

UCL-Tohoku University - Joint Call for Collaborative Projects and Exchange Activities

November 2019

Following a successful call last year, University College London (UCL) and Tohoku University (TU) have again launched a joint call for proposals to develop collaborative education and research initiatives between the two universities.

1. Projects

- i) This call invites research proposals in the areas of mutual interest and complementary strengths that will strengthen the partnership between UCL and TU.
- ii) Proposals must include participants from both institutions.
- iii) Applications from all fields are welcome but proposals related to the following fields will be prioritised: Data Science, Disaster Science, Equality and Diversity, Higher Education, Material Science, Neuroscience and Ageing.
- iv) Six joint projects will be selected for funding. Proposals will be assessed by a committee composed of members from both institutions.

2. Eligibility for UCL participants within the scope of this call

Applications are open to UCL staff members with the following roles:

- Professor/Professorial Teaching Fellow or equivalent.
- Reader or equivalent.
- Senior Lecturer/Principal Researcher/Principal Research Associate/Senior Teaching Fellow or equivalent.
- Lecturer/Senior Research Associate/Teaching Fellow or equivalent.
- Post Doc/Researcher/Post Doc Fellow/Research Associate or equivalent – **eligible provided the contract covers the spend and activity period.**
- Applicants are not required to have a doctorate to apply, but do need to hold a role at one of the levels described above.
- PhD students are not eligible to apply.

3. Collaboration Activities

Collaboration activities may be based on joint projects set up by faculty/staff members of both institutions, including:

- Joint research projects.
- Doctoral student mobility.
- Any other form of partnerships, to be promoted and implemented jointly when both UCL and TU find it mutually beneficial.

4. Value and Duration

Six successful proposals will receive up to £10,000. Funding will be jointly provided by UCL and TU, with 50% going to the academic at each respective institution. **However, only one application should be submitted via the application link below.**

Please note that British and Japanese universities have different financial years and this will have an impact on the funding schedule. Funds provided by UCL will be available from 1st February 2020 and must be spent by 31 July 2020, whereas funds from TU will be available from 1st April 2020 and must be spent by 31 March 2021. Applicants should take this into account when planning their proposed activity.

5. Timeline

Call for proposals	22 November 2019
Deadline for submission of proposal	17 January 2020
Communication of Results to applicants	31 January 2020
Start date of Awards (UCL)	1 February 2020
Start date of Awards (TU)	1 April 2020

6. Submission of Proposals

- i) Proposals are to be prepared and submitted jointly. Each proposal must be submitted by the lead-UCL academic by 17 January 2020.
- ii) Applications must be submitted to UCL at the following link:
<https://form.jotformeu.com/93073325821353>

7. Adjudication

- i) Applications are received by UCL's Global Engagement Office and forwarded to TU for separate review at each institution.
- ii) **Selection Criteria:** Both internal review committees will assess each proposal according to the following criteria:
 - **Project design and rationale** (how clearly presented and justified is the design and basis for the collaboration)
 - **Project impact** (how clearly linked are the outcomes to the planned activities and performance indicators)
 - **Impact of collaboration** (is there a distinct advantage provided by this collaboration, that is not possible by the two institutions working individually?)
 - **Capacity for future collaboration** (what is the extent to which future collaborations are possible as a result of the proposed exchange activities.)
- iii) A joint committee will convene to select the final proposals.

8. Communication of Results

Final results will be announced by means of a communication to the successful faculty members.

9. Reporting After Project Completion

All awardees must, as a condition of receiving an award under this call, complete a narrative report (of between 1 and 2 pages).

10. Future call

It is expected that a third round of UCL-TU funding will be launched in July 2020. The funding scheme will operate in the same way, but may be more appropriate if the current call does not work to your timeline. If you have questions about this third round, please contact either Andrew Brown (andrew.l.brown@ucl.ac.uk) or Taeko Misumi (taeko.misumi.b1@tohoku.ac.jp), depending on your university affiliation.