University of Leicester

10 x 10 Challenge Fund

Call for Bids

Our new Vice Chancellor has laid down a challenge for us to increase our ambition and support for interdisciplinary research. Consequently, the Pro Vice Chancellor Research and Enterprise is inviting applications for financial support to enable the development of significant/large grant applications that might be submitted in 2020/21. The Leicester Institute for Advanced Studies (LIAS), working closely with RED, has been asked to support this call.

Detail

Acknowledging the challenging nature of building interdisciplinary teams and grant applications, the 10 x 10 Challenge Fund aims to enable ten groups of researchers to explore ground-breaking, innovative ideas, and to stimulate increased ambition. The call supports both new and existing teams (including consortia) committed to submitting significant/large grant applications in 2020/21.

This cohort of 10 teams will benefit from dedicated grant development support from the Research and Enterprise Division, and a programme of interdisciplinary support from LIAS.

The kinds of activity that may be funded is flexible, but may include:
- Expenses related to convening collaborators, holding workshops and creating bid materials
- Grant-writing retreats and/or support for grant writing
- Consultancy, facilitation, project management or administration
- Research assistance (hosted at UoL) to support preliminary or pilot research, literature review or proof-of-concept activity for cutting-edge interdisciplinary ideas

The PVC (R&E) will be encouraging Heads of Colleges and Schools to provide what support and encouragement they can to enable colleagues to participate fully in this endeavour.

Themes

Applications relevant to the UKRI Delivery Plans or priorities of the University’s major funders are welcome.

Delivery plan summaries for UKRI key funders are available here: https://www.ukri.org/about-us/delivery-plans/.

The call is open to any themes that are likely to lead to significant grant applications in 2020/21 (over £1M if led from CSE/CLS, and £500K if led from CSSAH). Applications are encouraged which are linked to existing Leicester research strengths, including:

- Digital healthcare systems and health & patient data
- Black and Minority Ethnic groups and cultural issues of ageing
- Audiences of the future and virtual reality
- Archives of the future
- History or politics of Space Science
Applications
A 10x10 Challenge Fund team can apply for up to £10,000 for up to six months with no renewal. All spend must be complete by 20th July 2020. All projects must start activity at the beginning of February 2020.

Applications must
- Be led by a Leicester Principal Investigator, although teams can include collaborators from other universities or sectors where appropriate
- Include academics from a range of disciplines, addressing a complex question
- Demonstrate a credible pathway to at least one significant grant application, ideally to be submitted in 2020/21
- Commit to a series of 3 support meetings
- Include costs for administrative and event support.

The scheme does not fund:
- Standalone events that are not part of the research development process.
- PhD or Masters studentships
- External conference attendance and travel
- Salary costs/buyout of substantive staff members (i.e. staff members who are already in permanent employment)
- Consultancy fees for UoL staff

The Application
Proposals are invited using the application form in Annex A of this call.

The lead applicant must seek approval from their School Research Lead/Director and Head of Department before the application is submitted and all co-applicants should agree their participation.

Completed application forms (Annex A) should be sent by the lead applicant to lias@le.ac.uk no later than 5pm 13 January 2020.

All applications will be considered by a panel in January with the intention of the new cohort starting at the beginning of February 2020.

If you would like to discuss an application with a member of the LIAS team, please email lias@le.ac.uk to book a conversation or contact the College lead in RED:

Alison Riding – College of Life Sciences – Alison.riding@le.ac.uk

Stephen Ison – College of Science and Engineering – sji5@le.ac.uk

Clare Hudson – College of Social Sciences, Art, Humanities – ch328@le.ac.uk