**UCL Research, Innovation & Global Engagement (RIGE)
Funding Call 2022–23:**

Food Security

Summary

What is the funding for?
Collaborative activities that address the topic of food security

When does the activity need to take place?
UCL financial year 2022–23, awards must be spent by 31 July 2023

Who can apply?
UCL staff and students, in collaboration with UCL or external partners

How much can I apply for?
Applications can be made for awards up to £10,000

What are the total funds available?
£30,000, which may be increased if budgets permit

What is the application deadline?
Monday 3 October 2022, 9am

Which RIGE team is coordinating the call?
UCL Grand Challenges

Call Outline

A recent report[1] by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation estimated that between 720 and 811 million people in the world faced hunger in 2020 – about 118 million more people than in 2019. The long-lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with geopolitical instability and the conflict in Ukraine, present a particular set of challenges for international food security as repeated disruptions to global supply chains result in reduced supplies and volatile prices, affecting the most vulnerable. Growing global populations and rapid urbanisation put enormous constraints on land usage, soil preservation, and pose a threat to biodiversity. Finally, the climate crisis and water shortages represent major risks for future food production, and very little is known about how it will impact factors such as land degradation.

Numerous countries face a double burden of hunger alongside obesity as a result of changing lifestyles and inequal access to nutritious food. The negative health and economic outcomes associated with malnutrition are well documented but unfortunately have a disproportionate impact

---

[1] *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021* (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)

on low-income households and women, with a snowball effect on education and employment opportunities.

By building more resilient food systems, efficiently using land and water, and lowering the carbon footprint of diets, we can reduce the burden of malnutrition globally. In addition, policy and behaviour change are needed to embed safe and nutritious food into healthier lifestyles. Finally, communities might co-create bottom-up responses to food insecurity.

UCL Grand Challenges' special initiative of Food Security provides the opportunity for researchers across UCL to identify topics that require cross-disciplinary attention as a basis for further research, for problematizing current debates, and considering critical issues.

Current research interest at UCL:

- Food, Metabolism & Society Research Domain
- Institute of Sustainable Resources has led a number of initiatives on sustainable food production by augmenting the water-energy-food nexus debate with consideration for minerals and land (For our future food systems, business as usual is not an option by Dr Carole Dalin)
- Institute for Strategy, Resilience & Security, which provides strategic insights to governments and industries, is particularly interested in the societal instability caused by food insecurity, and the political consequences at national, regional and global scales
- Development Planning Unit (e.g. Sustainable Food Systems by Dr Robert Biel, or How can urban food policies contribute to a sustainable city economy? The case of London by Helene Gourichon.
- Institute for Global Prosperity (Democratizing Food by Prof Henrietta Moore)
- Institute for Global Health through the lens of Nutrition
- NIHR Obesity Policy Research Unit
- Institute of Education (the Families and Food in Hard Times brings the latest research on food poverty together with the voices of children and young people experiencing food poverty first hand)
- Environment Research Domain

Additionally, we encourage collaboration with external partners. For instance, Grand Challenges has good links with the University of Lincoln, which has strong expertise in Agri-Food Technology, Supply Chains, and Food Manufacturing.

Funding call criteria

Applications for projects costing up to £10,000 will be considered. The total funds allocated for this scheme is £30,000, pending finalisation of RIGE budgets; this will be increased if budgets permit.

Applications should address food security in one or more of the following ways:

- Cross-disciplinary research collaborations (i.e. from two or more faculties)
- Cross-border collaborations (i.e. with a global partner)
- Cross-boundary collaborations (i.e. between UCL-based researchers and staff of non-academic civil society organisations such as community groups, non-governmental organisations or independent think tanks)
- Collaborations between 'types' of activity at UCL (i.e., staff and/or student applications that combine research, teaching, operational and/or student extra-curricular activities)

GRAND CHALLENGES

Grants can support activities that generate societal impacts leading to outputs, including, but not limited to:

- Research or policy workshops, symposia or conferences
- Articles or comment pieces in peer publications or media channels
- Preparatory or exploratory research towards larger grant applications
- Public and community engagement activities
- Improvements to, or new, policies or operational activity at UCL
- Development of curricular, co-curricular or extra-curricular activity
- Research-led performance/public art-based outputs, including documentary films

Examples of previously funded activities can be found on the [Grand Challenges website](#).

Exclusions

Allowable costs include payment for part-time research assistants. Please note the following items are not fundable under this scheme:

- Activities that will incur costs after 31 July 2023.
- Capital equipment costs
- Studies in basic science or research that is exclusively lab-based
- Article processing costs (publication fees)
- Staff 'buy-out', maintenance fees or bench fees

The UCL fiscal year-end is 31 July. All expenses must be invoiced by that date, with costed activities completed by Friday 21 July 2023. Use of awarded funds cannot be deferred to a later date.

Eligible applicants

At least one of the named applicants must be a member of UCL-based staff in an academic faculty, Professional Services division or Vice-President or Vice-Provost office.

Applicants can be a combination of:

- Member(s) of UCL staff
- UCL student(s)
- External academic partner(s), e.g. at another UK university or overseas
- Non-academic partner(s), e.g. a local authority, NGO, community or business organisation.

We strongly welcome and encourage external collaborators, including third sector organisations, policy, think tanks, industry, and charities whose expertise and missions focus on societal impact.

Applications must nominate a first applicant, who will act as the point of contact for communications and financial/budget transactions. **This must be a member of UCL staff**.

If the second applicant is also from UCL, they must be based in a faculty or unit that is different from the first applicant.

As this is a RIGE-based funding initiative, UCL RIGE staff members are not eligible to stand as Lead or 1st Applicant (i.e. they are not permitted to be grant recipients), but may stand as 2nd Applicant or as an Additional Collaborator.

As part of our commitment to equity and inclusion in relation to the Equality Act 2010, we would particularly like to encourage applications from colleagues who identify as underrepresented

groups including, but not limited to, women, BAME, LGBT+ community and disabled individuals at UCL to apply for this opportunity.

Assessment of applications and notification of decisions

Applications will be assessed by panels comprising members of RIGE, professional services staff, and academic colleagues from across UCL.

The scoring criteria will include:

- Quality of the application and originality of topic and/or approach
- The extent to which the funded activity is cross-disciplinary, cross-activity and cross-boundary (academia to civil society)
- Strengths of the collaborating applicants and any external partners
- The extent to which the activity addresses food security
- The extent to which the proposal is achievable within the timeframe and budget

The deadline for applications is Monday 3 October 2022, 9am. Funding decisions will be announced in late October/early November 2022, to enable access to awarded funds between 1 December 2022 and 31 July 2023.

Terms and conditions

By submitting this form, applicants indicate their agreement if successful to:

- Provide a short report at the end of the academic year to describe activities, outputs, and impact.
- Permit UCL RIGE to publicise the immediate, medium, and long-term outcomes attributable to funded projects.
- Acknowledge UCL RIGE support in publications or external communications, using our visual identity guidance.

Submitting your application

To submit your application, please read this guidance carefully, download and complete the application form and submit it via the online platform.

Please direct any questions to:

Nina Quach, Head of Programmes for the Grand Challenges of Global Health and Human Wellbeing n.quach@ucl.ac.uk

James Paskins, Deputy Director, UCL Grand Challenges j.paskins@ucl.ac.uk