

Global Health Seed Grant Program 2026/2027 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for applicants

Overview: Please review the 2026/2027 RFA and application package for additional details, and contact GHP Director of Grants, Dr. Fola May (FMay@mednet.ucla.edu), with questions not addressed below.

Questions:

(1) Who reviews my proposal and what criteria are used?

A: Each proposal is reviewed by at least two independent faculty reviewers with expertise in fields relevant to your proposed project. Additionally, two independent global health faculty review all applications. Scoring criteria used are included [here](#).

(2) What are the requirements for the UCLA Principal Investigator (PI) and Global Principal Investigator (Co-PI)?

A: The PI must be a **UCLA faculty member**. Adjunct faculty, fellows, and residents are **not eligible** to serve as PI but may be included as co-investigators or early career investigators.

The application must also include a **lead investigator from the global partner site**, who will serve as the international Co-PI.

(3) Do all Co-Investigators need to be UCLA affiliated?

A: Each team must include a **primary investigator** that is UCLA faculty affiliated with one of UCLA schools, such as DGSOM, the Fielding School of Public Health or the UCLA School of Nursing. Inclusion of a very **few** external investigators who are not at UCLA or at the global partner site is acceptable.

(4) Is there a word-limit for the letter of intent (LOI) and should it include a specific aims page?

A: There is no word limit. The LOI is submitted via Qualtrics, and most teams complete it with content equivalent to 2–3 pages.

A short description of your **specific research aims** should be entered in the designated field (approx. 250 words).

(5) Do I need to apply as part of a multidisciplinary team?

A: Yes. Projects must be led by multidisciplinary teams representing at least:

- Two distinct scientific disciplines (e.g., clinical + social science), or
- Two different clinical specialties (e.g., internal medicine + surgery)

Cross-school collaboration across UCLA (e.g., DGSOM and Fielding SPH) is strongly encouraged.

(6) Does my team need to include early career investigators?

A: Yes. Your team must include:

- At least one early career investigator from UCLA, and
- At least one early career investigator from the global partner site

The grant should support meaningful research experience for both. A **mentorship and capacity-building plan** must also be included in the full application.

Definition:

- *UCLA early career investigators* include residents, fellows, PhD students, postdocs, and junior faculty (≤ 3 years in a faculty role).
- *Global early career investigators* may include clinicians, medical students, graduate students, or junior academicians pursuing a healthcare career.
- **Note:** UCLA medical students may participate in the project but cannot be named as early career investigators.

(7) In terms of developing or further strengthening a UCLA global partnership, does this need to be a new or existing relationship with a global partner site?

A: We are interested in funding projects that involve both new and established global partnerships.

(8) How are foreign research costs paid?

A: The Dean's Office finance team will work directly with the Principle Investigator's (PI) fund manager on transfer of funds. In order to transfer funds, an invoice for actual or estimated research costs must be provided by the global partner site. Actual receipts are not required for funds transfer to the PI Department or Division. Other costs (travel, UCLA salaries, local expenses) are paid on a reimbursement basis. Awardees will receive clearly outlined guidance for managing a Dean's Office commitment. Indirect costs are allowable **within** the total budget of \$50,000 if they are required by the global partner site. A 10% negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA) is typical for foreign organizations as part of subawards, and is based only on the amount provided to the organization in the subaward.

Example: \$50,000 awarded to PI and \$30,000 will be spent locally at the global partner site on local research implementation. Partner indirect is \$3,000 based on a 10% indirect rate (indirect rate must be confirmed with your global partner site). Any global partner can ask for an indirect rate, but it should be based on established policy for the organization.

(9) What is required in the capacity building/mentorship plan?

A: The plan should include specific detail on skills and how they will be built for individuals who are named in the grant as early career investigators. This Seed Grant Program is not meant to support general bilateral or unilateral training exchanges. In an exchange of training is included in the capacity building/mentorship plan, the application should outline the named individuals who will travel and the specific skills to be obtained by each individual. Please note that PIs should be familiar with any issues related to bringing individuals to UCLA for short- or long-term work (visas, work permits, UCLA rules around visiting scholars) and mention this in the application (for feasibility).

(10) Can I apply for funding for a basic science research project?

A: In order for a basic science research project to be eligible for this Seed Grant Program, the majority of the laboratory science must take place in a laboratory at the global site. Projects in which the laboratory experiments take place primarily at UCLA will not be considered. The application should outline how the project will help build the global partner site's capacity for research as part of the proposed work.

(11) I was awarded a grant last cycle, can I reapply?

A: PIs are not eligible to be funded two consecutive years for a project with the same global partner site. A PI may reapply and be awarded in consecutive years for research with a different global partner.

(12) Do I need IRB approval before submitting my application?

No. IRB approval is not required for submission **but must be secured** from both UCLA and the global partner site **before funds will be released**.