently developing these in collaboration with funding agencies in the partner countries.

Future programmes to be announced in 2017 include:

- **Ganga Delta - Bay of Bengal Interactions.** A joint programme with India’s Ministry of Earth Sciences to understand how the Ganga Delta and Bay of Bengal are being impacted by climate change and human activity and how the risks to the ecosystem services they provide can be mitigated.

- **Wallacea understanding biodiversity and evolutionary responses to environmental change.** A joint programme with Indonesia’s Indonesian Science Fund (DIPI) to improve our understanding and predictive capabilities of community biodiversity and dynamics, in response to environmental change.

- **Increasing resilience to hydrometeorological hazards.** Collaborative research programmes are under discussion with partners in five countries in Southeast Asia: Ristekdikti in Indonesia, NAFOSTED in Vietnam, MiGHT and
MoHE in Malaysia, PCIEERD in the Philippines and TRF and NSTDA in Thailand. The aim of each programme will be to improve understanding of impacts of hydrometeorological hazards and how to increase resilience. It is anticipated that workshops will be held for each of these activities. The timing and venue of each workshop is to be confirmed, but they are likely to be in the autumn and take place in the partner countries. Once the arrangements for the workshops are confirmed, NERC will issue calls for participants, open to researchers working in relevant disciplines and eligible for NERC funding.

**NERC Call for ideas for strategic research**

**Deadlines: Highlight topics 16 May, Strategic Programme Areas 7 September**

[http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/portfolio/strategic/ideas/](http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/portfolio/strategic/ideas/)

NERC is inviting the environmental science community to submit new ideas for strategic research. NERC is seeking ideas for research challenges that should be priorities for strategic research investments through strategic programme areas and highlight topics. NERC would welcome ideas from both researchers and those who use environmental science research.

If you have any queries, please contact idea@nerc.ac.uk

**2017 Rick Battarbee Lecture: Eric Wolff on Ice Cores and Interglacials**

18 May 5pm

[https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2017-rick-battarbee-lecture-tickets-32276885032](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2017-rick-battarbee-lecture-tickets-32276885032)

The 6th Rick Battarbee Lecture will be given by Professor Eric Wolff FRS. Eric is a Royal Society Research Professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at Cambridge University. After graduating as a chemist, he has studied ice cores from the Antarctic and Greenland for the past 30 years, using them to understand changing climate, as well as changing levels of pollution in remote areas. He also carries out research into the chemistry of the lower parts of the Antarctic atmosphere. Until June 2013, he led a programme at the British Antarctic Survey. He chaired the science committee of the European Project for Ice Coring in Antarctica (EPICA), which produced 800,000 year records of climate from the Dome C (Antarctica) ice core and co-chairs the international initiative (IPICS) to coordinate future ice core research. His main research goal is to understand the causes of climate evolution over recent glacial cycles. He was elected as FRS in 2010, and led the Royal Society team in a joint initiative with the National Academy of Sciences on explaining climate science “Climate change: evidence and causes” in 2013. Eric has received a number of accolades in recognition of his work, including the Louis Agassiz Medal of the European Geosciences Union (2009) and the Lyell Medal of the Geological Society of London (2012). He was one of the founding Chief Editors of the journal Climate of the Past.

**Ice cores and interglacials**
The polar ice sheets hold one of Earth’s great sedimentary records. By drilling ice cores from Greenland and Antarctica, we can obtain ice that fell as snow, extending back so far 800,000 years in Antarctica and over 120,000 years in Greenland. Ice cores contain information about climate and numerous other environmental parameters; crucially the air bubbles trapped in the ice give access to the past composition of the atmosphere, including the greenhouse gas concentrations. In this talk I will first discuss the strengths and weaknesses of ice cores, and then demonstrate how ice cores are collected. I will then present some highlights of recent ice core research, including the information they have given us about interglacials. This will lead me to a more general discussion about interglacials. They provide examples of warm periods in the past, but where we still have a reasonable amount of information. The last interglacial offers an especially useful example, and I will discuss the issue of estimating what happened to the Antarctic and Greenland ice sheet at a time when sea level appears to have been elevated. Finally I will discuss prospects for obtaining even older ice in the future.

UCL - Seeds of culture Lecture
19 June 2017
http://events.ucl.ac.uk/event/event:klg-j152kny7-nz9ndu

Since Vedic times healing plants and specifics of their curative properties were well known to physicians and healers from all levels of Indian society. A large body of European books from the 16-19th centuries also document folk and classical medical traditions of India, collected from indigenous sources. With the ability to study complex molecular pathways and chemistry of their properties that were unknown at the time, are these works are now valuable resources to be revisited with contemporary scientific methods?
With Dr Annamma Spudich (Visiting Professor, National Center for Biological Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bangalore, India); Prof Michael Heinrich (Professor of Medicinal Plant Research, UCL School of Pharmacy); and Prof Frances Brodsky (Director, UCL Division of Biosciences).

Extreme Value Analysis and Application to Natural Hazards (EVAN) Conference
12-14 September 2017, NOC Southampton
https://evan2017.wordpress.com/

Following the success of the first international conference on Extreme Value Analysis and Application to Natural Hazards (EVAN) in Siegen, Germany in 2013 and the second conference in Santander, Spain in 2015, we are pleased to announce the dates of the third conference to take place in Southampton, UK.

The overall aim of the conference is to bring together and promote interchange between a diverse community of research scientists, students, practitioners and stakeholders concerned with the complex and inter-disciplinary topic of analyzing, understanding and predicting natural hazard events.
Organisers: Ivan Haigh (University of Southampton), Thomas Wahl (University of Central Florida), Ben Gouldby (HR Wallingford) and Pietro Bernardara (EDF Energy).

**UCL Research Staff Hub website**
http://www.ucl.ac.uk/hr/od/research-hub/index.php

The new UCL Research Staff Hub website, an online platform hosted by Organisational Development, provides a single point of access that supports self-service and the collection of evidence to demonstrate cross disciplinary research activities and development opportunities across UCL. The research-hub together with the bespoke research programmes are part of an initiative to enhance the provision for supporting the development of our UCL research staff.

**POSTnotes research topics include Environment and Energy**
http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/offices/bicameral/post/about-post/post-board/

The Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST) Board plays a central role in ensuring POST continues to provide Parliament with first-rate information and advice on matters of relevance.

Members of the Board convened in early 2017 and have selected the following research topics for upcoming POSTnotes:

**Biological Sciences and Health**
- Regulating Advanced Therapies
- EU Clinical Trials Regulation

**Environment and Energy**
- Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture
- *Update to Sea Level Rise* POSTnote 363
- Benefits of Earth Observation Systems
- Environmental Effects of Engineered Nanoparticles

**Physical sciences**
- Social Media and Access to Information

**Social sciences**
- Communicating Risk
- Migrants and Housing

Those interested should contact post@parliament.uk for further information, and afterwards UCL Public Policy (S.chaytor@ucl.ac.uk) would be very happy to provide advice and support as required.

**Seeking Environment Research Photographs**
No deadline
If you have any good quality photographs that you would be willing for the Environment Domain to use in publicity material, please do send them to environment@ucl.ac.uk along with a brief description and any necessary permissions information (particularly if you didn't take the photograph, or if individuals are particularly prominent).

Your images could be used on the website, in printed material, on social media and in presentations – always with your credit attached. By submitting an image, you agree to it being used as such, unless specifically communicated at the time (we may not follow up to check permissions so please be explicit).

We would encourage you to invite your PhD students to send in images taken during their studies and research into environment related issues.