



Wellcome Institutional Strategic Support Fund (WISSF)

UCL Wellcome ISSF Restarting Research Call 2021

Applications are being sought from early career researchers across all UCL faculties whose research and/or career progression has been significantly hampered by the ongoing pandemic. The funding is intended to support those early career researchers who hold personal research fellowships or academic positions (see further eligibility criteria below) to restart their research and re-accelerate their career progression, to help address some of the disruption they have experienced as a result of the pandemic.

Funding for the call is provided by the UCL Wellcome Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF). The call is open to all research activity within the Wellcome remit (research which has the potential to improve human life, health and wellbeing).

Eligible Costs:

Awards will support direct costs only including, but not limited to, research staff costs, consumables and essential equipment. Due to the relatively short nature of these awards, we expect projects to be supported by existing staff.

Eligibility:

To be eligible:

- Applicants must be early career researchers whose research and/or career progression has been significantly hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Applicants must be either:
 - Postdoctoral researchers who have been awarded personal research fellowships (e.g. Sir Henry Wellcome, ESRC fellowships, EPSRC fellowships, other UKRI fellowships and other similar clinical or non-clinical post-doctoral fellowships) or who are lead or co-investigators (not named researchers) on major project or programme grants, OR
 - Junior group leaders including those on academic positions (lecturers) and those who hold independent career establishment fellowships (such as Henry Dale, MRC career development, ERC Starting Grants and other comparable non-clinical or clinical fellowships)
- The proposed area of research must be within the [Wellcome](#) remit
- Applications must include a letter of support from the applicant's UCL sponsor (see 'How to Apply' below).

Funding:

Awards are expected to be no more than £20k in value and have a maximum duration of 9 months. Projects are expected to start no earlier than 1 November 2021 and no later than 1 January 2022. The project costs should be appropriate for the proposed plan of work and justified within the application. We expect to fund in the region of 25 projects through this call. Matched funding is **not** required for this call.

How to Apply:

To apply, applicants must complete the [online application form](#) no later than **5pm on Thursday 29 July 2021**. A PDF copy of the online application form is also provided for information only.

You will be required to upload a Case for Support ([template available](#)) and a Standalone Worktribe budget through the online form.

The completed Case for Support document must be **1 single PDF document** (PDFSam is available to download [here](#)) with the following filename (**Restarting Research Award 2021_Your Name_Date**). It should include the following:

- Case for support (background to the project/research, description of request in relation to the project and how the request will help address the impact of the pandemic on your research/career progression) (750 words max.)
- Letter of Support (please attach a signed letter (1 page max.) from your Director or Head of Department* confirming: 1) Support of the proposal, 2) Approval of the associated costs, 3) Confirmation that the necessary facilities and resources are available.
- 1 page CV + 1 page of publications

The Worktribe budget is created using the Wellcome standard grant template (create a 'Standalone Budget' and select 'Funder = 100% FEC' in the 'Projects' tab of Worktribe to generate costs). Please note the budget **does not** have to be submitted to Research & Innovation Services (RIS) for review.

Incomplete applications which do not follow the guidance provided will not be considered.

You will need your UCL username to access the online form: [username@ucl.ac.uk](#)

Review Process:

Applications will be reviewed by an internal panel of Vice Deans (Research) and other academic Faculty representatives.

Proposals will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on research and/or research career trajectory
- How the award will help to restart research/re-accelerate career progression
- Scientific impact of research proposed
- Alignment with Wellcome remit
- Applicant CV and publications
- Potential for follow-on funding/sustainability

Important dates:

Internal dates	
Deadline for applications	5pm, Thursday 29 Jul 2021
Applicants informed of outcome	Sep/Oct 2021
Expected project start date	1 Nov 2021

Any questions?

If your questions are not answered above, please contact Dr Ruth Wainman (r.wainman@ucl.ac.uk)

* For applicants based in the Faculties of Life, Brain, Medical or Population Health Sciences, applications should be signed by your Institute Director. For applicants based in the Faculty of the Built Environment, the Institute of Education or the Faculties of Engineering Sciences, Mathematical & Physical Sciences, Laws, Arts & Humanities or Social & Historical Sciences, your application should be signed by your Head of Department.