

Furthering Cultures of Decolonisation within Research

Deadline for applications: Monday 12 February 2024 17.00 (GMT)

Following the research initiative of the UCL Grand Challenge of Cultural Understanding Working Group¹ which looked to assess decolonisation in research, structures, norms, and practices at UCL, the Grand Challenge is now looking to support further work focused upon decolonising research initiatives.

Decolonising methodologies are being recognised as essential to good research practice both within and outside higher education. The movement towards decolonising research is based on the recognition that privileging research approaches that predominantly stem from Western traditions and excluding or appropriating non-Western research paradigms is both myopic and a form of epistemic injustice. To address global contemporary challenges, research needs to consider the diverse social, cultural, and historical experiences of different population groups, particularly those of communities that have historically faced marginalisation based on race, ethnicity, geography, gender, class, and sexuality. Organisational units that support research - such as libraries or ethical review committees - also have 'cultures' and processes that can be enhanced by using a decolonising lens.

Many UCL academics guide their research practice with principles and values that fall within a decolonising framework, including practices that centre on co-production, relationship building, capacity development, equitable participation in research, and promoting intersectionality in research.

The special initiative seeks to build upon '*Cultures of Decolonisation of Research at UCL*' to support activities that can advance understanding, adoption, and impact of decolonisation in research initiatives. It provides an opportunity for research across UCL to identify topics that require cross-disciplinary attention as a basis for further research, for problematising current debates, and for considering critical issues.

THEMES

Project proposals are asked to focus on models for decolonisation of research or ethics of research, with supported activities encouraging engagement and movement that builds from the findings of the *Cultures of Decolonisation at UCL* report².

Awards can be used to support cross-disciplinary activities that generate impacts, this may include (but is not limited to):

- Events
- Research or policy workshops
- Roundtables, sandpits, mini symposia or conferences

¹University College London, Cultures of Decolonisation. [online]. UCL, London [Accessed 20 December 2023]. Available from: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/grand-challenges/case-studies/2023/jan/cultures-decolonisation>

² Eten Angyagre, S. and Hannam, Y. (2022). Cultures of Decolonisation at UCL. [online] discovery.ucl.ac.uk. Available from: <https://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/id/eprint/10163919/> [Accessed 20 December 2023].

- Publications, reports, articles or comment pieces
- Preparatory or exploratory research towards larger grant applications
- Public and community engagement activities
- Knowledge exchange activities
- Hiring a research assistant, to assist with the above activities.

FUNDING

Applications for projects costing up to £4,000 will be considered under this call. Due to the UCL fiscal year-end, all funding must be spent, and expenses must be identified and invoiced by 31st July 2024.

Grand Challenges funding cannot be used for the following:

- Activities that will incur costs after 31 July 2024. Use of awarded funds cannot be deferred to a later date
- Equipment costs
- Studies in basic science or research that is exclusively lab-based
- Article processing costs (publication fees)
- Staff 'buy-out' (including staff salary), maintenance fees, or bench fees

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

First Applicants must be UCL staff – either researchers in academic Faculties or Professional Services.

Second Applicants can be either UCL staff (researchers in academic Faculties or Professional Services), UCL PhD students or external partners – either academic (i.e. at another university) or non-academic (e.g. at a policy, third sector, charity, community, or business organisation).

ADDITIONAL COLLABORATORS

These can be from within, or external to UCL, including for example third-sector organisations, policy, think tanks, industry, and charities. If not standing as 'Second Applicants' they can be shown as 'Additional Collaborators'.

ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS

Applications will be assessed by a panel composed of members of the Grand Challenge Working Group and members of the Grand Challenges team.

The scoring criteria will include:

- Quality of the application and originality of the topic and/or approach
- Cross-disciplinary and cross-boundary (academia to civil society) strengths of the collaborating Applicants and any external partners
- Potential to deliver significant impacts and/or follow-on activities
- Extent to which the proposed activities can be delivered within the timeframe and budget

Funding decisions will be announced in February 2024. The anticipated start date of the projects is March 2024.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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

- Complete a short evaluation and reporting form at the end of the project to describe activities, outputs, and impacts.
- Permit Grand Challenges to publicise the immediate, medium, and long-term outcomes attributable to funded projects.

- Acknowledge Grand Challenges support in publications or external communications, using [visual identity guidance](#).

To submit your application, please fill in the application form and submit it via the [online platform](#).

If you have any questions or queries, please contact Ethne James-Souch (e.james-souch@ucl.ac.uk).