

## Global Health Seed Grant Program 2025/2026 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for applicants

**Overview:** Please review the 2025/2026 RFA and application package for additional details, and contact GHP Director of Grants, Dr. Fola May ([FMay@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto: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 UCLA Principal Investigator (PI) **must be a faculty member at UCLA**. Adjunct faculty, fellows, and residents are not eligible to serve as PI but may participate as co-investigators or early career investigators. Additionally, the application **must include** a lead investigator from the global partner site to serve as the international Co-PI.

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

**A:** Each team must include a **principal investigator** that is UCLA faculty and affiliated with 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:** The LOI has no specific word limit, but successful applicants have completed the requirements within the three pages provided. The specific research aims should be entered in the field provided and should be approximately 250 words.

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

**A:** Yes. We will fund projects that are led by multidisciplinary teams representing at least two scientific disciplines (e.g., one clinical scientist and one social scientist) or two different clinical disciplines (e.g., one investigator from internal medicine and one investigator from surgery). We also strongly encourage collaboration across at least two schools on the UCLA campus (e.g., DGSOM and the Fielding School of Public Health).

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

**A:** Yes, your team must include at least one named early career investigator\* from UCLA **and** at least one named early career investigator\* from the global partner site, for whom the grant will serve as a mechanism for gaining research experience. Please also include a capacity building/mentorship plan and criteria for how you will evaluate progress towards capacity building (full application).

- \*Note: UCLA early career investigators are defined as resident or fellow physicians, PhD students, and postdoctoral trainees as well as junior faculty for whom 3 or fewer years have elapsed since appointment to a faculty position. For the purposes of this Seed Grant Program, UCLA medical students are not eligible as early career investigators, although their participation is welcome. An early career investigator from a global site may include a clinician, medical student, graduate student, or other junior academician working towards a career in global health.

(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 Principal 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 how individuals named in the grant as early career investigators will receive research and career development training. This Seed Grant Program is not meant to support general bilateral or unilateral training exchanges. If 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 the plan and feasibility of achieving these requirements in the application.

*(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.