

Call for applications: British Academy – Knowledge Frontiers: International Interdisciplinary Research Projects 2026

URL: [Knowledge Frontiers: International Interdisciplinary Research Projects 2026 | The British Academy](#)

Keywords: Early-career, Established researcher, Mid-career, Postdoctoral or equivalent research, Senior researcher

Funding amount and duration of funding: Up to £300,000 awarded over 24 months

Funder deadline: 17 September 2025

UCT Internal Deadlines

- **UCT Intention to submit deadline:** Please complete [Intension-to- Submit](#) form an by **24 July 2025**
- **UCT eRA:** Approval via UCT's electronic Research Administration (eRA) system is **REQUIRED** prior to submission to the funder. Applicants should:
 - Initiate eRA and contact budget reviewer by no later than **20 August 2025**
 - [eRA Internal Approvals forms](#) should reach the Finance Approver by no later than **03 September 2025**

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

About the Funding Opportunity

The British Academy invites proposals for its next round of [Knowledge Frontiers: International Interdisciplinary Research Projects](#). The programme supports pioneering international collaborations led by UK-based researchers in the humanities and social sciences, working with international partners and engaging across disciplines (including STEM and SHAPE) to address urgent **Transnational and Planetary Challenges**.

Programme Aims: Projects must be grounded in the humanities and/or social sciences and:

- Address at least one of the following four transnational and planetary domains:
 - **Earth system governance** (e.g., climate change, biodiversity loss, oceanic degradation)
 - **Digital & transformative technologies** (e.g., AI, cyber, nanotech, synthetic biology)
 - **Global health** (e.g., pandemics, "One Health" approaches)
 - **Outer space governance** (e.g., orbital debris, arms racing in space)
- Be genuinely interdisciplinary, involving cross-disciplinary collaboration among SHAPE and STEM researchers
- Contribute to deeper, more historically aware thinking
- Support international knowledge exchange and policy development
- Enable effective international, cross-disciplinary, and multilingual collaboration

Eligibility Criteria

- **Principal Investigator (PI):** Must be a humanities or social sciences researcher, based at a UK university/research institute, postdoctoral or above, with a contract extending for the full project period. PIs must dedicate a minimum of 20% FTE to the project.
- **Co-Applicants:** Must include at least one Co-Applicant based overseas. Teams must demonstrate genuine interdisciplinarity across SHAPE and STEM disciplines.
- Researchers based at **UCT or other eligible institutions in the Global South** may participate as Co-Applicants, **provided they collaborate with a UK-based Principal Investigator from the humanities or social sciences**. This is a collaborative submission led by the UK PI, who will submit the application via the funder portal. Interested UCT researchers are encouraged to identify and engage with eligible UK-based collaborators early to jointly develop proposals aligned with the programme's interdisciplinary and transnational research objectives.

For more details about the eligibility requirements, please see the [Scheme Notes](#).

Funding Available:

- Up to £300,000 per project, over 2 years (projects must start in March/April 2026)

Application Process

How to apply

This proposal requires the PI to complete an online application on the funder's portal, [FlexiGrant](#), as well as requesting institutional approval via UCT's electronic Research Administration ([eRA](#)) system is required before submission. Final submission to the British Academy will be completed by the **UK-based PI**.

UCT internal requirements

	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	20 Aug 2025
PI to submit an eRA Proposal Approval request to the Finance Approver step on eRA at least 2 weeks before the funder deadline	03 Sept 2025
Approval form and all supporting documents to reach RC&I via eRA at least 1 week before the funder deadline (<i>if applicable</i>)	10 Sept 2025
Funder deadline	17 Sept 2025

Please complete the [intention-to-submit](#) form if you intend applying for this call.