**UCL-Fudan Strategic Partnership Funds**

**Guidance for Applicants 2024-2025**

The Office of the Vice-Provost (Research, Innovation, Global Engagement) at University College London (UCL) and the Office of Global Partnerships at Fudan University (Fudan) are contributing matching funds to support collaborative education and research initiatives through a joint call for proposals for the development of collaborative activities.

**1. Projects**

This call invites research proposals in areas of mutual interest and complementary strengths that will strengthen the partnership between UCL and Fudan.

The initiative seeks to build on existing links and stimulate new ones between UCL and Fudan. Successful applicants will clearly outline in their proposal a specific project or joint research activity that they would like to explore with their counterparts.

Proposals from all fields are welcome but we particularly encourage projects in the areas aimed at addressing and mitigating challenged relating to:

* Carbon neutrality (e.g. Climate Change, Sustainable Construction, Clean Waste)
* Health and Wellbeing (e.g. informatics/Data-driven Brian Sciences, Global/Public Health)
* Proposals relating to one or more of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](https://sdgs.un.org/goals))

Proposals should be co-led by a Lead Applicant at each institution and can involve a wider team of participants from each institution, as appropriate to the activities proposed.

Up to 3 joint projects will be selected for funding. Proposals will be assessed by a committee composed of members from both institutions.

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

Applications are open to UCL/Fudan staff members in the following roles:

* Professor or equivalent
* Associate Professor / Reader or equivalent
* Senior Lecturer / Principal Researcher / Principal Research Associate or equivalent
* Lecturer / Senior Research Associate or equivalent
* Post Doc / Researcher / Research Associate or equivalent

Note:

* *Applicants from UCL must have an open-ended UCL contract or a fixed-term contract which lasts until at least July 2025.*
* *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 but their involvement in the delivery of the project – for example as research assistants or interns - is encouraged.*
* *UCL Professional Service & VP Office staff are not eligible to apply but can take part in the project where this supports its aims and objectives.*
* *Principal Investigators from UCL should be aware of changes made to the 2024/25 GE Partner Fund process relating to the number of applications that can be submitted per* Investigator across all calls, the number of awards that can received, and eligibility for award holders from the 23/24 round. See further detail in the information text box of the [Partner Funds webpage here](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/global/funding-staff/partner-funds).

**3. Collaborative activities**

Eligible activity includes, but is not limited to:

* Joint seminars/workshops (remotely or in person) which might lead to joint publications, future research collaborations, grant applications, or other follow-up activity. Funding may be used for external services required to facilitate an event, e.g. professional moderation or technical support.
* Meetings, or preliminary scoping work and baseline research/data gathering, to underpin the preparation of a long-term collaborative partnership (e.g. preparation of a PhD summer school, double degree, future exchange agreement, etc)
* Stipends for UCL research assistants and interns. UCL student casual wage costs for working on the collaboration can be covered, as can travel, accommodation and subsistence essential to the activity, in line with UCL’s expense policy, sustainability agenda and coronavirus guidance. Please note that teaching buyouts are not eligible.
* Limited expenses on relevant research materials and supplies.

The above list is not exhaustive, and we understand that there may be other ways you wish to conduct the project. Where appropriate, we strongly encourage applicants to explore methods of remote collaboration, within the limits of what is permissible within the financial regulations of each institution.

**What cannot be funded by the UCL-** **Fudan Strategic Partner Funds?**

* Activity that does not involve UCL and Fudan partners; work for which there is already a significant existing funding stream; activity that has already happened.
* Costings should be appropriate and relevant to the activity, for example the provision of alcoholic beverages for partners is not considered a valuable use of funds, unless it can be described how hospitality is critical for the building of this relationship or necessary/culturally significant for an event e.g. a public exhibition.
* Items which would normally be included in a research or teaching grant. This seed funding supports and develops UCL and Fudan collaboration and lacks the scale and resources to support the core components of a research or teaching project.
* A Worktribe costing is NOT necessary for the UCL- Fudan Strategic Partner Fund.
* Teaching time buyout cannot be funded.

**4. Value and duration**

Up to £20,000 is available per successful proposal. Funding will be provided jointly by UCL and Fudan, with approximately 10,000 GBP from UCL going to the UCL academics and 100,000 RMB from Fudan going to the lead Fudan academics. However, only one proposal should be submitted.

Please note that UCL and Fudan have different financial years and this will have an impact on the

funding schedule. Funds provided by UCL must be spent by 31 July 2025 (activities for which the funds are allocated must take place before 31 July 2025), whereas funds provided by Fudan must be spent by 30 November 2024. Applicants should take this into account when planning their proposed activity.

**5. Timeline**

Call for proposals 24 May 2024

Deadline for submission of proposals 21 June 2024

Communication of results to applicants 26 July 2024

Start date of Awards (UCL) 1 August 2024

Start date of Awards (Fudan) 1 August 2024

**6. Submission of proposals**

1. Proposals are to be prepared jointly but only one proposal is submitted **by the lead UCL academic by midnight (GMT) 21 June 2024.**
2. Proposals must be submitted to UCL at the following link:

<https://form.jotform.com/241333746664359>

**7. Ethical approval**

Please check UCL’s guidelines regarding research ethics. Applicants are responsible for reading these guidelines and ensuring projects adhere to UCL’s ethical approval policy and process.

UCL’s ethical guidelines can be found here:

* [Research Ethics Committee at UCL guidelines.](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/research-ethics)
* [Overseas Research Roadmap](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/research/integrity/ethics/research-outside-uk)

**8. Adjudication**

1. Proposals are received by UCL Global Engagement and forwarded to Fudan for separate review at each institution. The final decision will be made jointly.
2. 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, such as joint papers, external funding applications,

joint research with industry and proposals for policy recommendations?

* **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:** to what extent are future

collaborations possible as a result of the proposed activities?

1. A joint committee will convene to select the final proposals.

**9. Communication of results**

Final results will be announced by means of an email communication to the successful faculty

members.

**10. Reporting after project completion**

All awardees must, as a condition of receiving an award under this call, complete a narrative report

of achievements (of between one and two pages), preferably with images, shortly after the project’s

completion.

**11. Queries & contacts**

If you experience any problems making an online application, or have any questions about the UCL- Fudan Strategic Partner Funds, please contact:

UCL: Keiko Tsunekawa, Global Engagement Manager

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Fudan: Ying Wang, Head of International Exchange Division

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