

## Simons Foundation Collaborations in Ecology & Evolution: Call for applications (Vision Statements)

URL: <https://www.simonsfoundation.org/grant/simons-collaborations-in-ecology-and-evolution/?tab=rfa>

**Funding amount and duration of funding: \$1–4M USD/year**

**Funder deadline: 16 October 2025**

### UCT Internal Deadlines

1. UCT Intention to submit deadline: Please complete an [intention-to-submit](#) form by **18 September 2025**

**IMPORTANT:** While the Vision statement (Letter of Intent-LOI) does not need a detailed budget, an estimated total annual budget is required. UCT researchers should consider the scope of their work and prepare a draft budget to verify alignment with available funding. Application budgets should range from \$1 million to \$4 million USD per year per collaboration, including 20% indirect costs.

**Contacts:** Faculty of Health Sciences: [FHS.ResearchFunding@uct.ac.za](mailto:FHS.ResearchFunding@uct.ac.za) ; All Other Faculties - [internationalgrants@uct.ac.za](mailto:internationalgrants@uct.ac.za)

### About the Funding Opportunity

The Simons Foundation Life Sciences division invites *vision statements* for bold, high-impact research collaborations in **ecology and evolution**. The focus is on **idea-generating, basic science** that may be *overlooked or considered too risky* for other funders, particularly at the **interface of ecological and evolutionary dynamics**.

They are seeking proposals that:

- Cross-disciplinary, methodological, or geographic boundaries
- Integrate scales (e.g., genes to communities, local to global)
- Advance understanding of how genetic, ecological, and evolutionary factors shape biological systems

See full call details [here](#)

### Eligibility Criteria

All investigators must hold a Ph.D. or equivalent degree and have a faculty position or the equivalent (eligible for receiving grant funding as a PI) at a college, university, research institute, or other research facility. In addition, eligible applicants must have research space at their institution.

### Key Highlights:

- **Funding available:** Up to \$1–4 million USD/year per collaboration (inclusive of 20% indirect costs)
- **Funding duration:** 5 years, with potential renewal
- **Total available:** \$8 million USD/year to support 1–3 collaborations
- **Focus:** Idea-generating research that integrates across scales (genes to ecosystems, local to global), and cuts across disciplines, methods, or geographic regions
- **Team structure:** Proposals should include investigators at multiple career stages and across disciplines, with an emphasis on open data and collaborative science

### Application Process

- Please note that this application involves two stages. The first stage requires the PI to submit Vision statements electronically via the [Simons Award Manager \(SAM\)](#) by **16 Oct 2025**. Institutional approval via UCT's electronic Research Administration (eRA) system is not needed at the LOI stage.
- If your Vision Statement is accepted, you will be invited to submit a full application:
  - Full applications: Opens 02 March 2026 and closes 30 April 2026 (this will require UCT eRA approval).