



University College London (UCL) - Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) Joint Call for Collaborative Projects and Exchange Activities

Introduction

University College London (UCL) and Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) are contributing matching funds to support collaborative and interdisciplinary education and research initiatives, through a joint call for proposals, for the development of collaborative activities that will lead to impactful research outcomes.

This is similar to the Multi Institutional Faculty Interdisciplinary Projects (MFIRP) programme at IIT Delhi. It is expected that the faculty members of IITD and UCL, will jointly prepare a suitable full proposal for further, possibly external, funding post completion of the successful project, whose duration will be one year. This is in addition to research output(s) such as publications, and is an important measure of success for the project in order to ensure its viability and sustainability.

1. Projects

- i) This call invites research proposals in areas of mutual interest and complementarity that strengthen partnership between UCL and IITD.
 - ii) Proposals must include participants from both institutions, and we would encourage projects of an interdisciplinary nature, where relevant
 - iii) Proposals from all fields are welcome including Antimicrobial resistance, Artificial Intelligence, Advanced Materials, Cyber security, Global Health, Healthcare Engineering, Human-centric Design, Humanities and Social Sciences, Imaging, Nano biotechnology, Robotics, Sustainable Environment and Urban regeneration and development
 - iv) Up to four joint projects will be selected for funding.
- i) Proposals will be assessed by a committee composed of members from both institutions.

2. Eligibility for participants within the scope of this call

- i) 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 are eligible to apply provided their 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, but PIs are encouraged to include PhD students in their project.

ii) For IITD the call is open to all the faculty members.

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 IITD find it mutually beneficial.

4. Value and Duration of Award

Up to four successful proposals will be chosen. Funding will be jointly provided by UCL and IITD, with 50% going to the academic at each respective institution.

Each successful proposal will receive up to £5,000 per year for UCL faculty and up to Rs. 5 Lakh per year for IITD faculty, for one year. The total financial envelope per project is up to £10,000.

The budget provided by IITD and UCL should be spent as per norms and regulations followed in each institute. The PIs need to ensure that the submitted project proposal should demonstrate the ability to continue and deliver the research despite the impact of COVID -19.

Projects will be selected by the last week of November 2020, and must begin shortly thereafter.

5. Timeline

Call for proposals	Monday 5 th October 2020
Deadline for submission of proposal	Friday 13 th November 2020 by 4pm UK time, 9:30pm Indian Standard Time
Communication of Results to applicants	During week commencing 30 th November 2020
Start date of Awards	During week commencing 7 th December 2020

6. Identifying Academics at IITD and UCL

- i) In order to identify academics at either institution, please refer to the institutional websites in the first instance. These are <http://www.ucl.ac.uk> and <http://www.iitd.ac.in/>.
- ii) If further help is required, then UCL applicants should contact Dr Archana H Trivedi at rnd_coordinator_aht@ird.iitd.ac.in whilst IITD applicants should touch base with Dr Amit Khandelwal at amit.khandelwal@ucl.ac.uk to seek help. We will help where practicable and possible.

7. Submission of Proposals

- i) Proposals are to be prepared and submitted jointly.
- ii) Compilation of the proposal will be handled by IITD through a MFIRP on-line form. It is therefore crucial that UCL academics, in particular the lead Principal Investigator, liaise closely with their IITD counterparts as they will be responsible for filling an on-line form. A copy of the MFIRP online form can be found in the link given below:
http://ird.iitd.ac.in/sites/default/files/ird_circulars/MFIRP-Proposal%20Format.pdf
- iii) It is vital that both the IITD and UCL counterparts are in full agreement on all aspects of the proposal prior to formal submission. A document on formal agreement of both PIs need to be uploaded by IITD PI either in the form of an email communication or formal letter on the MFIRP portal along with the project proposal.
- iv) The IITD counterpart will be responsible for submitting the final proposal on/before Friday 13th November 2020, 4pm UK time, 9:30pm Indian Standard Time.
- v) IITD Dean R&D office will forward all the proposal received before the deadline to UCL's Global Engagement Office for adjudication.

8. Adjudication

- i) Proposals received by IITD and UCL's Global Engagement Office will be evaluated by a 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, such as joint papers, external funding applications, joint research with industry and proposal 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** (what is the extent to which future collaborations are possible as a result of the proposed activities.)
- iii) Please identify any direct or indirect linkages of your proposal to Covid-19 research, and kindly identify which one of the seventeen UN Sustainable Goals, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>, your project will fall under. The information sought here is for internal use only, and is not part of the selection criteria.
- iv) A joint committee will convene to select up to four final proposals.

9. Communication of Results

Final results will be announced by means of a communication to the successful faculty members or PI's by each institution, during week commencing 30th November 2020.

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 1 and 2 pages), and how they intend to take the research forward beyond the funding period. This should be completed within 3 months of completion of the project.

11. Contacts

For any clarification points or questions on the joint call, please do not hesitate to contact colleagues listed below

UCL	IITD
<p>Professor Monica Lakhanpaul Pro-Vice-Provost (South Asia) Email: m.lakhanpaul@ucl.ac.uk</p>	<p>Professor Sunil Kumar Khare Dean, Research and Development Email: deanrnd@admin.iitd.ac.in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">&</p> <p>Professor Sukumar Mishra Associate Dean, Research and Development Email: assocdeanrnd@admin.iitd.ac.in</p>
<p>Dr Amit Khandelwal Senior Partnership Manager (South Asia) Email: amit.khandelwal@ucl.ac.uk</p>	<p>Dr Archana H Trivedi R&D Coordinator Email: rnd_coordinator_aht@ird.iitd.ac.in</p>