

**Vaccines Manufacturing Hub for LMICs
(Low- and Middle-Income Countries)
(VaxHub Global)**

**UK-focused Platform Funding (Policy
and Vaccine Delivery)**

Call outline

September 2025



ABOUT THE VACCINES MANUFACTURING HUB FOR LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES (LMICs) (VAXHUB GLOBAL)

The Vaccines Manufacturing Hub for LMICs, VaxHub Global, launched in September 2023, is an ambitious programme funded by the UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC). VaxHub Global's vision is to deliver flexible, easily transferable multi-product platforms and simplified engineering sustainable solutions that enable the development of low cost, effective and globally deployable vaccines for low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

The VaxHub underpins projects related to different technologies of relevance to a diverse selection of endemic and epidemic pathogens largely affecting (or with the potential to largely affect) LMICs.

Although the main aim of VaxHub Global is to carry out research for the benefit of LMICs, this platform funding call/ feasibility studies call offers an opportunity to ensure that hub research can also benefit the UK vaccine manufacturing ecosystem. This call seeks to apply learnings and outcomes from the hub within a UK national context in relation to two key themes, policy and vaccine delivery.

The VaxHub brings together key academic institutes (University College London, University of Oxford, Cardiff University, University of Leeds and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) and industry partners. More information about VaxHub deliverables and research impact can be found on our [website](#).

UK-FOCUSED PLATFORM FUNDING CALL (POLICY AND VACCINE DELIVERY)

INTRODUCTION

This document contains the key information pertaining to the call including the type of project, scope, ambition and impact that applicants are expected to address.

VaxHub Members (i.e. those who have signed the VaxHub Agreement or intend to join the VaxHub during the call period)¹ as well as VaxHub collaborators² are invited to submit applications. Projects need to have a UK focus on key themes aimed at delivering impact of the Hub vaccine and engineering technologies and outcomes to the UK manufacturing industry. The two key themes are:

1. Policy: projects focusing on policy considerations and policy actions to strengthen the UK vaccine development and manufacturing ecosystem
2. Vaccine delivery: projects supporting innovation in vaccine delivery approaches that could positively impact upon UK immunisation programmes.

Further information can be found under [Scope](#).

Eligibility

VaxHub members and collaborators³ are eligible to apply for platform funding. Proposals may be submitted by VaxHub members and collaborators working with VaxHub UK academic partners; prioritisation will be given to projects that can show a novel collaboration that would not otherwise be possible. Organisations that are not currently members of the VaxHub but would be interested in joining to be able to access funding opportunities and other benefits, are invited to contact vaxhub@ucl.ac.uk

General eligibility requirements:

- All projects must include a lead VaxHub UK Higher Education Institution (HEI) member organisation.
- All funded organisations must adhere to the UKRI funding rules for international organisations - <https://www.ukri.org/publications/ukri-project-co-lead-international/ukri-project-co-lead-international-policy/> as well as the other UKRI funding rules - https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/UKRI-28032025-UKRI_fEC-Grant-Terms-And-Conditions-April-2025.pdf
- Individual investigators can submit one application as the lead applicant per funding call, but there is no limit on the same **entities** (institution/organisation) submitting multiple applications to each call.

¹ Please contact vaxhub@ucl.ac.uk to sign-up as a member to the VaxHub.

² Please refer to the [eligibility](#) criteria.

³ For the purposes of the VaxHub Global UK call, 'Collaborator' refers to a non-VaxHub partner or member organisation/individual. Collaborators can only be funded through the Policy theme, not the Vaccine Delivery theme.

- There is no limit on being a co-applicant on multiple applications to the same call.
- Other HEI academics (for example, permanent members of academic staff) can lead a project, provided they are committed to ongoing interactions with the VaxHub.
- VaxHub PDRAs/RAs cannot apply for/lead a Platform Funded project, but they could be a co-applicant, with their Co-I, who would be on an open-ended contract, as the lead.

Please note, these are the specific eligibility criteria for each theme:

- **Eligibility Theme 1: Policy**
 - All projects must include a lead VaxHub UK HEI academic partner
 - VaxHub members⁴ and collaborators⁵ are eligible to be joint applicants for this platform funding call
 - 'Collaborators' in this instance refers to organisations/individuals that are not VaxHub members.
- **Eligibility Theme 2: Vaccine Delivery**
 - All projects must include a lead VaxHub UK HEI academic partner
 - VaxHub members⁶ are eligible to be a joint applicant for this platform funding call with any VaxHub UK academic partner organisation.
 - **Please note:** collaborators are not eligible to apply for the Vaccine Delivery theme.

Specification

- **Value** - Proposals should be submitted for projects with a value of between £30,000-£70,000 (inclusive of VAT). If your project is lower than this amount, then we encourage you to explore other opportunities for funding.
- **Full economic costing (fEC)** – this funding call adopts UKRI rules for fEC. Therefore, applications submitted by academic organisations will be costed on the basis of full economic costs (fEC). If a grant is awarded, VaxHub will provide funding to academic organisations at 80% of the fEC. The organisation must agree to find the balance of fEC for the project from other resources. This does not impact funding for non-academic institutions or individuals, which will receive funds at 100% of the application amount.
- **Duration** – Projects should last between six and 12 months. Details of project start, and end dates can be found in the table below.
- **Number of projects funded** – Up to six.
- **Payment of funds** - UCL will transfer funds to the lead organisation and up to 2 partner organisations per project. Payments will be made in two stages, the first following the award and the second following a satisfactory mid-term report for the project.

⁴ VaxHub members are those organisations that sign-up to the VaxHub Network, via the Collaboration Agreement.

⁵ For the purposes of the VaxHub Global UK call, 'collaborator' refers to non-VaxHub partner or member organisations/individuals. Such organisations will be required to sign a contract of terms and conditions, which are linked to the Collaboration Agreement.

⁶ VaxHub members are those organisations that sign-up to the VaxHub Network, via the Collaboration Agreement.

FUNDING SCHEME NAME	VALUE	NUMBER OF PROJECTS FUNDED IN THIS CALL	DURATION
Vaccines Manufacturing Hub for LMICs (VaxHub Global) UK-focused Platform Funding Scheme (Policy and Vaccine Delivery)	Between £30,000 and £70,000 per project, including VAT (where applicable). Please note, fEC rules apply for academic organisations.	Up to six	- Projects should last between 6 and 12 months. - Projects must be completed by 31 March 2027. - An extended duration is not guaranteed, and additional funds would not be available to cover any additional time granted.

VaxHub Call Dates

CALL NUMBER	CALLS	CALL START	CALL END	PROJECT START DATE FROM	PROJECT END DATE
1	SUSTAINABLE CALL 2025/2026	13/01/2025	04/04/2025	JULY 2025	JUNE 2026
2	GLOBAL CALL 2025/2026	07/04/2025	27/06/2025	OCTOBER 2025	SEPTEMBER 2026
3	GLOBAL UK-ONLY CALL 2026/2027	29/09/2025	19/12/2025	APRIL 2026	MARCH 2027
4	GLOBAL CALL 2027/2027	06/07/2026	25/09/2026	JANUARY 2027	DECEMBER 2027
5	SUSTAINABLE CALL 2028/2028	05/07/2027	24/09/2027	JANUARY 2028	DECEMBER 2028
6	SUSTAINABLE CALL 2028/2029	10/01/2028	31/03/2028	JULY 2028	JUNE 2029

Please be mindful of the timelines above when planning your submissions throughout the overall Platform Funding timeline, to ensure that you have sufficient, and dedicated/unique resources for each project you are applying for.

Briefing Webinar

A briefing webinar will take place on 16 October 2025 at 1pm UK time Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to register for the event as it forms an important opportunity to understand more about the call and what is expected. You can register to attend the briefing webinar by using [this link](#).

Key dates

CALL 3 - EVENT DETAILS	DATE
GLOBAL UK-FOCUSED CALL 2025/2026 OPENS	29 SEPTEMBER 2025
GLOBAL UK-FOCUSED CALL 2025/2026 CLOSING TIME AND DATE FOR APPLICATIONS	23:59 UK TIME (BST) 19 DECEMBER 2025
ONLINE BRIEFING WEBINAR	16 OCTOBER 2025, 1PM UK TIME (BST)
REVIEW OF PROPOSALS AND ELIGIBILITY CHECKS	JANUARY 2026 TO MARCH 2026

NOTIFICATION OF OUTCOME	MARCH 2026
PROJECT DURATION DATES	FROM 1 APRIL 2026 TO 31 MARCH 2027
PROJECT END DATE	BY 31 MARCH 2027

Scope

The VaxHub is pleased to offer funding to support projects with a UK focus which may choose to address one or more of the following areas within the policy or vaccine delivery themes:

Theme 1: Policy

Aimed at supporting projects focusing on policy considerations and policy actions to strengthen the UK vaccine development and manufacturing ecosystem in relation to areas such as:

- Future pandemic preparedness
- Accelerating the development and commercialisation of novel vaccine technologies
- Sustainable vaccine manufacturing
- Role of vaccines in tackling AMR
- Regulatory issues/ aspects (e.g. accelerated regulatory pathways)
- Digital technologies and digitalisation
- Increasing trust in and awareness of vaccine development.

Theme 2: Vaccine Delivery

Aimed at supporting projects focusing on innovations in vaccine delivery that could impact upon the deployment and effectiveness of vaccines used in UK immunisation programmes. Areas of focus could include, amongst others:

- Vaccine formulation
- Vaccine stability, particularly thermostability
- Ease of use for both vaccine administrator and receiver
- Approaches for non-skilled administration or self-administration
- Approaches that improve sustainability and reduce carbon footprint
- Approaches that promote patient trust in, and acceptance of, immunisation
- Approaches that enhance vaccine efficacy and coverage, potentially at reduced dose.

Project proposals must:

- Explain how the project objectives enable VaxHub research to benefit the UK vaccine manufacturing and/or deployment ecosystem.
- State how funding will benefit their organisation in the long-term.
- Demonstrate how the activity could help generate pilot data for follow-on funding or test feasibility with key stakeholders.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

VaxHub is committed to equality of opportunity and values diversity and a culture in which inclusion is promoted. There is an expectation that steps will be taken within funded projects to go above and beyond the routine EDI activities of the project teams and applications will be assessed on whether further steps are being demonstrably taken to promote equality, diversity or inclusion.

The VaxHub acknowledges that there are individual contexts that could lead to different cultural/ gender dynamics and this will need to be a consideration when assessing projects.

We still endeavour to promote best practice and expect this to be considered in project proposals, as an example, to promote gender equality we expect there to be no “all male” working groups for VaxHub projects.

Due Diligence

In line with UCL’s Due Diligence policy for research funding and in adherence to funder requirements, UCL undertakes full due diligence checks on all active grants within the VaxHub. All applicants⁷ receiving funds will be required to complete an enhanced Due Diligence questionnaire based on the amount of funding they are applying for; links to the Due Diligence questionnaires are available on the [VaxHub website](#). Completed forms should be returned at the application stage.

Ethical Approval

Applicants should use the Ethical Information section on the application form to demonstrate to reviewers that they have fully considered any ethical issues concerning the material they intend to use, the nature and choice, current public perceptions and attitudes towards the subject matter or research area. VaxHub funds must be used in compliance with EPSRC rules on ethics and we will not fund a project if we believe that there are ethical concerns that have been overlooked or not appropriately accounted for.

Outputs

Outputs are most likely to be in the form of a report, publication, tools, processes/methods or proof of concept. Data is likely to be an important feature of most projects, and we recommend that a **data management plan** is put in place to ensure that data is appropriately curated, stored and made available for future research, where feasible.

Requested Resources

The **budget sheet template** should be used to list and describe the resources that are required to undertake the proposed Project. The justification for these resources should also be made clear in the application form.

Eligible Costs

Costs that can be funded include:

- Staff salaries
- Travel and subsistence, exclusively for the progression of the funded project

⁷ Please note Third-party due diligence checks will not apply to any of the following:

- When the third party is an individual
- When the third party is on the [Higher Education Statistics Agency \(HESA\) list](#) of UK higher education providers
- When the third party is a [UK Government department, agency, or public body](#), or local authority in [England and Wales](#), and [Scotland](#).

- Engagement activities (e.g. roundtables, workshops)
- Other direct costs (consumables, facilities fees, etc.).

Specific Exclusions

The funding will not cover:

- Fees for undergraduate or postgraduate courses
- First class and business class (unless required due to disability or medical condition) travel costs or priority visa fees
- Travel/trips which show no real outputs for professional development
- Applications made on behalf of applicants without the applicants' agreement
- Capital or infrastructure expenditure is not an eligible cost.

We will not support proposals that:

- Do not align with the vision and aims of VaxHub
- Do not demonstrate sustainability
- Fund associated studentships
- Include new, external recruitment (except for casual/consultancy appointments).

Contracts

All funded projects will be subject to the terms of the VaxHub Collaboration Agreement, in compliance with the clauses around Intellectual Property (Section 6), Publication and Confidentiality (Section 5). If you believe any further contractual requirements will be needed for your proposal, please contact vaxhub@ucl.ac.uk to discuss this as soon as you are aware of any potential additional needs.

Reporting

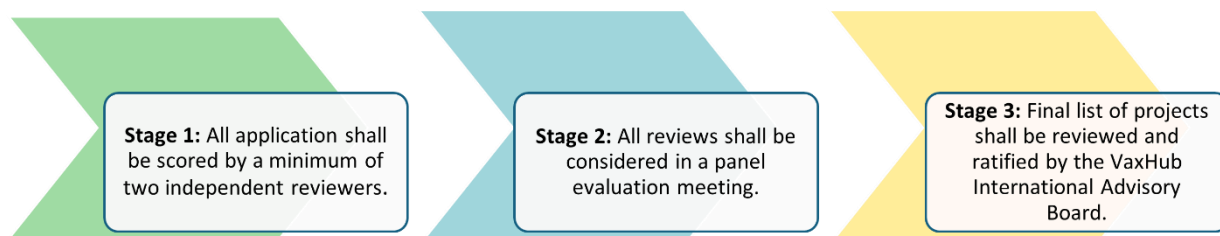
Successful applicants will be required to provide updates on progress (if requested) and to comply with mid and end of project reporting requirements. Reporting requirements will be provided to successful applicants. These shall include commentary on whether aims have been achieved, methods used, data produced, publications or other outputs, other outcomes, impact achieved and planned, problems encountered, and forward plans. **It is a condition of funding that successful applicants must give a presentation about their project to members of the VaxHub community.**

Successful teams will also be expected to:

- **Participate in VaxHub events, as required.** This may include presentations to the VaxHub Users Group or International Advisory Board.
- **Promote VaxHub through VaxHub and own networks.** The VaxHub Project Manager will maintain contact with successful teams to receive updates and to ensure that important information and announcements are disseminated widely.

ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSALS

Selection Process



Important note: VaxHub reserves the right to reject proposals that are incomplete and that do not meet the requirements highlighted on the checklist before sending them to reviewers. The checklist can be found in the Application Form.

Scoring

In addition to assessing the ethical information, there are six primary criteria against which all proposals shall be assessed. The key points are shown below. All applications shall be assessed against the same criteria, regardless of the funding amount requested. Proposals shall be scored against each of the six criteria on a scale of 1- 3, as follows:

- 1 = sub-criteria not met
- 2 = sub-criteria partially met
- 3 = sub-criteria fully met

Scoring Criteria

SECTION 1: NOVELTY
- Describe the problem that is to be investigated, with reference to the evidence base and explain how the project objectives enable VaxHub research to benefit the UK vaccine manufacturing and/or deployment ecosystem. - State clearly the aim and objectives of the project, its level of ambition, novelty, the expected addition to knowledge. - Explain the need for this project and note why your approach is the most appropriate and how, if relevant, it might be scalable.
SECTION 2: QUALITY
- Describe and justify the research approach/method to be taken, making clear which team members will be responsible for delivery. - State the proposed outputs and expected outcomes from the project.

SECTION 3: MANAGEMENT
• Justify why this team is the most appropriate to deliver the project, with reference to their expertise and track record/s. • Explain whether a novel collaboration has been established that would not be possible without this funding opportunity. • Explain (with a timetable⁸ and work package/task structure) how the team will ensure delivery of the project on time. • Provide an account of the key risks and how these will be managed (including any risks in respect of ethics, data management⁹, and staffing).
SECTION 4: VALUE FOR MONEY
• Provide a clear justification for all resources requested¹⁰. • Explain why your request is appropriate, given the scope and ambition of the project.
SECTION 5: IMPACT
• Describe the long-term effect that you expect your project to have on the UK vaccine manufacturing and/or deployment ecosystem, and how you would expect this impact to be measured or recognised. • Explain your overall approach to policy and/or industry engagement and collaboration, including which people/organisations you will involve and how you will ensure this engagement. • Detail how, both during and after the funded project has ended, you will engage with the VaxHub more broadly and other VaxHub members, specifically. • Set out your pathway/s to impact, including your target audience/s and beneficiaries, how you will reach them and what change is expected.
SECTION 6: EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
• VaxHub is committed to equality of opportunity and values diversity and a culture in which inclusion is promoted. Describe how you have taken this into account when planning your project. • Please refer to specific actions to be taken within the project to enhance or improve EDI in relation to project activities, with appropriate reasoning for these actions.

Submission

⁸ A clear timetable or Gantt chart for the project and the intended progress of the research through the different stages.

⁹ Research data quality and provenance are important. Research data generated must be well-managed by the awardee during the grant period to enable their data to be best exploited for further research

¹⁰ The answers provided in the application form should explain why the resources requested are appropriate, taking into account the nature and complexity of the project.

- **The deadline for submissions is 23:59 UK time on 19 December 2025.**
- Submissions must be submitted via email
- You should send the following documents to vaxhub@ucl.ac.uk
 - [Word application form](#)
 - [Budget Sheet Template](#)
 - Workplan/Gantt chart
 - Due Diligence form(s) (if applicable) ([under £30k form](#), [over £30k form](#))
- To download an application form and budget sheet template, the [VaxHub website](#).

Contact

Please direct enquiries about the call to vaxhub@ucl.ac.uk