UCL - SJTU Strategic Partner Funds 2024-25

The Office of the Vice-Provost (Research, Innovation, Global Engagement) at University College London (UCL) and Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU) 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**
   i) This call invites proposals for partnership development activity in areas of mutual interest and complementary strengths that will deepen collaboration between UCL and SJTU. 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.
   ii) Proposals from all fields are welcome but those related to the following fields are particularly encouraged:
      - Sustainability
      - Climate Crisis
      - Global Health and Wellbeing
   iii) Applications must demonstrate how the proposed activity will provide a platform for longer-term, larger-scale collaboration between UCL and SJTU in the relevant field, for example, by providing a basis for ongoing joint research and education activity and / or applications to external bodies for research grant funding.
   iv) Up to eight joint projects will be selected for funding. Proposals will be assessed by a committee composed of members from both institutions. If the funds are for a related or follow-up activity, applicants should explain how the proposed project (which is the subject of the new application) builds on previous outcomes.

2. **Eligibility for UCL participants within the scope of this call**
   - Applications are open to UCL staff members with the following roles. Applications from Early Career Researchers, or staff with equivalent professional training are welcomed:
      a. Professor or equivalent
      b. Associate Professor/ Reader or equivalent
      c. Senior Lecturer/Principal Researcher/Principal Research Associate or equivalent
      d. Lecturer/Senior Research Associate or equivalent
      e. Post Doc/Researcher/Research Associate or equivalent
   - 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 are encouraged to take part in the project.
   - UCL Professional Service & VP Office staff are not eligible to apply but can take part in the project where this supports the 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](#).

3. Collaboration Activities

Funding can support a broad range of activities as appropriate to the aims and objectives of the collaboration. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Joint seminar(s)/workshop(s) with UCL & SJTU partners (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 the 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 research assistant 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.

Applicants are advised to consider the environmental impact of proposed activity and international travel and to conduct meetings online as much as possible.

4. What cannot be funded by the UCL-SJTU Strategic Partner Funds?

- Activity which does not involve UCL & SJTU partners; work for which there is already a significant existing funding stream; activity that has already happened.
- Spending 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 are already covered by an existing research or teaching grant.
- A Worktribe costing for UCL applicants is NOT necessary for UCL-SJTU Strategic Partner Funds.
- Teaching time buyout cannot be funded.

5. Value and Duration

Up to eight successful proposals will receive up to £10,000. Funding will be jointly provided by UCL and SJTU, with 50% going to the academic at each respective institution. **However, only one proposal should be submitted through the link included in point 7.**

Please note that British and Chinese universities 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 SJTU must be spent by 31 March 2026**. Applicants should take this into account when planning their proposed activity. Further, the allocation of the funds from SJTU is subject to the conditions that at least 50% of the fund should be used for international travel.

6. **Timeline**

Call for proposals   20 September 2024

Deadline for submission of proposal   11:59pm (UK time) on 16 October 2024

Communication of Results to applicants   By the end of November 2024

Start date of Awards   From December 2024

7. **Submission of Proposals**
    i)   Proposals are to be prepared and submitted jointly. **The proposal must be submitted by the lead-UCL academic by 16 October 2024.**
    ii) **Proposals must be submitted to [UCL portal](#) by UCL academics**

8. **UCL Research Ethical approval and Research Security**
    Please check UCL's guidelines regarding research ethics and research security ahead of submitting your proposal. You should also consider if your activity may be subject to Export Controls. UCL applicants are responsible for reading these guidelines and ensuring projects adhere to UCL policy and process. As with all UCL funding schemes, we strongly advise applicants to undertake proportionate and appropriate due diligence, relative to the stage and scope of the research collaboration.
    UCL's ethical research, research security and export control guidelines can be found here:

    - [UCL Research Ethics Service](#)
    - [Overseas Research Roadmap](#)
    - [Export Controls](#)

9. **Adjudication**
    i)   Proposals are received by UCL's Global Engagement team and forwarded to SJTU 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, 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:** to what extent are future collaborations possible as a result of the proposed exchange activities?
    iii) A joint committee will convene to select up to eight final proposals.

10. **Communication of Results**
    Final results will be announced by means of a communication to the all the lead applicants.

11. 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).

12. Queries & contacts

If you experience any problems making an online application or have any questions about the UCL-SJTU Strategic Partner Funds, please contact UCL's contact Zhou Kuang, Global Engagement Manager: zhou.kuang@ucl.ac.uk or SJTU's contact: Lo-Ching Chow, Project Manager, Global Partnerships Office: loching.chow@sjtu.edu.cn, depending on your affiliation.