

Call for applications: Spencer Foundation: Large Research Grants on Education Program

URL: https://www.spencer.org/grant_types/large-research-grant

Keywords: Education; Educational Research; Research Methods in Education

Funding amount and duration of funding: Five years in duration; funding amount- max USD 500,000 and min USD 125,000

Funder deadlines:

This is a two- stage application process: Stage 1: Submit [Intent to Apply](#) by **14 Jan 2025**, Stage 2: Submit Full Proposal by **11 Feb 2025**

UCT Internal Deadlines:

- **UCT Intention to submit deadline:** Please complete [intention-to-submit](#) form an by **10 Jan 2024**
- **UCT eRA:** Approval via UCT's electronic Research Administration (eRA) system is **REQUIRED** prior to submission to the funder. Applicants should:
 - Submit an eRA Proposal Approval request with a draft budget to the Budget Reviewer by **14 Jan 2025**
 - [eRA Internal Approvals forms](#) should reach the Finance Approver by no later than **28 Jan 2025**
 - eRA Approval form and all supporting documents to reach RC&I via eRA by no later than **04 Feb 2025**

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

About the Funding Opportunity

The [Large Research Grants on Education Program](#) supports education research projects that will contribute to the improvement of education, broadly conceived.

Proposals to the Research Grants on Education program must be for academic research projects that aim to study education. Proposals for activities other than research are not eligible (e.g., program evaluations, professional development, curriculum development, scholarships, capital projects). Additionally, proposals for research studies focused on areas other than education, are not eligible.

Spencer foundations anticipate awarding grants with budgets across each of the following funding tiers –

1. \$125,000 to 250,000.
2. \$250,001 to \$375,000; and
3. \$375,001 to \$500,000.

This program is “field-initiated” in that proposal submissions are not in response to a specific request for a particular research topic, discipline, design, method, or location. Our goal for this program is to support rigorous, intellectually ambitious and technically sound research that is relevant to the most pressing questions and compelling opportunities in education.

Eligibility Criteria

- Projects proposed may not be longer than 5 years in duration.
- Applicants can request funding amount- **max** USD 500,000 **and min** USD 125,000
- Principal Investigators (PIs) and Co-PIs must have an earned doctorate in an academic discipline or professional field, or appropriate experience in an education research-related profession. While graduate students may be part of the research team, they may not be named the PI or Co-PI on the proposal.
- Projects that are primarily comprised of activities other than education research (e.g., request for funding book writing, curriculum or technology development, technology purchases, philanthropic support for nonprofits or other service providers, program evaluations), or scholarships are not eligible.

Application Process

Stage 1: Intent to Apply form (Deadline 14 Jan 2025)

- This does not require the applicant to complete UCT's eRA application.
- The applicant to complete an Intent to Apply form on funder's portal [here](#). Once completed and submitted, you will have access to the Full Proposal application in funder's online portal.

Stage 2: Full Proposal application (Deadline 11 February 2025)

- This proposal requires the PI to complete an online application on the funder portal <https://spencer.smartsimple.us>, as well as requesting institutional approval via UCT's electronic Research Administration ([eRA](#)) system, prior to submission to funder.

	Deadline
PI to initiate an eRA Proposal Approval request and alert their faculty finance office of the budgetary support needed	Immediately
PI to submit an eRA Proposal Approval request with a draft budget to the Budget Reviewer step on eRA at least 4 weeks before the funder deadline	14 Jan 2025
PI to submit an eRA Proposal Approval request to the Finance Approver step on eRA at least 2 weeks before the funder deadline	28 Jan 2025
Approval form and all supporting documents to reach RC&I via eRA at least 1 week before the funder deadline	04 Feb 2025
PI to submit the application on the funder portal to RC&I (Administering Organization) by	04 Feb 2025
Funder deadline for full proposal	11 Feb 2025

Important notes:

- Please to be mindful of any differences between UCT internal deadlines and those set by the external funder. Plan your application timeline accordingly to meet both sets of deadlines.
- Applications must reach the RC&I stage at least **five working days** before the funder's deadline.
- RC&I will not be responsible for missed deadlines if the application is not submitted with the required lead time.