

Global Health Seed Grant Program 2026/2027 Request for Applications (RFA)

Overview: The DGSOM Global Health Program (GHP), in collaboration with UCLA International Health Services, invites proposal submissions for its seventh cycle of the Global Health Seed Grant Program. The primary goals of this program are to: (1) support multidisciplinary teams of faculty involved in global health research in low- and middle-income countries, (2) establish or further build long-term global research partnerships that address pressing health questions relevant to the local setting, and/or (3) build the capacity of early career investigators at global partner sites and at UCLA.

Funding level and duration:

Awards are available at **two funding levels: up to \$50,000 for a period of one year, and up to \$15,000 for a period of one year**. Please note that the total award per applicant must not exceed \$50,000 or \$15,000, depending on the funding level selected (including direct and indirect costs). If a global partner site has a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA), the indirect costs must be covered within the total budget.

Eligibility:

- **Principal Investigator (PI):**
 - The PI must be a **UCLA faculty member**.
 - **Adjunct faculty, fellows, and residents are not eligible** to serve as PI but may be listed as co-investigators or early career investigators.
- **DGSOM Affiliation**
 - At least **one investigator** on the team must hold a faculty appointment within the **David Geffen School of Medicine (DGSOM)**.
- **Team Composition**
 - Projects must be led by **multidisciplinary teams**, either:
 - From **two different scientific disciplines** (e.g., clinical + social science), or
 - From **two distinct clinical specialties** (e.g., internal medicine + surgery).
 - Cross-school collaboration is **strongly encouraged**, especially across at least **two UCLA schools** (e.g., DGSOM + Fielding School of Public Health).
- **Global Partnership**
 - A lead investigator from the **global partner site** must be included as **Co-PI**.
 - Proposed work must take place in a **low- or middle-income country** as defined by the [World Bank](#).
- **Early Career Investigators**
 - Must include:
 - At least one early career investigator from UCLA*, **and**
 - At least one early career investigator from the global partner site.
 - These roles should support meaningful research experience and capacity-building.
 - A mentorship plan must be included, along with criteria for evaluating progress.

UCLA Early Career Investigator Definition:

Includes residents, fellows, PhD students, postdocs, and junior faculty (three years or fewer into

their first faculty role). UCLA medical students are not eligible for this designation, though they may participate in the project.

Global Site Early Career Investigator Definition:

May include clinicians, medical students, graduate students, or junior academicians pursuing a healthcare career.

- **IRB Requirements**
 - IRB approval is not required at time of submission.
 - For funded awards, IRB approval from both UCLA and the appropriate regulatory agency for the global partner site is required before funds will be released.

Ineligible Proposals

The following proposals are **not** eligible the 2026/2027 Seed Grant cycle:

1) Projects primarily focused on unilateral or bilateral training exchange:

This Seed Grant Program **does not** support general training exchanges as a standalone goal.

- *Allowed if:* The training is clearly part of a broader capacity-building effort for **named early career investigators** on the proposal.
- If training is proposed, the application must:
 - Name the individual(s) who will travel
 - Specify the skills to be acquired
 - Address logistical challenges (e.g., visas, work permits, visiting scholar rules)

2) Projects based in UCLA or Los Angeles-based laboratories:

To be eligible, **the majority of the laboratory work must occur at the global partner site.**

- *Allowed if:* The project directly contributes to laboratory capacity-building at the global site and includes clear plans for this development.

3) Repeat proposals by the same funded PI and partner site in consecutive years:

PIs may not receive funding in **two consecutive years** for a project involving the same global partner site.

- *Allowed if:* The proposal involves a **new global partner site.**

Note: Competitive applications will aim to:

- Build a new global research collaboration
- Strengthen an existing research collaboration
- Establish a new research area with an existing global partner

Cross-school collaboration within UCLA is **required**, and may include, but is not limited to, the schools of Public Health, Dentistry, Nursing, Law, and Management.

Application process and timeline:

- (1) All applicants are required to submit a **Letter of Intent (LOI)** prior to submission of the full proposal
- (2) LOIs are due by **5pm PST on 10/10/2025**
- (3) Individuals invited to submit a full proposal will be notified during the week of **November 10, 2025**

- (4) Full proposals are due by **5pm PST on 12/10/2025**
- (5) Awards will be announced in **early-to-mid March 2026**
- (6) The award period is **mid-May 2026 through June 30, 2027**, contingent upon proof of UCLA and global partner site IRB approvals. We encourage applicants to apply for IRB approval prior to award notification to avoid delays in receiving IRB approval, should the application be awarded.
- (7) The award period will end **6/30/27**, with potential for no-cost time extension (NCTE).

Letter of Intent: Please complete and submit the [LOI template](#) by no later than **5pm PST on 10/10/2025**. You should receive a confirmation email immediately after submission. We will reach out with any questions.

The [LOI template](#) requires:

- (1) Name of UCLA PI with degree(s), department, and contact information (must be faculty member)
- (2) Name of global site Co-PI with degree(s), affiliations, and contact information
- (3) Names of all additional co-investigators with affiliations (departments/schools)
- (4) Name of at least one early career investigator from UCLA and at least one early career investigator from the global site to be included in the application, with title, position, and explanation for how the individuals meet early career investigator status
- (5) Name of global partner and brief description of site
- (6) Specific aims
- (7) Funding level requested

Full proposal requirements:

- (1) Cover page and table of contents/checklist (see template provided)
- (2) Research proposal (4 pages maximum, 11-point Arial font with ½- inch margins; note guidance for the suggested length for each section included below)
 - a. Specific aims (0.5 pages)
 - b. Significance (0.5 pages)
 - c. Approach/methodology (1.5 to 1.75 pages)
 - d. Global health impact (1 page), including:
 - i. Description of the global partner and strengths of the partnership
 - ii. Collaborative work to date, if any
 - iii. Specific mentorship and training plan for early career investigators at UCLA and global partner site and how this project will contribute to their career development
 - e. Timeline (0.25 pages)
- (3) Biosketch (National Institutes of Health (NIH) format; for PI and all co-investigators) **For young investigator(s), a CV is acceptable in lieu of a Biosketch. For this application cycle we will accept both old and new biosketch formats*
- (4) Itemized budget and justification
- (5) Letter(s) of support from the global partner site Co-PI and any other key collaborators
- (6) Letter of support from UCLA Division Chief or Department Chair stating that you (as PI) are in good standing and that he/she supports the global partnership and research

Application review process:

- Each application will be evaluated by two or three reviewers. Reviewers will be selected from within and outside of DGSOM for their global health experience and topic expertise.
- Regardless of whether funding is awarded, all applicants will receive reviewer scores and comments upon completion of the review process.
- Applications will be scored based on the criteria outlined below using the NIH scoring system (score of 1-9):

Overall Impact or Criterion Strength	Score	Descriptor
High	1	Exceptional
	2	Outstanding
	3	Excellent
Medium	4	Very Good
	5	Good
	6	Satisfactory
Low	7	Fair
	8	Marginal
	9	Poor

Application scoring criteria:

Each application will be scored on the following:

- Significance of proposed research
- Methodology
- Experience of investigative team (specifically for work in the proposed research area and work in global settings)
- Ability to develop or further strengthen a UCLA DGSOM/Health System partnership
- Multidisciplinary collaboration
- Clear and specific description of capacity building for early career investigators at UCLA and at the global partner site
- Feasibility of proposed work within budget
- Feasibility to successfully complete the project in the proposed timeline (no longer than one year)

Please send any questions regarding your application to Dr. Fola May (FMay@mednet.ucla.edu), GHP Director of Grants.