

UCL - Fudan University Strategic Partner Funds 2026-27

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.

1. Projects

This call invites proposals in areas of mutual interest and complementary strength that have the potential to deepen the strategic 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 that they would like to explore with their counterparts.

Applications from all fields are eligible but proposals in the following areas are particularly encouraged:

- **Climate change** (green and sustainable science and technology)
- **Health and healthcare** (clinical research, public health, and healthcare engineering)
- **Cultural heritage** (preservation, conservation, and digital heritage)

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 three 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 2027.*
- *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 permissible.*
- *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.*

- Please note that in order to increase the reach and breadth of access across UCL to the 26/27 Global Engagement funding schemes (the Global Engagement Funds (GEF) and Partner Funds), the following rules are in place for UCL applicants:
 - You can submit a maximum of two proposals across these funding streams, either as a lead applicant or co-applicant. For example, you could submit 1 GEF proposal and 1 partner proposal, or 2 GEF proposals, or 2 partner proposals.
 - You can receive a maximum of 1 award per scheme as a lead applicant. For example, you could receive 1 GEF award and/or 1 partner award.
 - If you were the lead applicant of a proposal that received GE seed funding in 25/26, you cannot apply as a lead applicant for any 26/27 GE seed funding schemes, but you will be eligible for the 27/28 schemes. Please note: A special exception can be made where there is strong potential for significant impact and/or scaling up of collaboration with a global partner based on the outcomes of 25/26 project activity. Please contact us if you feel this applies to your activity.

3. Collaborative activities

Eligible activity includes, but is not limited to:

- Joint seminars/workshops (remotely or in person) which might lead to, 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 Fund?

- 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 2027 (activities for which the funds are allocated must take place before 31 July 2027), whereas funds provided by Fudan must be spent by 30 November 2026. Applicants should take this into account when planning their proposed activity.

5. Timeline

Call for proposals	20 May 2026
Deadline for submission of proposals	11:59pm (UK time) 19 June 2026
Communication of results to applicants	By the end of July 2026
Start date of Awards (UCL)	From 1 August 2026
Start date of Awards (Fudan)	From 1 August 2026

6. Submission of proposals

- i) Proposals are to be prepared jointly but only one proposal is submitted **by the lead UCL academic by midnight (GMT) 19 June 2026.**
- ii) Proposals must be submitted to UCL at the following link:
<https://form.jotform.com/geoucl/ucl-fudan-spf-26-27>

7. UCL research ethics 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 collaboration.

Relevant UCL guidelines can be found here:

- [Research Ethics Committee at UCL guidelines](#)
- [Overseas Research Roadmap](#)
- [Export Controls](#)

8. Assessment

- i) Proposals are received by UCL Global Engagement and forwarded to Fudan for separate review at each institution. The final decision will be made jointly.
- 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 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?

iii) 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 via Jotform, or have any questions about the UCL-Fudan Strategic Partner Funds, please contact:

UCL:

Zhou Kuang, Global Engagement Manager
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Fudan:

Ying Wang, Deputy Director of Office of Global Partnerships
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