



Capital Equipment Fund Call (CEF4) Faculties of Life and Medical Sciences (LMS)

Deadline: Tuesday 18 January 2022

Internal review process and call guidelines

Background and call for equipment bids

The Capital Equipment Fund Call (CEF4) is open to all Divisions and Institutes within the faculties of Brain, Medical, Life and Population Health Sciences, and is intended to support purchase of strategically important research capital equipment. We expect many of the successful applications to be for major equipment that will be managed within multi-user facilities such as the [UCL Science Technology Platforms](#).

CEF4 funding is provided via a UKRI Research England allocation to UCL for the 2021/22 Financial Year. As a result, all equipment purchased through CEF4 must be on UCL premises no later than 31 July 2022. Any equipment delivered after this date may risk having its CEF4 support withdrawn.

Applications will be assessed through a process of internal review and prioritisation by Vice-Deans (Research) for the Faculties of Life and Medical Sciences. For Financial Year 2021/22, we will run one call for applications for equipment funding.

Important dates

CEF4 timeline	
Deadline for applications	Tuesday 18 January 2021
CEF4 Review Panel Meeting	Late January - early February 2022
Equipment delivery deadline	Sunday 31 July 2022

Scope and guidance

The CEF scheme is intended to complement other schemes, such as BBSRC ALERT, that provide funds for the purchase of strategically important equipment. Applicants may be encouraged to apply for external funding in the first instance. MRC are due to release an equipment funding call, the timelines and details for this are as yet unknown. We will look to align the CEF4 process with the MRC scheme once details are available.

Alignment with UCL Science Technology Platforms (STPs)

We expect many successful applications to be for major equipment that will be managed within the STPs (specifically NMR Spectroscopy, Mass Spectrometry, Imaging, Biomedical/In vivo Imaging, Genomics, Cell Sorting and Analysis, Radiochemistry, Genomics or Biological Services). In such cases, the track record of the facility in providing service and access to facilities will be an important factor to consider and applicants should provide sufficient detail to assess this.

Applicants are required to indicate how they propose to work with the STP and STP Academic Lead, should their application be successful. The STP Academic Lead will also be required to provide a statement on how the proposed equipment fits with the remit and plans of their STP, and how the equipment complements other equipment available through the STP. Applications relating to research computing should liaise with the [Centre for Advanced Research Computing \(ARC\)](#) via the Head of Research Computing for input on their application. See [Science Technology Platform homepage](#) for relevant contact details. For equipment that will not be part of an STP, but is linked to a multi-user core facility, applicants should seek a statement from the academic lead of the relevant facility for inclusion in their application.

CEF4 is unlikely to support bids where the same or similar equipment already exists in STPs or other accessible multi-user core facilities elsewhere at UCL. Only in exceptional circumstances, e.g. when demand significantly outstrips existing capability and/or geographical separation makes use of existing facilities not feasible, will such applications potentially be supported.

CEF4 is unlikely to support applications for equipment that should normally be included on project grant, programme grant or fellowship applications. Institutional matched funding for equipment on such schemes is considered through the [LMS research equipment match funding process](#).

Costings

Applications to CEF4 are expected to be in excess of £50k.

Eligible costs include cost of equipment purchase, installation, shipping, taxes (VAT or import tax) where chargeable, and standard warranties.

Ineligible costs: Staff support and any lab refurbishment costs are not eligible and must be provided by commitments from the host Division/Institute/Department. Extended warranties, maintenance/service contracts, training or consumables purchased with the equipment are not eligible and these costs will need to be met through other sources. It would generally be expected that costs for equipment repairs, parts or upgrades are covered by maintenance contracts, insurance/warranties or built into the running costs for the equipment. These costs will not be covered by CEF4 and will need to be met by the Division/Institute or other funding sources.

CEF4 will consider applications for equipment linked to recruitment (both those who started in post 1 January 2021 or later, and those that will be in post by 1 February 2022); for such applications, the expectation is that the host Division/Institute will contribute funding towards purchase of the equipment.

Although financial contribution towards the cost of the equipment is only a requirement when the application is linked to recruitment, if such funds are available for other equipment applications, they should be included and highlighted in your application.

When multiple linked pieces of equipment are being requested, the case for each separately costed item should be clearly stated. CEF4 will not consider applications for whole lab refurbishment. If the items requested are not linked please submit the requests as separate applications so they can be individually reviewed and prioritised.

For successful CEF4 applications we expect an annual report on equipment usage, finances and future sustainability plans. For equipment within core facilities, this should be included within the annual reporting processes for the facility.

Contact details

If you are uncertain if your application would be suitable/competitive for this scheme, please contact k.groot@ucl.ac.uk, your LMS Vice-Dean (Research) or the relevant STP Academic Lead/multi-user core facility academic lead/ARC Head of Research Computing.

How to apply

1. Allow sufficient time to complete your application to ensure you get input from STP Academic Leads/multi-user core facility academic leads/ARC Head of Research Computing as appropriate to your application, and approval of your Division/Institute Director ahead of the application deadline.
2. Complete the CEF4 Application form following guidance.
3. Send your form, as a single PDF file, to k.groot@ucl.ac.uk copying in your Division/Institute Director and the relevant STP Academic Lead/multi-user core facility academic leads/ARC Head of Research Computing. Please include 'CEF4' in the email subject line.