# UCT Vision 2030 Grand Challenges Programme

# Part 1: Overview

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| **Announcement Type** | Strategic Projects: Vision 2030 funding |
| **Number of awards** | 2 |

## 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** | 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 for grand challenges programmes that seek to address pressing grand challenges at national and/or continental levels. Proposals must demonstrate the impactful approach and transformative potential of multi-sectoral collaborative research in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals. |
| **Objectives and scope** | To support big and bold IDTD research programmes that have high potential for impact, scale, and sustainability |

#### Background

UCT’s 2030 Vision for Research strives to **unleash knowledge in, for and from Afrika to redefine and co-create a sustainable global future**. The implementation plan for this vision recognises the need for enhanced research support systems, facilitating approaches to inter- and transdisciplinary research and to nurture engaged scholarship, advance the next generation of transformed and diverse research leaders, develop strong postgraduate programmes and facilitate impactful research programmes, particularly those focused on grand challenges core to Africa.

The 2030 Research Catalytic Programme developed to deliver on this implementation, under the custodianship and leadership of the DVC responsible for Research & Internationalisation, Prof Sue Harrison, will consist of various initiatives.

The first of these is the **UCT Vision 2030 Grand Challenges Programme**, which seeks to provide impetus to further advance on UCT’s research and innovation capabilities for addressing Africa’s Grand Challenges. Through this initiative we aim to build and leverage on our unique and emerging strengths in a way that will enable and enhance UCT’s capacity to contribute meaningfully to generating new knowledge relevant to, and for the benefit of, the City of Cape Town and its surrounding areas, South Africa and our continent while, importantly, also contributing positively to the global knowledge base from our Global South perspective. Through the Initiative we also seek to build the next generation of transformed and diverse research leaders to maintain sustained research excellence at UCT.

### Section II: Award Information

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| **Award Budget** | R2M in the first year and R3M in the subsequent two years (totaling R8M per programme over three 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 (see FAQs for more information) |
| **Postdoctoral Fellowships** | Postdoctoral fellowships can be awarded at the URC postdoc rate of R300 000 pa for a period of two years |
| **Bursary support** | Funds can be used for honours, master’s, and PhD bursaries for a maximum of one year (honours), two years (master’s), and three years (PhD; 4th year permissible where the PhD is an upgrade from the master’s degree). See FAQs for bursary limits and more information. Bursary top-ups may also be motivated for |
| **Equipment** | Office equipment (computers, laptops, etc) and large equipment (>R100 000) are ineligible costs, unless motivated for. See FAQs for more information |
| **Eligible funding period** | 1 November 2022 – 31 October 2025 |
| **Earliest start date** | 1 November 2022 |
| **Latest end date** | 31 December 2026 |

### 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 Programme as Co-Investigator (Co-I) 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 cannot exceed 10 pages in total, 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 of the 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 programme and its expected outcomes, including the cross-cutting inter- or transdisciplinary approach and the pathway for translational research towards uptake and policy influence. 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 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**  **Monitoring & Evaluation Plan and Data Management & Sharing Plan** | Each application must include a Theory of Change that complies with the generic example provided. Contact [internationalgrants@uct.ac.za](mailto:internationalgrants@uct.ac.za) for more information.  While not required at the application stage, successful applicants will need to submit a Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Plan linked to their Theory of Change, and a Data Management & Sharing Plan within 3 months of starting the project. Inclusion of a data steward and M&E expert in the project team is therefore highly recommended. |
| **Management Plan** | Explain the roles and contributions of the principal investigator (PI) and all co-investigators (Co-Is). A co-investigator is defined as a researcher who will make a significant contribution to the design and implementation of the programme and may include leaders of any sub-groups/ themes/ work packages. Include the track record of the PI in leading interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary and sectoral projects. Please attach a maximum 3-page biosketch (template provided as a guideline) of the PI and each Co-I and describe the management or governance structure of the programme, including the composition (if applicable) of a steering committee. |
| **Budget** | Total costs for each year cannot exceed R2M in the first year and 3M in the subsequent two years.  The total budget ceiling is R8M over three years.  Please use the budget template provided. The following categories are eligible costs:   * Running costs (materials and consumables) * Equipment up to R100 000 (excluding laptops/computers and large equipment over R100 000) * Staff costs (non-GOB funded staff only) * Postgraduate student bursaries and top-ups * Postdoctoral fellowships and top-ups * Workshops and seminars * Travel incl. fieldwork and conferences   These costs are not allowed unless motivated for:   * Office equipment (computers, laptops, etc) * Consultants’ fees and Project management fees (fees for an M&E consultant may be motivated for) * Large equipment >R100 000   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 three, 12-month tranches.  Release of funding will be dependent on satisfactory progress reports submitted annually, commencing 12 months after receipt of the award.  Successful applicants will deliver a presentation at six months, 18 months and at the end of the project period. |

### 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 four departments, drawn from at least two faculties * They demonstrate how the new research and innovation programme will build and leverage on existing strengths and achievements * They outline the pathway for translational research towards uptake and policy influence and impact * They address at least two of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) * They have a significant collaboration with at least two external non-academic partners; for example, NGOs, policy makers, civil society and/or industry * They have a demographically (gender and race) diverse project leadership team * They plan to build critical mass in the broad areas in a way that will sustain excellence in research through production of the next generation of future research leaders |

#### 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