

Call for applications: Academy of Medical Sciences Networking Grants 2026 (Round 3)

URL: <https://acmedsci.ac.uk/grants-and-programmes/grants/networking-grants>

Keywords: International Collaboration, UK-South Africa Partnerships, Artificial Intelligence for Health, Climate and Health, Antimicrobial Resistance, Health Systems Resilience, Interdisciplinary Research Networks, Capacity Strengthening, ODA Funding

Funding amount: Maximum of £30,000 for projects of up to 12 months' duration

Funder deadline: **13 November 2026**

UCT Internal Deadlines

- **UCT Intention to submit deadline:** Please complete [intention-to-submit](#) form a by **29 Oct 2026**
- **UCT eRA:** Approval via UCT's electronic Research Administration (eRA) system is **REQUIRED** prior to submission to the funder. Applicants should:
 - initiate an eRA Proposal Approval request & alert their faculty finance office of the budgetary support needed
 - Submit eRA Proposal Approval request with draft budget to the Budget Reviewer by no later than **30 Oct 2026**
 - Approval form and all supporting documents to reach RC&I by no later than **06 Nov 2026**

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

About the Funding Opportunity

The Academy of Medical Sciences is offering Networking Grants to support the creation of interdisciplinary research networks between researchers in the UK and researchers in eligible partner countries, including South Africa. Each award provides up to £30,000 over 12 months to establish or expand collaborative networks that can generate innovative research ideas, strengthen research capacity, develop pilot data where needed, and position teams to secure larger research grants in future.

Unlike conventional research grants, this scheme is designed primarily to support relationship-building, knowledge exchange, partnership development, research planning, and network strengthening. Limited pilot data collection is permissible where it contributes directly to the development of a future research programme.

The programme is supported through the UK Government's International Science Partnerships Fund (ISPF).

Networks must address at least one of the following themes

The call strongly encourages **interdisciplinary research networks**, bringing together expertise from health sciences, engineering, computer science, environmental sciences, humanities, social sciences, policy, mathematics, and related fields.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Health	Climate and Health	Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Health Systems Resilience
• Digital health innovation • AI-enabled healthcare solutions • Predictive analytics and decision support systems • Data science applications in health • AI approaches supporting clean energy transitions and health	Potential areas include: • Climate-sensitive diseases • Extreme weather and health impacts • Water security and management • Climate-resilient urbanisation • Biodiversity and ecosystem-based adaptation • Early warning systems	Potential areas include: • Antimicrobial and antifungal resistance • Pandemic preparedness • Vaccine development • Surveillance systems • One Health approaches • Bioengineering and data science

Eligibility Criteria

Applications must be jointly led by:

- A **Lead Applicant** based in an eligible partner country, including South Africa
- A **Co-Applicant** based in the UK

Both applicants must:

- Hold a PhD or equivalent research experience
- Have expertise relevant to the proposed network
- Be affiliated with a not-for-profit university or research institution
- Hold a position covering the duration of the award.

Networks may also include:

- Up to five Core Partners from South Africa, Brazil, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia or Thailand
- Additional Collaborators from academia, government, civil society, healthcare, industry, patient groups or other sectors.

What Will Be Funded?

Funds may support:

- Research networking meetings and workshops
- Travel and accommodation
- Stakeholder engagement activities
- Capacity strengthening and skills exchange
- Research planning and methodology development
- Governance and partnership development activities
- Limited pilot data generation
- Technical support and shared research infrastructure where justified.

Most of the funding is expected to support networking activities and should primarily benefit low- and middle-income countries. Most funding is expected to be spent outside the UK.

Ineligible costs include:

- Institutional overheads, indirect costs, and departmental charges
- Salary contributions or staff appointments
- Costs associated with dependents accompanying network members
- Purely social events
- Per diems or allowances
- Excess baggage costs
- Bench fees and membership fees
- Subscription costs (except essential software required for pilot data collection or analysis)
- Article processing charges (APCs) and other publication costs
- Conference registration fees (unless a networking event is being held alongside the conference)
- Honoraria for speakers or participants (although reasonable travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs may be covered)

Award Administration

All award funds will initially be paid to the UK-based administering institution associated with the Co-Applicant. The UK administering institution will be responsible for establishing a safe and efficient mechanism for transferring funds to the Overseas Lead Organisation, where applicable. Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to review the funder's [Award Terms and Conditions](#) with their research and finance offices prior to preparing an application, particularly where funds will be transferred between institutions.

Read:

- [Before you apply](#)
- [Application guidance notes](#)

Application Process

How to apply

Applications must be submitted through the Academy of Medical Sciences' online grant management system, [FlexiGrant](#) . Applications are jointly prepared by the South Africa-based Lead Applicant and a UK-based Co-Applicant. The application must be initiated by the Lead Applicant, who will then invite the UK partner to contribute via the online system.

UCT researchers participating in an application must obtain institutional approval via UCT's electronic Research Administration ([eRA](#)) system prior to submission to the funder. UCT internal deadlines therefore apply.

UCT internal requirements

	Deadline
PI to initiate an eRA Proposal Approval request and alert their faculty finance office of the budgetary support needed	Immediately
Submit eRA Proposal Approval request with draft budget to the Budget Reviewer	30 Oct 2026
Approval form and all supporting documents to reach RC&I via eRA at least 1 week before the funder deadline (if applicable, if funder requires institutional sign off)	6 Nov 2026
PI submits the application on the funder portal (Flexi grant) 5 working days before the closing date. (pre-submission).	6 Nov 2026
Funder deadline: Final submission actioned by RC&I via the funder's portal.	13 Nov 2026