

Funding call 5 Information for Applicants

About TIDAL N+

TIDAL Network+ is an EPSRC-funded collaboration between UCL, Strathclyde, Salford, and Loughborough Universities. We are building an interdisciplinary network of researchers, assistive technology (AT) users, entrepreneurs, and clinical practitioners, to identify and tackle new research challenges that will help us to transform AT. Together we will create novel, innovative solutions that will lead to improvements in the quality of AT and enhance the lives of the people who use them. Our vision is for innovative, sustainable, and equitable AT, both physical and digital.

Our research themes

There will be 8 places on the workshop, so those attending the workshop will competing with a maximum of 7 others for the available funding.

2. Coaching support to develop a funding application

The 8 selected applicants will have 4 weeks after the workshop to submit their completed application form and budget

We are looking to fund projects that are at an early research stage rather than a commercialisation or implementation stage; technologies at low TRL (Technology Readiness Level) probably TRL 2 or 3, so just beyond the initial idea.

We want fundamentally research-driven ideas that will help facilitate a step-change or transformation in the design of a particular product or service

Projects should have a multi-disciplinary, co-creation approach. This is very important. There should be involvement of industry, service providers, service users, clinicians etc. as appropriate to your project.

Projects should be deliverable for £59k in a 6-month timeframe. The idea is to fund a few months of research to prove enough to allow you to apply for much bigger funding.

We are particularly keen to fund proposals that demonstrate clear plans for how the work will lead to a full proposal for further funding to be submitted to a UK funder at a future time.

Responsible Engineering theme: what we are looking for

Our Responsible Engineering theme combines sustainability and care of the planet with development of next generation AT. COVID-19 has demonstrated the global interdependencies of current healthcare products and services and has revealed the fragility of global supply chains. We were unable to provide services effectively during the pandemic. Additionally, we know AT abandonment is a problem which affects users – they lose

shortages is in data which is usable – data is often lacking or is not connected with the provision cycle in such a way as to be useful in decision making. This leads to waste of time and resources within stretched healthcare systems, leaving users unable to complete critical activities of daily living such as communicating with family, co-workers or carers.

As sensor power increases and costs reduce, we can envisage acquiring real-time data from devices

You must not expect to graduate and/or leave your host University until after the completion date for your proposed project (which we expect to be 30th June 2024). If you do expect to have graduated by then, but your institution would be willing to keep you on as a research

We will not fund the costs of producing the video that will be one of the project deliverables: this could be as simple as a presentation with a voice over (e.g., recorded Zoom presentation) so it could be delivered for zero budget.

Our expectation is that travel costs will be for essential travel only, that essential travel will be minimal, and only within the UK. We do not anticipate funding any international travel.

We will NOT fund air travel other than in exceptional circumstances and with prior permission from the TIDAL N+ team. We would consider a request to cover air travel if the travel was essential and there was no alternative means of travel, or if an individual would be significantly disadvantaged (not merely inconvenienced) in some way if unable to travel (misid) in would be significantly

the named PI (Principal Investigator) so they must also meet the [EPSRC criteria to be a PI](#).

The lead applicant of the successful project is responsible for having the amended document signed by their institution and returning it to UCL within one week of it being sent out. We would strongly recommend that you are proactive in following-up progress on the contract negotiations with your contracts manager.

2. Contracting between the successful lead applicant's organisation and their project partners

Successful applicants will be expected to put in place a collaboration agreement or other suitable agreement with any of their project partners or collaborators (including Co-Is and other collaborators/partners), governing the terms of the collaboration. This agreement should reflect all applicable terms of your organisation's contract with UCL, the role and contribution of each individual/organisation, any financial payments to be made, IP arrangements, and delivery deadlines. Successful lead applicants should seek the advice of their contracts team without delay to put appropriate agreements in place.

Terms and conditions

EPSRC terms and conditions will apply to this funding, as well as any terms and conditions specific to the TIDAL N+ grant, and any terms and conditions specific to this award.

Specific terms and conditions for this award are as follows:

1. Lead applicants will be required to:
 - i. Ensure that their organisation puts in place a collaboration agreement or other suitable agreement with any of their project partners or collaborators (including Co-Is and other collaborators/partners), governing the terms of the collaboration. This agreement should reflect all applicable terms of your organisation's contract with UCL, the role and contribution of each individual/organisation, any financial payments to be made, IP arrangements and delivery deadlines.
 - ii. Provide timesheets for people working on the project in line with [EPSRC requirements for timesheets](#).
 - iii. Participate in TIDAL N+ events and present the work of their project (in progress or completed) at the TIDAL N+ symposia, and/or other events.
 - iv. Provide information and updates for the TIDAL N+ website and other media when requested. This may include short quotes or other information to demonstrate the activities that are taking place.
 - v. Ensure that the work is acknowledged as being supported by EPSRC and TIDAL N+ when promoting projects, either through articles, papers, presentations or interviews. Both EPSRC and TIDAL N+ logos should be visibly included on any presentations and in other documents and media where appropriate. Journal publications must include a funding acknowledgement, with the TIDAL N+ grant number, using the wording: 'This project was funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council [grant number: EP/W00717/1] through TIDAL Network Plus - Transformative I1C18-4(s w)-rv

- x. Submit to UCL on request any receipts or other confirmation of payments made from grant funding. UCL reserves the right to withhold payment where these cannot be produced.
- xi. Incur no expenditure before the funding contract with UCL has been signed by both UCL and their organisation. UCL will not be responsible for any expenditure incurred before the contract has been signed.
- xii. Keep detailed records of, and supply to UCL on request and in the requested format, all data required for ResearchFish and any other EPSRC reporting, including (but not limited to) publications arising from the work undertaken; collaborations and partnerships including interactions with external individuals / organisations / partners / the public / other stakeholders undertaken during the funded activity; any further funding obtained; next destinations for any team members; engagement activities, influence on policy, practice, patients and the public;

We want you to put in a great application so we are really happy to answer any other questions and queries you may have, or to clarify anything that isn't clear in the call documentation. Please contact TIDAL@ucl.ac.uk
