

UCL Covid-19 Rapid Response Funding Call

Since the emergence of Covid-19, UCL's world-leading experts have been involved in all aspects of the challenge. The breadth of UCL's research and expertise means that we are uniquely placed to respond not only to the immediate tasks of understanding the virus and finding a vaccine but assessing the long-term impacts this will have on our daily lives going forward.

To support this work, the UCL Coronavirus Response Fund was established raising funds for UCL's targeted Covid-19 research activity thanks to kind donations of alumni and partners. With co-funding from the [UCL Wellcome Institutional Strategic Support Fund](#) and UCLH NIHR Biomedical Research Centre, we are now launching this internal funding opportunity.

The aim is to mobilise the expertise and infrastructure of UCL and partner hospitals to mitigate the impacts of Covid-19 on health, the economy, environment, society and culture. The call has a broad scope (see below) and is expected to seed novel research projects, bridge funding gaps, pump-prime further external research grant applications or boost ongoing strategic projects and initiatives where value can be added.

Dates

A monthly rolling deadline is planned, **while funding is available**:

Call	Closing Date
Call 1	2 nd June (12 noon)
Call 2	TBC
Call 3	TBC

Research scope

Projects should seek to contribute to management, mitigation, and eventual halt of the virus and should focus on rapid responses and novel solutions to understand and tackle the challenges faced during this continually evolving pandemic. **Proposals from all disciplines across UCL are welcome.**

Areas of focus could include (but are not limited to):

- Understanding and mitigating the health, social, economic, political, educational, cultural and/or environmental impacts caused by the Covid-19 pandemic
- Projects that would significantly contribute to the understanding, diagnosis, prevention and/or management of the Covid-19 pandemic e.g. from engineering sciences or features of the built environment, including transport
- Understanding the structure and function of the virus and development of vaccines, therapeutics or diagnostics
- Novel technologies, platforms or systems with the potential to accelerate the research into and development of diagnostics, vaccines/therapeutics and epidemiological studies
- Clinical management of Covid-19 and delivery of health and social care during and after the pandemic
- Epidemiological studies including: studies into understanding the transmission/characteristics/severity of Covid-19, modelling its transmission, predicting the spread of the virus and the potential for impact of various control measures
- Social Science research including: collection of knowledge, perceptions, behaviours and exposures of people affected by or at risk of COVID-19 infection; the psychological consequences of the epidemic; understanding and/or influencing behaviours to minimise spread

Eligibility

The call is open to applications from all UCL academic staff, honorary clinical staff and Fellows (who hold an independent fellowship, and whose salary will be in place for the duration of the award).

- For queries on eligibility please contact Dr Anwen Howells – a.howells@ucl.ac.uk

In addition:

- Applications will require sign off from their appropriate UCL Divisional/Departmental leadership
- Applicants must demonstrate feasible access to the required resources as well as plans for ethical approval where required (recruitment of staff and equipment costs will not be eligible in this call)
- Applicants are permitted to submit ONE application as PI and ONE as Co-I (per call)

Funding and Eligible Costs

Awards are expected to be in the range of £20-50k. Projects should be 6-12 months in duration and you should be in a position to start the project as soon as funding is agreed.

Eligible costs include (but are not limited to):

- Direct costs (indirect and estates costs are not permissible)
- Research staff costs (support can be provided for existing staff or staff reallocated to this activity however, recruitment of new staff will not be allowed under this call)
- Consumables and data access/storage fees

Project costs should be appropriate for the proposed plan of work and justified within the application.

How to apply

1. Register on UCL COVID19 Database

- Applicants must first register their project details on the [UCL COVID19 database](#) and follow the guidance/approval processes for setting up new projects during the CV19 pandemic (access to CL2 & CL3 facilities, buildings, risk assessment etc.)
- Please include pre-fix 'UCL CV19 Rapid Response Call X' in the project title
- Please tick the 'UCL Covid-19 Rapid Response Funding Call' under 'Additional sources of funding'

2. Applicants will be required to submit a completed application form including:

- Scientific case for support, budget details (including a standalone Worktribe costing), risk assessment, letter of support from Director or Head of Department)

Please send your application as one single PDF document to Dr Anwen Howells. We will not accept applications in any other format (PDFSam is available to download [here](#)).

Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by an internal cross-school panel of Vice Deans (Research), overseen by the UCL Covid-19 Research group (led by Prof Geraint Rees and Prof Ivan Parkin). Additional expertise from other academics or stakeholders may be called upon to support the review process if required.

Proposals will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Potential impact on our understanding of novel coronavirus and Covid-19 response efforts
- Ability to rapidly deploy solutions to problems faced by the NHS, Public Health England, other organisations or an affected community
- Project team and work environment
- Design and clarity of the proposed project plan

Contact Information: Dr Anwen Howells (a.howells@ucl.ac.uk)