Community Engagement Seed Fund: Resilience and Recovery from Covid-19.

# The Community Engagement Seed Fund is a small grants funding round for UCL Staff and Students who are part of the UCL East programme. It is designed to support the development of engagement activities and partnership opportunities with east London communities.

Grants will be made available to UCL staff and students who are or will be part UCL East, or whose work is in east London and is connected to the ambitions of UCL East. These grants are intended for the development and/or delivery of projects with east London community partners, particularly those from the Voluntary Community Sector (this could include both formally constituted organisations, and more informal groups such as residents associations).

Resilience and recovery from Covid-19: the 2021-2022 funding round will focus on supporting projects who are connecting with east London partners around the resilience and recovery agenda. We will take a broad understanding of what this may mean, but will expect to see some acknowledgement of the current context of their engagement project. You may find the [Mayor of London’s webpage on the recovery agenda](https://www.london.gov.uk/coronavirus/londons-recovery-coronavirus-crisis) useful context.

The projects should be related to the vision of UCL East and should be founded on the principles of **collaboration, co-production and two way dialogue** with the identified partner. As part of our ongoing work to improve the inclusivity and accessibility of the scheme, we encourage applications from those who are underrepresented in the sector and at UCL including but, not exclusive, to disabled, D/deaf and neurodiverse people, LGBTQ+ people, people from Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority backgrounds. Grants can be used to further existing relationships or be a catalyst to sparking new partnerships and initiatives.

Four grants of up to £4,000 will be made available to support public engagement activities in partnership with east London communities.

### What can the grant be used for?

We do not wish to be prescriptive about the type of activity but it could include, workshops, online events or festivals, exhibitions or other dialogue-based activity. The grants will aim to create the space and opportunity for members of UCL East entities and their partners to deliver or develop activity fitting with the vision of UCL East as an open, accessible, and publically engaged university. The grant can be used to cover the costs related to your activity including, but not limited to, materials, catering, travel costs, covering the time of partners. It can also be used to pay for time for project support at UCL, for example employing students or casual staff to help deliver the project or activities.

**As a result of the ongoing impacts of Covid-19, we expect all applications to consider alternatives where face to face contact may not be possible, and subsequent accessibility implications for engagement activities such as digital poverty.**

Applications must:

* Establish or develop a partnership between Academic Staff or Students involved in UCL East and community groups or organisations from east London (Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Newham, Waltham Forest).
* Contribute to, or grow understanding of issues related to the resilience and recovery from covid-19.
* Be based on the principles of collaboration, co-production and mutual benefit.
* Contribute to
* Value equally the skills and expertise of both academic and community partnership.
* Have clear and tangible outputs and outcomes.
* Evaluate, learn from and share their engagement activities.

Ineligible costs:

Please not the following types of activity are not eligible for funding.

* Activities that are primarily about communication between professionals and academics in a particular subject area.
* Proposals that focus on widening participation in higher education or enrichment of school curricula.
* Travel overseas.
* Activities which are part of your
* Activities which have already taken place.

### Timeline

Application deadline: 28th February 2022.

Project delivery: March– July 2022 (please note all project **spend** must be complete by 31st July 2022).

# If you’re successful

**Finance:** We will begin the process of transferring the funds to a departmental account as soon as possible after confirming the success of an application. It is important we have the contact details of the finance administrator within your department to ensure the smooth transfer of funds.

**Kick-off meeting:** At the beginning of the funding period, we will invite you to a meeting which will include a session on evaluating your public engagement. Attendance at these meetings is a requirement of accepting funding.

**Keeping in touch:** The UCL Engagement Team expects to be in informal contact with project leaders to provide advice, support and guidance throughout the project, as appropriate. We tailor this support and monitoring to match your needs.

**Evaluation and Learning:** All awardees are asked to complete a Project Learning and Impact Form at the end of their project to reflect on their experience. **Completing this form is a requirement of accepting the funding.**