

Recovery From Covid-19: A new UCL Grand Challenges Initiative

UCL Grand Challenges (GC), <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/grand-challenges/>, has just launched an initiative rallying UCL's expertise over the next four months to address the urgent issues posed by Covid-19. For more than a decade, GC has convened and cultivated cross-disciplinary collaborations that explore interconnected solutions in areas related to matters of pressing societal concern. We are now adding the UCL Covid-19 Grand Challenge initiative to complement our existing programmes: **Global Health; Sustainable Cities; Cultural Understanding; Human Wellbeing; Justice & Equality; and Transformative Technology.**

At this time, the most important question facing humanity is how we recover from Covid-19, and prepare to take the first steps toward a more resilient and equitable world.

Details of the initiative can be accessed at

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/grand-challenges/recovery-covid-19-new-ucl-grand-challenges-initiative>.

UCL-based researchers have been encouraged to collaborate with our global strategic partners, and therefore they may contact academics in your organisation who they already know or collaborate with to be part of the initiative, develop ideas with them, and then submit joint expressions of interest. For example, in addressing:

- 1) How to manage the pandemic now
- 2) Mitigation of social and economic impact
- 3) Building upon the positive consequences of lockdown
- 4) Strategies to move beyond lockdown
- 5) First steps toward a more resilient and equitable world.

Because of its short time-frame, this special GC initiative is an opportunity to build on our existing collaborations, rather than creating new ones. This will ensure that our collective expertise can be brought to bear and address challenges facing COVID-19 in a rapid but timely manner.

Alternatively, if there are academics in your organisation already working in this area, they may wish

to flag up their interest in this initiative, through their UCL collaborators. UCL researchers have been asked to register their interest with UCL Grand Challenges <mailto:grandchallenges@ucl.ac.uk?subject=UCL%20Covid-19%20Grand%20Challenge>, by midnight on Monday 4 May indicating:

- 1) their name, role and department
- 2) their area(s) of expertise
- 3) whether they are part of a group (for example, a problem-focused cross-disciplinary centre) with relevant expertise or activities
- 4) whether they have connections with external organisations that could prove useful, and in particular whether they would be interested in submitting a joint bid with one of UCL's global strategic partners (naming the partner/s they consider submitting the bid with
- 5) any specific COVID-19 issues to which they could make a contribution, or ideas that you wish to explore further

For any further guidance, please contact the Global Engagement Office

<mailto: Amit.khandelwal@ucl.ac.uk>.