# UCL Environment Domain

## Opportunities & Notices

**May 2018**

### OPPORTUNITIES

- **The Prince's Countryside Fund Opens for Spring 2018 Round**
  - Deadline: 14 June 2018 (5pm)
- **EPSRC - Healthcare Impact Partnerships Call 2018/2019**
  - Deadline: 23 August 2018
- **NERC - Innovation Placements**
  - Deadline: 04 July 2018
- **UKRI - Smart Energy Systems of the Future**
- **British Council Newton Fund Grants:**
  - Deadline: 08 June 2018
- **ERC – Proof Of Concept 2018**
  - Call closes: 5 September 2018
- **Horizon 2020 Marie Sklodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships**
  - Call closes: 12 September 2018
- **NERC Pre-announcement: NERC UK Geoenergy Observatories project - Community event.**
- **UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships scheme**
  - Call closes (Expression of Interest): 7 June 2018
- **Announcement of Opportunity: National capability services & facilities commissioning - isotope and radiocarbon facility**
  - Call closes: 26 July 2018
- **NERC - Innovation placements**
  - Call closes: 4 July 2018
- **GFS - Resilience of the UK Food System in a Global Context**
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Opportunities

The Prince’s Countryside Fund Opens for Spring 2018 Round
Deadline: 14 June 2018 (5pm)
http://www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/grant-giving-programme/grant-programme

The Prince’s Countryside Fund was established to support the sustainability and protection of farms and rural communities throughout the UK. The aim of the funding is to have a long-term positive impact on rural communities, helping those that live and work there to sustain the countryside by tackling key rural issues. The objectives for the Spring 2018 round are as follows:

- **Improving the prospects of viability for family farm businesses.** Projects should focus on developing stronger, more sustainable farm businesses and other rural enterprises with the aim of halting the decline of the rural economy.

- **Sustaining Rural Communities and driving Economic Vibrancy.** Projects should provide innovative solutions to deliver assets and services that keep rural communities together and develop a more sustainable rural economy.

- **Supporting Aid Delivery in Emergency and Building Resilience.** Projects should support farm businesses, rural businesses and communities to plan for and recover from natural disasters such as flooding or animal disease. Groups that are considering applying under this theme should contact the Fund’s Grant Manager to discuss their proposed activity in more detail.

Not-for-profit organisations, charities, social enterprises, Community Interest Companies, companies limited by guarantee, and unincorporated associations based and working within the UK can apply for grants of up to a maximum of £50,000 (inclusive of VAT) to a maximum period of three years.

EPSRC - Healthcare Impact Partnerships Call 2018/2019
Deadline: 23 August 2018
https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/calls/hips2018/

EPSRC will shortly be inviting proposals for Healthcare Impact Partnerships. This call is a follow-up to calls in 2013, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17. A budget of up to £5 million will be available to support 5-7 projects that progress previous EPSRC-funded research towards generating impact in healthcare. This call is intended to support novel Engineering and Physical Sciences research that is aligned to the Healthcare Technologies theme strategy and contributes to at least one of the Healthcare Technologies Grand Challenges. Applicants will be required to partner with both clinicians and business, bringing together a range of expertise to provide the support and guidance required to promote impact in the healthcare sector. This call will be open to Principal Investigators, from eligible UK research organisations, that have been a principal investigator or co-investigator on an EPSRC research grant that completed on or after 01 April 2013 (inclusive) or is due to finish by 01 April 2019.

https://epsrc.ukri.org/funding/calls/hips2018/

Call opens: June 2018
Intent to submit: 12 July 2018
Call closes: 23 August 2018

NERC - Innovation Placements
NERC invites academic researchers (at post-doctoral level or above) to apply for an Innovation Placement, duration between 3-12 months, working within a non-academic host organisation such as a private business, third-sector organisation or public body. This can be on a specified project or one of their choosing, which is organised with the host organisation independently of NERC. Researchers will explore and demonstrate how these 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, and/or to inform policy and decision making in relation to the environment.

The objectives of the Innovation Placements scheme are to:

- initiate collaborations, or deliver a step-change in existing collaborative activity, between academics and non-academic partner (host) organisations, leading to longer-term self-sustaining activities undertaken by the latter
- provide opportunities to enhance the capacity of NERC’s academic community to engage with, and meet the business needs of, private, public, policy and third-sector users of environmental evidence
- generate evidence and case studies of how non-academic organisations have used, or could use, environmental science research outcomes in collaboration with academics, to add value to their operations through the innovative use of new tools, data or expertise.

Projects must fall within the NERC remit and must identify clear examples of where environmental science research, data and skills can be used to make a real difference to non-academic organisations, starting from a clear articulation of the user needs and drawing on existing science and expertise. Projects must identify how research-council-funded research feeds into the existing activities, tools and processes of users, identifying current gaps and potential future needs.

Each project will involve a non-academic partner in the capacity of the host organisation, and one (or exceptionally a maximum of two) academic researchers who will undertake the placement, spending between 80% and 100% of their time embedded in the partner organisation on the placement.

Host organisations gain from having a placement undertake a focused piece of translational or innovative work (not research) of direct benefit to their specific organisation.

NERC will cover 100% direct costs of the researcher's salary on a pro-rata basis, including superannuation, National Insurance and specific allowances. Travel and subsistence costs, including accommodation, may also be requested.

**UKRI- Smart Energy Systems of the Future**

UK Research and Innovation through Innovate UK and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), today launched a fund to develop and prove smart energy systems of the future at scale. The Energy Revolution Fund is part of the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund, and will catalyse and demonstrate new approaches that deliver cleaner, cheaper energy. It will bring together the latest low carbon power, heating and transport systems, energy storage and smart systems using advanced IT to create intelligent local energy systems and services. The programme will launch with two initial competitions for funding totalling £41.5 million.
Details of further activity will be announced shortly. Programme events will take place across the UK in April and May. Competition briefing events will be held on 15 May in London.

The Government's Industrial Strategy has set out four Grand Challenges in areas and industries in which the UK is determined to pioneer progress. Under the Clean Growth Grand Challenge, the Government is investing in making the UK a world leader in low carbon technologies, systems and services that are cheaper than higher carbon alternatives.

**British Council Newton Fund Grants:**

**Deadline: 08 June 2018**

Challenge areas for all the schemes below (different partner countries – see below – may have a subset of these as priority areas; for Russia, all natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities are covered):

- Agriculture,
- Biodiversity,
- Climate and environment,
- Sustainable energy for all,
- Education research and innovation for development,
- Economic growth,
- Health,
- Water and sanitation,
- Food and nutrition (including food security),
- Demographic change and migration,
- Rural and urban development,
- Infrastructure (including civil engineering, information and communication technologies, big data for social and economic development),
- Humanitarian disasters and emergencies, disaster risk reduction,
- Resilient and connected communities,
- Governance, society, and conflict,
- Development-relevant data collection, quality, and access.

**Researcher Links Travel Grants**

Researcher Links Travel Grants provide financial support for early-career researchers to undertake an international research placement to strengthen links for future collaboration, build research capacity in developing economies, and enhance the researcher’s career opportunities.

Researchers that reside in the UK can apply for funding to visit a university or research institution in one of the partner countries, and those residing in one of the partner countries can apply for funding to come to the UK.

Applicants must be based either in the UK, or in one of the partner countries listed above, and be affiliated with a recognised publicly funded research establishment or public or private HEI.

**Partner countries: Peru, the Philippines, South Africa**

Duration of visit: 1-6 months depending on the country

**Priority areas:**

Peru: Water, Health, Biodiversity

The Philippines: Health and Life Sciences, Improving environmental resilience, Improving energy security, Future cities, Digital, innovation and security
South Africa: All challenge areas
ODA requirement: All applications must meet the required relevance to economic development or social welfare of the partner country.
How much you can get: specific amounts vary by partner country
**Deadline: 8 June 2018**

**Researcher Links Workshop Grants**
Newton Researcher Links Workshops bring together early-career researchers from the UK and a partner country to make international connections that can improve the quality of their research. Once funded, grants are available for early-career researchers in the UK and the country hosting the workshop to attend.
Leading or Established Researchers can apply to be Principal Applicants. Each proposal must have one Principal Applicant from the UK, as well as a Principal Applicant from the partner countries listed above.

**Partner countries: Brazil, China, (India), Jordan, Peru, Russia**

**Priority areas:**
Brazil: Most of the challenge areas listed above
China: Health/life sciences, Environmental technologies, Food and water security, Energy, Urbanisation
(India: Chemical sciences)
Jordan: include Cultural heritage, Energy, Water Management
Peru: Water, Health, Biodiversity

**Russia: All natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities are covered (not just limited to challenge areas listed above)**
ODA requirement: Except for applications partnering with Russia, all applications must meet the required relevance to economic development or social welfare of the partner country.
How much you can get: specific amounts vary by partner country
**Deadline: 8 June 2018**

**Institutional Links Grants**
Newton Institutional Links Grants aim to build UK-partner country research and innovation collaborations centred on shared research and innovation challenges which have direct relevance to social welfare and economic development. This programme is designed to establish links beyond the level of the individual researcher and innovation practitioner, opening up opportunities for more sustainable, solution-oriented collaborations between academic groups as well as with the private and third sector (e.g. SMEs, NGOs, technology transfer offices and other not-for-profit organisations).
Leading or Established Researchers can apply to be Principal Applicants. Each proposal must have one Principal Applicant from the UK, as well as a Principal Applicant from the partner countries listed above.

**Partner countries: Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, Thailand (Turkey & Vietnam are expected to join the call later)**

**Priority areas:**
Indonesia: include Information & communication technology, Disaster management, Social humanities – art of culture – education
Mexico: include Health, Sustainable Mobility, Smart Cities, Education, Information and Communication Technology, Sustainable Development
Peru: Water, Health, Biodiversity
The Philippines: include Health and Life Sciences, Improving environmental resilience, Improving energy security, Future cities, Digital, innovation and security
Thailand: Big data, Artificial Intelligence and Brain Science, Robotics, Innovation-oriented education research for capacity-building, Demographic change and rural/urban development, Governance, society and conflict, Health & Life Sciences, Energy
ODA requirement: All applications must meet the required relevance to economic development or social welfare of the partner country.
How much you can get: £50k-150k for up to 12 months
**Deadline: 8 June 2018**

**ERC – Proof Of Concept 2018**

Call closes: 5 September 2018
[https://erc.europa.eu/funding/proof-concept](https://erc.europa.eu/funding/proof-concept)

If you already received an ERC grant for your frontier research project and now want to explore the commercial or societal potential of your work then ERC Proof of Concept Grant could be for you.

All Principal Investigators in an ERC frontier research project, that is either on going or has ended less than 12 months before 1 January 2017, are eligible to participate and apply for an ERC Proof of Concept Grant. The Principal Investigator must be able to demonstrate the relation between the idea to be taken to proof of concept and the ERC frontier research project (Starting, Consolidator, Advanced or Synergy) in question.

The ERC Proof of Concept funding is made available only to those who already have an ERC award to establish proof of concept of an idea that was generated in the course of their ERC-funded projects.

The activities to be funded shall draw substantially on this scientifically excellent ERC-funded research. However the additional funding is not aimed at extending the original research or predominantly concerned with overcoming obstacles to practical application.

The funding will cover activities at the very early stage of turning research outputs into a commercial or socially valuable proposition, i.e. the initial steps of pre-competitive development.

The funding can be used to:
- Establish viability, technical issues and overall direction
- Clarify intellectual property rights position and strategy
- Provide feedback for budgeting and other forms of commercial discussion
- Provide connections to later stage funding
- Cover initial expenses for establishing a company

Proof of Concept Grants are up to €150 000 for a period of 18 months. More than one Proof of Concept Grant may be awarded per ERC funded frontier research project but only one Proof of Concept project may be running at any one time for the same ERC frontier research project.

**Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships**

Call closes: 12 September 2018

Fellowships take the form of European Fellowships or Global Fellowships. European Fellowships are held in EU Member States or Horizon 2020 Associated Countries and are open to researchers either coming to Europe from any country in the world or
moving within Europe. The researcher must comply with the rules of mobility in the
country where the European Fellowship is held.
Direct return to and long-term reintegration of researchers in Europe, including in their
country of origin, is supported via a separate multi-disciplinary reintegration panel of
the European Fellowships. For the reintegration panel, there must be direct mobility
to the country of the beneficiary in Europe from a third country (compulsory national
service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account).
Support for individuals to resume research in Europe after a career break, e.g. after
parental leave or due to recent migration, is ensured via a separate multi-disciplinary
career restart panel of the European Fellowships. To qualify for the career restart
panel, researchers must not have been active in research for a continuous period of at
least 12 months within the 18 months immediately prior to the deadline for submission.
Researchers seeking to work on research and innovation projects in an organisation
from the non-academic sector will be supported via a separate multi-disciplinary
society and enterprise panel of the European Fellowships. The objective of this panel
is to facilitate career moves between the academic and non-academic sectors, to
stimulate innovation, and to open attractive career opportunities for researchers
outside academia.
The Widening Fellowships, implemented through Work Programme part 15, Spreading
Excellence and Widening Participation, provide specific support to researchers to
undertake their fellowship in a Widening Country (the following Member States –
Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania,
Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia – and the following
Associated Countries – Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, the
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia,
Tunisia, Turkey, and Ukraine). This will help spread excellence and close the still-
apparent research and innovation gap within Europe.
Global Fellowships are based on a secondment to a third country and a mandatory 12-
month return period to a European host. The researcher must comply with the rules
of mobility in the country where the Global Fellowship secondment will take place, not
for the country of the return phase.
How much you can get: generous fellowships whose exact value is different in different
countries

NERC Pre-announcement: NERC UK Geoenergy Observatories project - Community event
https://nerc.ukri.org/funding/available/capital/ukgeos/community-event/
NERC is investing £31 million in a project to establish two centres for research into
the subsurface environment, and is organising an open meeting at the Royal Society
in London on **Tuesday 26 June 2018** to update the research community on progress
with the project.
This is an open meeting for anyone in the research community with an interest in
using the facilities in future. Information on design of the facilities and installed
instrumentation, and the anticipated timetable for their construction and subsequent
availability for research, will be provided.
Those who might normally approach any of the research councils for funding are
welcome to attend. There will also be time for networking and discussion of potential
collaborations or partnerships.
Places are by registration only: to register please complete the online registration form by 09:00 on 30 May 2018.

**UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships scheme**

Call closes (Expression of Interest): 7 June 2018

https://www.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/future-leaders-fellowships/

The UK Research and Innovation Future Leaders Fellowships (FLF) will grow the strong supply of talented individuals needed to ensure that UK research and innovation continues to be world class.

The FLF scheme welcomes applications from both UK and international applicants and individuals should use the person specification to assess and justify their suitability for the scheme. The support of the institution will be a critical component of all fellowships which will enable the fellow to transition to or establish their research/innovation independence in any area supported by UKRI.

The objectives of the scheme are:

- to develop, retain, attract and sustain research and innovation talent in the UK
- to foster new research and innovation career paths including those at the academic/business and interdisciplinary boundaries, and facilitate movement of people between sectors
- to provide sustained funding and resources for the best early career researchers and innovators
- to provide long-term, flexible funding to tackle difficult and novel challenges, and support adventurous, ambitious programmes.

These Fellowships support applicants from diverse career paths, including those returning from a career break or following time in other roles. We also encourage applications from those wishing to work part-time in order to combine the fellowship with personal responsibilities. Review panels will take into account time spent outside an active research or innovation environment, whether through career breaks, flexible working or as a consequence of working in other roles.

The support offered will be long-term and flexible and will provide comprehensive package of support, including the fellow's salary and justified research, staff and training costs, with seven years of support available on a 4+3 model, with a review in year four. The case for support should make clear the long-term aims of the programme, and why they matter – while providing more specific plans and costings for the first four years.

There will be six calls for these fellowships; two calls per year between 2018-19 and 2020-21 (financial years), typically awarding at least 100 fellowships per call across UKRI's remit (with the initial round being smaller, aiming to award ~50 fellowships). This is a single scheme across the entire UKRI remit, with no ringfenced budgets for specific areas and no barriers to interdisciplinary or cross-sector research.

If you are considering applying for a Future Leaders Fellowship, please speak to your head of department, as the fellowship requires a substantial commitment from the institution. Also, please let your research facilitation team know. For BEAMS please contact Khaled Taalab.

**Announcement of Opportunity: National capability services & facilities commissioning - Isotope and radiocarbon facility**

Call closes: 26 July 2018

http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/application/currentopportunities/ao-sfr2/
NERC is inviting eligible UK higher education institutions (HEIs), NERC research centres and independent research organisations (IROs) to apply to the second round of services and facilities (S&F) commissioning. NERC will commission both a single radiocarbon and a single isotope facility for a five-year period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2024. A maximum of £5 million of transformative capital may be allocated for this round of commissioning. Applicants are invited to include details of any additional capital investment needs for up to three scenarios of £1 million, £3 million and £5 million. Capital requests should be proposed using the justification for transformational capital form and included within the submission. The assessment panel will meet in October 2018 (date to be confirmed). Applicants will be notified of the outcomes between October and November 2018, with awards starting April 2019.

**NERC - Innovation placements**

Call closes: 4 July 2018

[https://nerc.ukri.org/funding/available/schemes/innovation-placements/](https://nerc.ukri.org/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 (a selection to be provided once the call has opened) 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. 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.

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NERC science can make an important contribution to economic growth and quality of life. For the UK to remain competitive in a global economy, we need to ensure that scientific advances are translated swiftly into a form that is useful to stakeholders including business, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the government. These stakeholders use NERC research for many purposes, including:

- providing the scientific evidence necessary to inform public policy and business strategy as our environment alters
- protecting people and minimising costs through better forecasting of environmental hazards
- creating wealth by providing business with the starting point for new or improved products, services and solutions.

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.

**GFS - Resilience of the UK Food System in a Global Context**

Call closes: 23 May 2018

[https://www.idoxgrantfinder.co.uk/education/News/View/GRUKRESIN8692](https://www.idoxgrantfinder.co.uk/education/News/View/GRUKRESIN8692)
Funding is available to attend a Sandpit event to address the UK's food system so it is based on healthy and sustainable diets, and how this would impact on sustainable and resilient food production and supply.

Global Food Security (GFS) coordinates scientific research supported by its partners across government departments and agencies, the devolved administrations, Research Councils and Innovate UK.

GFS's Resilience of the UK Food System in a Global Context initiative has announced a third call to take part in a Sandpit event. The Sandpit will be an intensive, interactive and free-thinking workshop, involving a diverse group of up to 30 participants from a range of disciplines and backgrounds.

Expressions of interest are invited from early career researchers at lecturer level or equivalent to take part in the Sandpit (2.5 days on 4-6 July 2018 followed by 2 days on 19-20 July 2018; venue to be confirmed) to address the following question:

- How can we transform our food system so it is based on healthy and sustainable diets and how would this impact on sustainable and resilient food production and supply?

The Sandpit will develop new outline proposals, a number of which will be selected to submit as full proposals for projects that will be for two years in duration. Successful proposals developed through the Sandpit process will be jointly funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and the Scottish Government.

Up to £1.8 million (80% FEC) is available to support the proposals selected.

**NERC - Pre-announcement: Global Partnerships Seedcorn Fund 2018**

[http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/partnerships/international/iov/news/pre-gpsf18/](http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/partnerships/international/iov/news/pre-gpsf18/)

NERC is launching a new annual scheme, the Global Partnerships Seedcorn Fund, to support UK environmental science researchers to establish new collaborations with international partners. This scheme replaces NERC's International Opportunities Fund (IOF). The Global Partnerships Seedcorn Fund will support UK environmental science researchers to develop new, 'best with best' international partnerships and networks, which underpin the development of long-term collaborations.

Key features of the scheme are:

- Standard NERC principal investigator eligibility rules apply. New investigators, who may not already have international research partners, are encouraged to apply.
- A single level of grant up to £100,000 (100% full economic cost) over two years, with a total annual budget of £1 million.
- One or more international project partners are mandatory.
- Proposals will be directly evaluated by an assessment panel of independent academic experts.
- An announcement of opportunity will be published annually in March and close in early May. Funding decisions will be made in July with awards to start from September.

**UCL - Knowledge exchange funding opportunities for UCL staff**
Deadline(s): from 29 April 2018 (check individual schemes)

https://www.ucl.ac.uk/enterprise/support-staff-and-students/access-funding/knowledge-exchange-funding-opportunities-ucl-staff

UCL Innovation and Enterprise work with all academic disciplines to promote knowledge exchange to help engagement with the wider world. Find out what funding is available.

UCL Innovation and Enterprise managed funding is available in the following five areas:

- **pre-commercialisation studies**, in collaboration with UCLB (all subjects)
- starting **innovative knowledge exchange projects** (for all subjects, and with extra funding for projects related to EPSRC and STFC grants)
- **discovery-to-use** - significant support is available for the development of the application of research to an industry setting (related to EPSRC grants only)
- **secondments**, whether to industry, social enterprises and charities (enterprise), or to government departments (policy) (related to EPSRC grants only)
- **support for establishing continuing professional development (CPD) courses**, a process facilitated by UCL Life Learning (all subjects)

**INTERREG NWE Targeted Call for Renewable Energy Projects**

Call closes: 12:00 (noon) CET, 31 July 2018


The Interreg North West Europe Programme has opened a Targeted Call for renewable energy projects.

The Programme is specifically looking for projects with a strong demonstration focus and an implementation phase that actively transfers results to other areas/regions/sectors. Projects are expected to have a strong impact as regards overcoming barriers for and support the uptake of renewable energy solutions and it is expected that projects will ensure that new technologies are adopted in regions and cities, enterprises or other organisations. The roll-out of technologies and solutions should also target regions that are lagging behind in order to reduce disparities within NWE. On this basis, applications for proposed projects with a larger budget than the average budget for currently funded Low Carbon projects will be accepted. A maximum of €50 million is available for the Call.

In particular, the Programme is looking for projects that deal with the demonstration, implementation and roll-out of:

- Solutions that increase the share of renewable energies in the production and consumption mix.
- New and emerging renewable energy technologies to make them more cost-efficient and compatible with other primary energy sources’ technologies.
- Storage capacities of renewable energies.
- Hybrid solutions (ie combination of two or more renewable energy technologies) to increase synergies and drive down costs.
- Solutions on new grid technologies at large-scale.
- Solutions to realise carbon free mobility.
- Solutions related to alternative transport fuels (eg 2nd and 3rd generation biofuels).
- Optimised energy management systems (e.g., flexible generation and consumption as well as storage) to better match demand and supply (like for example Smart City Solutions for residential living and industrial areas).

The Call is open to all the participating countries, including the United Kingdom and Ireland. Projects should bring together partners from at least three different countries (usually more) of which two must be from within the NWE area. Partners can include national, regional and local authorities, universities, R&D agencies, non-profit organisations as well as private partners, including profit-making partners such as SMEs.

**GCRF Networking Grants**

Call closes: 17:00, 21 March 2018 (Round 3 will open in June 2018, and will close in July 2018)

https://www.britac.ac.uk/gcrf-networking-grants

The Academy of Medical Sciences in partnership with the British Academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering, and the Royal Society, is delighted to announce the second call for applications to a new scheme to allow researchers from developing countries and the UK to forge new links and hold networking events to generate innovative and interdisciplinary research ideas to address global challenges.

This scheme is targeted at experienced researchers who are looking to form new international collaborations. The maximum amount available is £25,000, of which £5,000 can be used for consumables for pilot experiments, archival research or fieldwork. The remainder can be used to contribute towards travel and subsistence costs, costs associated with networking events, administrative support and access to technical support.

Grants cannot be used to pay for salary costs or to employ research assistants, PhD students or postdoctoral staff.

Applications should focus on building a collaborative network and therefore should be submitted jointly by a lead overseas researcher from a developing country and a lead researcher based in the UK.

To be eligible to apply, both applicants must:
- Have completed a PhD or have experience at an equivalent level
- Have proven research experience in their field
- Hold a permanent position at an eligible institution (in the UK or a DAC-listed country), or a fixed-term contract for the duration of the award

Lead applicants must not be affiliated to a private or commercial organisation.

Applications will not be considered if there is more than one UK co-applicant or an overseas applicant not from a DAC-listed country.

**Announcement of Opportunity: National capability services & facilities commissioning - Isotope and radiocarbon facility**

Call closes: 26 July 2018

http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/application/currentopportunities/ao-sfr2/

NERC is inviting eligible UK higher education institutions (HEIs), NERC research centres and independent research organisations (IROs) to apply to the second round of services and facilities (S&F) commissioning. NERC will commission both a single radiocarbon and a single isotope facility for a five-year period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2024. A maximum of £5 million of transformative capital may be allocated.
for this round of commissioning. Applicants are invited to include details of any additional capital investment needs for up to three scenarios of £1 million, £3 million and £5 million. Capital requests should be proposed using the justification for transformational capital form and included within the submission. The assessment panel will meet in October 2018 (date to be confirmed). Applicants will be notified of the outcomes between October and November 2018, with awards starting April 2019.

NERC Follow-on Fund Pathfinder

Open deadline
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).

**Notices**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment Domain – Working Groups and Internal Advisory Network</th>
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<td>The Environment Domain invites researchers to join one or more working groups around the following themes:</td>
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<td>• Climate</td>
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<td>• Water</td>
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<td>• Urban</td>
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<td>• Health</td>
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The purpose of the thematic working groups is to better engage with researchers, from early career to established academics and to foster collaboration across disciplines to develop new research ideas. In the first instance, we intend to support each working group in holding a theme workshop. The core activities for these initial workshops will be to share existing activities and explore potential future projects and collaboration.

We are looking to recruit ‘theme leads’ to work with the Environment Domain Research Facilitator to coordinate and drive forward research activities. The leads would also be invited to join the Environment Domain’s Internal Advisory Network, to engage with the wider environment community around the theme’s progress.

If you are interested in joining a working group, becoming a theme lead, or just want more information, please contact environment@ucl.ac.uk

eResearch Domain Conference on AI
Deadline: 25 May 2018
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id= oivH5ipW0yTySEKEdmlwpBitOyyBWZNJ_3uCG6SEb9UMVc3MURWUTBSVEdJTU0wSDVXWkJZV1A3TC4u

The eResearch Domain is organising a conference on artificial intelligence (11 June) which has a lightning talk session focused on applied machine learning to projects that affect or influence one of these three areas:
- Health and Wellbeing
- Our World, Our Universe
- Society and Culture

The Environment Domain encourage students and researchers, whose projects involve artificial intelligence, to participate and circulate it to your career’s. There is a short online form to complete by 25th May.
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id= oivH5ipW0yTySEKEdmlwpBitOyyBWZNJ_3uCG6SEb9UMVc3MURWUTBSVEdJTU0wSDVXWkJZV1A3TC4u

The objective of the conference is to facilitate knowledge exchange between researches involved in fundamental AI and applied AI research, and to encourage collaborations.

New Knowledge Exchange Funding Call
Deadline: 19 June
https://www.ucl.ac.uk/enterprise/news/2018/may/apply-new-knowledge-exchange-funding-opportunities

BEAMS staff are invited to apply for several knowledge exchange funding opportunities managed and distributed by UCL Innovation and Enterprise. Activities funded include pre-commercialisation studies, collaborative technology development, secondments and research user partnership development activities.

Funding is available from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council’s Impact Acceleration Account (EPSRC IAA) plus various other schemes. Awards range from £3,000 for small knowledge exchange projects, up to £100,000 for larger ‘discovery-to-use’ projects related to EPSRC-funded research.

Since 2012, more than 180 BEAMS-related projects have received EPSRC IAA funding from UCL Innovation and Enterprise. More than £1.35m of EPSRC IAA
funding has been distributed to 32 BEAMS-related projects since last September, with more to come during the course of this year.

The latest funding call opened on May 7th, with a closing date of June 10th for submissions. Staff can also apply for funding to develop online short courses and continuing professional development. This call also opened on May 7th, with a closing date of June 19th. For details see https://www.ucl.ac.uk/enterprise/news/2018/may/apply-new-knowledge-exchange-funding-opportunities. Contact knowledge.exchange@ucl.ac.uk if you have any queries.

**UKRI stakeholder events focusing on place**

Event: 27 June
https://www.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/ukri-stakeholder-events/

UKRI are holding a number of events across the country during May and June to discuss how UK Research and Innovation can play its part in responding to the UK Government's focus on innovation and ‘place’.

The purpose of these events is to hear the latest thinking from the cross-council UK Research and Innovation team working on place on how science, research, innovation and skills provision is expected to play a part in driving productivity and economic growth throughout the regions and nations of the UK.

UKRI are specifically looking to engage in discussion on how clusters can help accelerate local economic growth and are interested in the views of businesses and research organisations who are actively involved with the engagement of civic partners. These events are aimed at businesses, research organisations and civic partners who are actively engaged in the development of research and innovation clusters.

There are events in London on Wednesday 27 June (morning and afternoon events). More information and details of how to register is available [here](https://www.ukri.org/funding/funding-opportunities/ukri-stakeholder-events/)

**Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) Grants Workshop: Sharing Knowledge, Increasing Funding Success**

Event: Monday 4 June | 1.30 - 5.00pm
Venue: Room 780, UCL Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way

Registration is now open for the rearranged Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) Grants Workshop: Sharing Knowledge & Increasing Funding Success on Monday 4 June from 1.30-5.00pm at the UCL Institute of Education.

The aim of this UCL-wide workshop is to bring together academics from all 4 UCL Schools who have won a GCRF grant with those who intend to apply in the next 12-24 months. The workshop will consider how to maximise the chances of winning these awards through: sharing lessons learnt, including experiences of successfully building multidisciplinary groups, grantsmanship, and looking at problems/issues that arose and their solutions. There will be plenty of opportunity for cross-institution networking.
The workshop will be split into two sessions:

1. Brief presentations from successful GCRF or large multidisciplinary grant holders.
2. Round table discussions allowing attendees to interrogate the key challenges and opportunities around GCRF funding.

We expect the workshop to be attended by UCL academics from across all 4 Schools. The workshop is aimed at PIs and Co-Is, or those who have been heavily involved in putting together an application in the past (regardless of outcome), as well as those who are currently working in LMICs and/or are planning to submit an application to a GCRF call in the future.

Register to attend

Places at this workshop are limited so please register as soon as possible. If the workshop proves useful, it may run again in the future. If you are unable to attend, but you would like to hear about any future events then please still register but select the option 'Unable to attend but I would like to hear more

For more details contact Helen Hopkins, SLSM ODA research Facilitator, h.hopkins@ucl.ac.uk

Global Opportunities for Early Careers Staff
Event: 04 June 2018
Do you want to learn about UCL funding opportunities (including global funds)? Are you interested in finding out how to write for international journal publications? This half-day conference held on Monday 04 June 2018 will raise awareness of UCL funding opportunities for early career staff and provide support for preparing for the REF by understanding how to write for an international audience. The conference will end with a lively networking session with drinks and canapé reception. Do come along and meet fellow early career staff just like you!

There will be presentations from Professor David Bogle, Pro-Vice Provost for Research, Richard Laughlin, Head of Organisational Development and Professor Gudrun Moore, Pro-Vice Provost International, and four postdocs who have recently received internal funds from the global office for their European research. There will be an opportunity to hear from Professor David Price, Vice-Provost (Research), about the REF and to find out from a range of high ranking journal editors what it is they are looking for from international publication submissions.

Further details and registration

NERC – Ganga Delta - Bay of Bengal Interactions sandpit event
Registration closes: 22 May 2018
https://nerc.ukri.org/research/funded/programmes/ganga/
NERC are inviting applications from UK scientists to attend a joint sandpit event on the proposed Ganga Delta - Bay of Bengal Interactions programme, in conjunction with India's Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), with support from the Newton-Bhabha Fund, in Kolkata the week commencing 11-13 September 2018.

NERC, working with MoES, are planning a major investment in research that will provide an improved understanding of 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.

The investment provides the opportunity for UK scientists to form substantial collaborations with Indian scientists to undertake research.

As an initial step to help build partnerships and facilitate collaboration, NERC and MoES will hold the sandpit event 11-13 September in Kolkata. The sandpit event will be an intensive workshop running over three days and will bring together approximately 40 academics from across the UK and India to facilitate the development of interdisciplinary research proposals, which will address challenges related to Ganga Delta - Bay of Bengal Interactions.

In order to participate, applicants must be available for the whole of the three-day sandpit event (plus one day either side will be needed for travel, which might include travel at the weekend) week commencing 10 September, and must also be able to obtain a visa and travel to India.

Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement to Reopen in May

Call closes: 27 July 2018

https://www.idoxgrantfinder.co.uk/education/News/View/GRUKRESIN8322

The John and Alice Tyler Prize is awarded for environmental science, health and energy conferring great benefit upon humanity. The Prize is endowed by gifts from the John and Alice Tyler Charitable Trusts, and awardees are chosen annually by the Executive Committee. The University of Southern California administers the Tyler Prize.

Prizes are awarded for any one of the following:

- The protection, maintenance, improvement or understanding of an ecological or an environmental condition anywhere in the world.
- The discovery, further development, improvement, or understanding of known or new sources of energy.
- Medical discoveries or achievements with such worldwide implications that they significantly benefit environmental aspects of human health.

Recipients of the Tyler Prize are honoured in an illustrious ceremony, presented with the Tyler Prize medallion and awarded USD$200,000.

Living individuals or public or private institutions of any nation are eligible for nomination. Persons or institutions eligible to make nominations include, but are not limited to: any individuals or entity in fields such as biology, oceanography, geology, medicine, public health, chemistry, physics, engineering and social science.

UCL - SAVE THE DATE “Global Opportunities for Early Careers Staff
14:00 – 19:00 4th June 2018
Come and find out about UCL funding opportunities and how to write for international journal publications. The (free) half day conference will end with a lively networking session with drinks reception. Do come along and meet fellow early career staff just like you! More details (and registration details) to follow very soon.

Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST) - Topics of Interest 2018
http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/POST-PB-0027
The POST topics list sets out the topic areas identified of possible parliamentary interest under the 9 different category headings (Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Forestry, Crime, Defence, Education and Skills, Energy, Environment, Health, ICT and Robotics and Transport and Infrastructure).
Where relevant this list will inform the deliberations of the POST Board on POST’s future work programme until it is updated or replaced by future horizon scanning activities. This list of issues was initially identified from academic papers and grey literature as having an impact on public policy, and then peer reviewed to focus on those topic areas of most interest, and then narrowed to those considered to be the highest priority through a workshop with parliamentary staff.
The environment domain’s co-chair, Prof Dan Osborn contributed to the ‘Environment’ section. The full report can be downloaded at the above link.

NERC Pre-announcement: Forthcoming Newton Fund 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: Ristekdiki 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.
Green Infrastructure Partnership
The Green Infrastructure Partnership (GIP) is a rapidly growing network of more than 2,000 people and organisations that support the creation, enhancement and promotion of green infrastructure (GI) in the UK to improve quality of life, health, ecological diversity, resilience to climate change and economic attractiveness. Membership of the Green Infrastructure Partnership is free: you can join using the following link [https://www.tcpa.org.uk/gip-newsletter](https://www.tcpa.org.uk/gip-newsletter)

The GIP enables people to share information - research, innovation, news and best practice - via newsletters and events. Its strategic focus is to influence key decision-makers by ensuring they have appropriate evidence about the value of GI to inform their decisions.

GIP publish the Green Infrastructure Resource Library a free, searchable database of research and other resources about green infrastructure, and have an online calendar of green infrastructure events in the UK and Europe. The next GIP conference will be on 12 July 2018. The most recent GIP newsletter can be found here: [http://mailchi.mp/80ed96e65bde/news-and-updates-from-the-green-infrastructure-partnership-924601?e=95a1ee6397](http://mailchi.mp/80ed96e65bde/news-and-updates-from-the-green-infrastructure-partnership-924601?e=95a1ee6397)

Join the Environment Domain Early Careers Network (EDEN)
EDEN are looking for new committee members to join our team ([current EDEN people](#)). You will be expected to contribute with ideas, organisation of events or any activities that promotes the career of early-career researchers interested in the environment. This is an opportunity to boost your CV while networking with a friendly team of researchers from across UCL. Examples of past and planned activities are:

- A seminar series exploring the linkages between human well-being and the natural environment
- A series of talks and workshop about academic writing
- A writing retreat in collaboration with other early-career networks
- A social outing looking a wildlife around campus
- And much more!

As a recap, EDEN, UCL’s Environmental Domain Early-carer Network, is open to all researchers with an interest in environmental studies and identifying themselves as early career researchers, e.g. PhDs, post-docs, fellows and newly-appointed lecturers. Our aims are to:

- Promote multidisciplinary research
- Provide a platform for peer support, career advice, mentoring, training, funding information, etc.
- Identify and highlight key needs of early-career researchers
- Bring key themes that UCL environment researchers are working on to the fore
- Promote work-life balance, equality, diversity and inclusion.

For more information, see the EDEN [website](#) or to volunteer contact [vpro.eden@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:vpro.eden@ucl.ac.uk)
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.