# UCT Grand Challenges Pilot Projects

# Part 1: Overview

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| **Announcement Type** | Strategic Projects: Vision 2030 funding |
| **Number of awards** | 4 |

## Key Dates

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| **Application Due Date** | 16 September 2022 |
| **Project Start date** | 1 November 2022 (approximate timeline, with Year 1 running to 31 December 2023) |

# Part 2: Announcement

### Section I: Description

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| **Purpose** | Seed funding for pilot projects to stimulate research and piloting of ideas towards formation of large-scale programmes addressing Africa-focused grand challenges is offered. The University invites teams of UCT researchers from at least three departments, drawn from at least two faculties to develop proposals in support of promising cross-disciplinary research projects |
| **Objectives and scope** | To support pilot research to enable the development of expanded projects, which can then be funded from externally sourced research funding |

#### Background

In line with UCT’s 2030 Vision for Research and its intent of advancing Africa-led impactful and translational research focused on the Grand Challenges critical to our society and of building capacity in discipline-grounded 1inter- and transdisciplinary (IDTD) research required to address these, the University invites teams of researchers drawn from across relevant disciplines and departments to develop proposals in support of promising cross-disciplinary pilot research projects. This is in recognition that winning larger grants and implementing large cross-disciplinary projects often requires pilot data to lay the groundwork. Where actual implementation requires funding beyond the amount of the award, the university research support services will help successful applicants to raise the shortfall amount through international grant funding or other means, where the benefit of the project to UCT is confirmed.

### Section II: Award Information

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| **Award Budget** | R 500 000 for one year, with motivation for renewal for a second year (maximum of R1M per project over two years) |
| **Salary support** | Funds can be used towards non-GOB appointments that are processed through HR, including soft-funded academic research staff and PASS staff. However, salaries may not exceed 50% of the total project budget (see FAQs for more information) |
| **Postdoctoral Fellowships** | Postdoctoral fellowships can be awarded for one year (see FAQs for rates) |
| **Bursary support** | Funds can be used to provide honours and one-year master’s bursaries for a maximum of one year. Two-year master’s bursaries can be motivated for under certain conditions (see FAQs). In addition, master’s and PhD students can be paid as research assistants where appropriate and motivated |
| **Equipment** | All equipment (including computers, laptops, etc) are excluded/ineligible costs |
| **Eligible funding period** | 1 Nov 2022 – 31 December 2023 |
| **Earliest start date** | 1 Nov 2022 |
| **Latest end date** | 31 June 2024 |

### Section III: Eligibility Information

#### Eligible Applicants

Lead applicants must be members of UCT staff, already appointed by UCT on permanent conditions of service, or on contract for the grant period. Joint staff (excluding registrars) who are on permanent conditions of service with their primary employer (UCT, the Western Cape Government or the National Health Laboratory Service) are similarly eligible.

#### Number of Applications

### Eligible applicants may participate in more than one Pilot Project as Co-Investigator but may submit only one application as Principal Investigator (PI).

### Section IV: Application and Submission Information

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| **Application template** | You can request the template from internationalgrants@uct.ac.za. |
| **Page limitations** | Proposals should be in the region of 6-10 pages in total (maximum ten pages), minimum single-spaced Arial font 11, margins 2 cm. In addition, a one-page Theory of Change, a budget, budget justification (no more than 2 pages), and a maximum 3-page biosketch for principal investigator and co-investigators must be included. |
| **Application submission** | Applicants should complete an [intention to submit](https://forms.office.com/r/hS0JTpUx1h) by 31 July 2022. Please submit your application pack (including the completed application template, Theory of Change, budget, budget justification and biosketches) to [internationalgrants@uct.ac.za](mailto:internationalgrants@uct.ac.za) by 4pm on 16 September 2022. |
| **UCT eRA** | Internal proposal approval via eRA is NOT required |
| **UCT Research Contracts and Innovation (RC&I)** | RC&I review is NOT required to submit the application. RC&I will facilitate contract agreement for the successful projects. |
| **Abstract** | In words for a general audience, summarise the pilot project and its expected outcomes, including the potential to develop to expanded projects that will address at least two of the Sustainable Development Goals, have translational and policy impact and forge significant collaboration with external non-academic partners. The abstract must not exceed 300 words. |
| **Scope of Work** | Provide detail on the scope of work, including the objective(s), the significance and relevance of proposed work, the methodology or approach to be used, the expected outputs and outcomes, and the contribution that a successful project, if expanded to full-scale, will make in delivering on the University’s strategic goals. A template will be provided by the [International Grants Hub](mailto:internationalgrants@uct.ac.za) in the Research Office on request or on submission of an [intention to submit](https://forms.office.com/r/hS0JTpUx1h) |
| **Theory of change** | Each application must include a project-specific Theory of Change that complies with the generic example provided. Contact [internationalgrants@uct.ac.za](mailto:internationalgrants@uct.ac.za) for more information on the Theory of Change |
| **Team Composition & Biosketches** | Identify the senior (principal and co-principal investigators) and key individuals (co-investigators) who will contribute to the pilot project’s success. Include a maximum 3-page biosketch of the principal investigator and each co-investigator in the project. A co-investigator is defined as a researcher who will make a significant contribution to the design and implementation of the pilot project |
| **Budget** | Total costs cannot exceed R500 000 for one year  Please use the budget template provided. The following categories are eligible costs:   * Running costs (materials and consumables) * Staff costs (non-GOB funded staff only) – cannot exceed 50% of the total project budget * Postgraduate student bursaries (see FAQs for guidelines and conditions) * Postdoctoral fellowship support (see FAQs for guidelines and conditions) * Networking and exploratory activities   These costs are not allowed unless motivated for:   * Equipment including computers, laptops, etc * Travel for activities such as conferences or research visits to other institutions is not allowed. Travel is only for networking or pilot activities such as field work. * Consultants’ fees and Project management fees   See FAQs for more information |
| **Application support** | The International Grants team in the Research Office is available to respond to queries and advise on the development of theories of change. Please email internationalgrants@uct.ac.za |

### Section V: Conditions of award

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| Successful applicants will be required to sign off on UCT’s standard conditions of grant, with the funding being released in the form of one upfront tranche. A summary of expenditure will be expected at the close of the project.  Successful applicants will deliver a presentation at six months and at the end of the 12-month project period.  Successful applicants will be expected to apply for funding to support the full-scale research project at the end of the pilot project phase. |

### Section VI: Application Review Information

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| **Criteria** | Proposals will be evaluated on the following:   * They bring together sub-themes within UCT’s Vision 2030 research priority areas (see Annexure A of the call release). * They address a grand challenge recognised to be of importance in Africa, with potential for global reach * They use a cross-cutting inter- or transdisciplinary approach, built on disciplinary strengths from multiple research teams from at least three departments, drawn from at least two faculties * They demonstrate the potential for the pilot project to lead to a full-scale research or innovation project * They demonstrate how they will leverage funding to support the full-scale research project * They address at least two of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or demonstrate their alignment with Agenda 2063 * They identify collaboration opportunities with at least two external non-academic partners; for example, NGOs, policy makers, civil society and/or industry * They demonstrate how a full-scale project, if developed, will have impact * They identify a demographically (gender and race) diverse project leadership team |

#### Review and selection process

* Proposals will be screened for eligibility and completeness
* Eligible proposals will be scored and shortlisted
* An executive-level review panel will review shortlisted proposals
* The top scoring proposals will be selected for presentations to the panel
* Successful applicants will be notified