CALL FOR PROPOSALS
Academic Collaboration with academic institutions in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT)

Application Submission Deadline: Sunday 28 February 2021

Please address all queries to robyn.udemans@uct.ac.za

Background
The ongoing Israel – Palestine conflict has been robustly contested at UCT. The University recognises that the continued occupation of the Palestinian territory (which consists of the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and Gaza) by Israel is in violation of international law and strongly condemns the gross human rights violations associated with the occupation.

To this end, Senate resolved on 22 November 2019, that:

UCT will not enter into any formal relationships with Israeli academic institutions operating in the Occupied Palestinian Territories as well as other Israeli academic institutions enabling gross human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Senate nevertheless *urged academics at UCT to engage with and support those academics who have spoken out against unlawful occupations and gross human rights violations wherever they have occurred, and more specifically to establish positive academic links with Palestinian academic institutions and individuals.*

To this end Senate requested the University Executive to allocate financial resources to support academic projects which seek to achieve these objectives. To work towards achieving this, UCT has made funding available to foster research collaboration and academic development in the OPT.

Aim of the call
This is a call for proposals to help establish and/or strengthen partnerships between academics at UCT and universities in Palestine and in the OPT that are engaged in academic or research related activities that seek to address gross human rights violations.

Eligibility criteria
- Applicants must be employed on permanent academic conditions of service at UCT, or on contract for the grant period (2 years from date of award). Joint Provincial Government of the Western Cape/UCT academic staff (excluding registrars) that are appointed on permanent academic conditions of service are similarly eligible.
- Applicants must work with a named collaborating academic appointed on permanent academic conditions of service or on contract for the grant period at a university in the OPT.

Criteria for the award
- The proposed research project must demonstrate collaboration between an academic at a university in the OPT and an academic at UCT.
- The research collaboration should build knowledge of relevance to both regions and with identifiable potential for positive impact for the OPT.
- Applications must speak to the purpose of the partnership, i.e. to exchange knowledge with academics that are engaged in academic endeavours that address gross human rights violations in the OPT.
- The research collaboration should also deliver identifiable academic development outcomes, preferably in both regions.

Grant period and value
The available budget for the call is R500 000 per year over a two-year period. The evaluation committee will assess the applications received and may make a single award, or several smaller awards.

Budget categories
- At least 40% of the funding *must* be spent on nurturing the collaboration through exchange and mobility between the two countries' co-investigators. This could include travel and workshop costs.
- The remaining funds may be used for research costs / consumables as a part of seed projects, should the funds allow.
- Small equipment (to the value of no more than 15% of the award).
- Post graduate bursary top-up to the maximum value of R20 000.

Exclusions
- Consultant's fees
- Project management fees

Application process and deadline
The completed application form must be submitted together with the abbreviated CVs of the Principal Investigators. These should kindly be submitted to researchfunding@uct.ac.za by **Sunday 28 February 2021.**

Evaluation process
Applications will be evaluated by a Committee chaired by the DVC (Transformation) and the evaluation criteria will be in line with the above requirements.

Successful applicants will be required to
- Sign off on UCT's standard conditions of grant, with the funding being released in two annual tranches;
- Submit a progress report 12 months after receipt of the award;
- Submit a full narrative and financial report at the end of the two-year period.