

**Bases for the third call for research actions within the framework of the  
UPF Planetary Welfare Initiative (2021)**

**BACKGROUND**

Planetary Wellbeing is a new concept that the Pompeu Fabra University (UPF) proposes to create a global, interdisciplinary, and research-oriented agenda, focused on urgent challenges on a planetary scale and challenges related to the Anthropocene, including the well-being of individuals, societies, and the planet itself. This new concept of Planetary Wellbeing assumes that research is urgently needed, and a change in teaching, transfer and dissemination of joint knowledge created jointly for the social sciences, humanities, life sciences and technology.

In 2021, the first scientific article to take a step forward has defined in more detail what is to be understood under the notion of planetary wellbeing, informing further research within this framework and signalling what are the priority areas of such research.<sup>1</sup>

For the purpose of the present bases, the concept of planetary wellbeing is adapted to the idea of Planetary Health, yet it transcends the realm of health to encompass all dimensions of wellbeing. The Planetary Health has recently been defined as achieving the highest possible level of health, wellness and equity around the world through careful care for the human systems —political, economic, and social— that shape the future of the humanity and the Earth’s natural systems, which define environmental boundaries, allowing for the humanity to thrive. In an unprecedented context of rapid climate change and global transformations of the world, the report on Planetary Health<sup>2</sup> suggests that humanity can only successfully develop in the 21st century if unacceptable inequalities in health and wealth are addressed within the environmental limits of the Earth, through the generation of new knowledge, the implementation of wise policies, various determined actions and an inspiring leadership. Environmental threats to human health and civilization are characterized by arriving suddenly and uncertainly. Our societies face large and powerful risks that require urgent and transformative actions for protection of present and future generations. The report also highlights several cross-cutting challenges, such as the need to understand complexity, the interdisciplinarity and urgency related to the sustainability related challenges that the society is facing at this time.

In the year 2018, UPF launched the Planetary Wellbeing initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to promote cross-disciplinary action in the field of planetary wellbeing, with the aim of providing the University with a vision committed to resolving planetary challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. During the last century, humanity made great strides in improving the societal wellbeing. This progress, however, has had a cost: an unprecedented rate of exploitation of natural resources and unacceptable inequalities in

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<sup>1</sup> JM Antó, JL Martí, J Casals et al, “The Planetary Wellbeing Initiative: Pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals in Higher Education” *Sustainability* 13(6), 3372, 2021; <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/13/6/3372>; <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13063372>.

<sup>2</sup> Sarah Whitmee, Andy Haines, Chris Beyrer, Frederick Boltz, Anthony G. Capon, Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Alex Ezech, Howard Frumkin, Peng Gong, Peter Head, Richard Horton, Georgina M. Mace, Robert Marten, Samuel S. Myers, Sania Nishtar, Steven A. Osofsky, Subhrendu K. Pattanayak, Montira J. Pongsiri, Cristina Romanelli, Agnes Soucat, Jeanette Vega, Derek Yach. Safeguarding human health in the Anthropocene epoch: Report of The Rockefeller Foundation–Lancet Commission on planetary health. *Lancet*. 2015; 386:1973-2028.

health and wealth. That is why UPF has decided to focus its energy to respond to this situation, which poses a challenge in the various areas of knowledge and education of the University.

In the year 2019, the first call for research actions was presented. 33 applications were submitted, of which 16 were funded (3 student grants at the doctoral degree level, 3 postdoctoral researchers, 6 research projects and 4 workshops and conferences). The second call was made in 2020, where 38 applications were submitted of which 21 were funded (7 grants to students at the doctoral degree level, 4 postdoctoral researchers, 5 research projects and 5 workshops and conferences).

The object and content of the Planetary Welfare initiative is still only vaguely delimited, but it is understood that it involves extending the concept of the Planetary Health Framework in a wider range of areas related to wellbeing, having an emphasis on the importance of interdisciplinary work between the social sciences, the humanities, life sciences and technology. Following the International report Panel on Social Progress (IPSP), we understand the individual and social wellbeing as a societal goal of a general nature, with a multidimensional nature that includes wealth, equity, the environment, and other public goods, such as health and education. This idea of Planetary Wellbeing is normative in the sense that it includes multiple perspectives on the the which matters to society.<sup>3</sup>

The UPF's Planetary Welfare initiative is closely aligned with all three concentric centres of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Firstly, the core of wellbeing objectives (SDG 1, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 10, SDG 16); secondly, infrastructure-related objectives (ODS 2, ODS 6, ODS 7, ODS 8, ODS 9 and ODS 12); and thirdly, a layer that inserts the previous SDGs in the objectives related to the natural environment (SDG 6, SDG 13, SDG 14 and SDG 15). Finally, it also fulfills the overall goal of creating alliances for achieve the above objectives (SDG 17).

Any research that can help develop new knowledge in any of the following areas can be an excellent example of a concern related to Planetary Welfare:

- Co-benefits for health and the environment
- Integration of environmental protection in health systems
- Climate change
- Net energies
- Food production and healthy diets with low environmental impact
- Integrated land use solutions
- Urban studies
- Global governance
- Global inequalities
- Sustainable development
- Poverty
- Aging
- Global education
- Global health, and in particular issues related to the COVID19 pandemic
- Animal, human, and social welfare

The rules of this call are intended to promote interdisciplinary collaborations to provide initial and small-scale funding opportunities (seed funding) for everything related to the still broad concept of Planetary Wellbeing. Interdisciplinary collaborations will be considered a necessary condition in all the

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<sup>3</sup> International Panel on Social Progress. 2018 Report. Rethinking Society for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Summary. Cambridge University Press 2018. <https://www.ipsp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/IPSP-Executive-Summary.pdf>.

modalities of the present call for funding. The evaluation will also be prioritising topics that are understood as new approaches to understanding the complexity on a local and global scale. These bases for the third call have been conceived as a first step in identifying a community of scientists from the UPF that is focused on the global challenges of the Anthropocene and that is ready to explore synergies with other disciplines in order to address these challenges.

For all this, the Governing Council

AGREE:

Article 1. To approve the bases of the aids to actions of investigation on Planetary Wellbeing for the year 2021, which are listed in the annex.

# **ANNEX. GENERAL BASES, GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND PROCEDURE FOR THIRD CALL FOR RESEARCH AID IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE INITIATIVE FOR THE PLANETARY WELL-BEING OF UPF 2021**

## **1. GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

The aim of this third call is to support a new generation of researchers and academics to promote and encourage multidisciplinary collaborations and transdisciplinary training between UPF professors and fostering collaborations with leaders and recognized international institutions.

## **2. CATEGORIES**

In order to achieve this goal, the call will fund three different types of actions corresponding to the following three categories of aid:

- **Category 1:** Grants for the training of doctoral students
- **Category 2:** Pilot research projects and establishment of research collaborations in Planetary Wellbeing
- **Category 3:** Organization of workshops, conferences, and congresses

The details of each of these categories are developed in the section 14 hereunder.

## **3. OBJECT OF THE FUNDED RESEARCH**

The actions funded in this call must refer directly to aspects relevant to Planetary Wellbeing with special attention to the global dimension and complex nature of the pertinent challenges. These aspects must be explicitly developed in the proposal.

## **4. MULTIDISCIPLINARITY AND INTERDISCIPLINARITY**

A necessary condition is that all proposals have a multidisciplinary approach and / or interdisciplinarity, which can be the result of collaborations by researchers from different departments or from the same department with diverse and complementary disciplines and/or approaches. Proposals that are especially valued are the ones applying original and innovative approaches to global and complex problems. This point must be explicitly justified and detailed in the proposal.

## **5. APPLICANTS**

Beneficiaries of these grants must be UPF students or UPF research and teaching staff, however proposals may be submitted that entail the participation of researchers from other institutions. If the proposal is to be approved, the funding must be received and managed by the member of UPF from the same university.

## **6. TERM OF EXECUTION OF THE RESEARCH ACTION**

If awarded, all proposals must be completed within a maximum of two years since approval. In case of force majeure, an extension may be requested term by means of a written justification that will be

presented to the Rector or to the body he delegates the decision to, which will be responded to within one month.

## **7. MODIFICATION OF PLANNED RESEARCH ACTIONS**

Similarly to the previous point, in case the beneficiary of a grant wanted to exceptionally modify the project or activities for which it has requested the funding, s/he must send a written justification to the Rector or to the body he delegates the decision to, which will be responded to within one month.

## **8. TOTAL BUDGET**

The total budget for this framework call for all actions, from general budget of the university, is 146,000 euros.

## **9. DESERTED CATEGORIES AND REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS BETWEEN CATEGORIES**

An action class will be declared void if no application is approved. In this case, as well as in the event that the applications submitted and granted do not exhaust the funds provided for by in each category, the surplus funds may be distributed among the other categories.

## **10. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS**

Applications must be submitted between April 29 and May 31, 2021, both included, electronically to the following address: [benestarplanetari@upf.edu](mailto:benestarplanetari@upf.edu) and using the forms that will be accessible on the Planetary Wellbeing Initiative page: <https://www.upf.edu/web/wellbeing>.

## **10. INSTRUCTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT**

The instructing administrative unit of this call will be the Research Service and the address for inquiries will be [benestarplanetari@upf.edu](mailto:benestarplanetari@upf.edu).

## **11. EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

The Rector will appoint an Evaluation Committee made up of between three and six teachers or permanent UPF researchers from different disciplines or fields. The Evaluation Committee will select and / or prioritize the applications according to the evaluation criteria and prioritization expressed respectively within each action.

## **12. RESOLUTION OF THE GRANTING OF GRANTS**

The Rector, or the body to which he delegates the decision to, will decide on the granting of these grants. This one resolution will exhaust the administrative route and will be published on the Global Campus no later than July 1, 2021.

### **13. CALL FOR GRANTS**

It is the responsibility of the rector or vice-rector to delegate the call for grants for research actions on Planetary Wellbeing for 2021.

### **14. DESCRIPTION OF THE AID CATEGORIES**

#### **14.1. CATEGORY 1. CALL FOR GRANTS FOR TRAINING OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS**

##### **14.1.1 Objective**

The aim of this category of grants is to promote a new generation of researchers in Planetary Wellbeing, giving funding to doctoral students to complete their multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary training in areas of Planetary Wellbeing other than the main field in which his doctoral thesis is developed.

##### **14.1.2. Financing**

It can be funded up to € 3,000 per application, up to a total for this category of 10,000 €.

##### **14.1.3. Eligible expenses**

Eligible expenses include:

- Mobility (visits/stays in leading research centres or groups in the area of Planetary Wellbeing)
- Expenses for face-to-face or online training courses on topics other than the field or main discipline in which the doctoral thesis is being developed
- Attendance at conferences and congresses
- Other training actions may be considered if they are properly justified

##### **14.1.4. Eligibility criteria**

All UPF doctoral students will be eligible, as long as the development of the funded activity can be carried out during the duration of the thesis doctoral. Admitted but unenrolled students are eligible, but the grant of the funding is conditional on enrolment in the doctoral program.

##### **14.1.5. Application**

Applications must include the following information in a single PDF file:

- Application form corresponding to this category 1 (with a maximum of 8 pages). This form must include a first sheet with the basic data of the application, a maximum of 2 pages of explanation of the doctoral research project of the student, a maximum of 3 pages describing the project or activities of training for which funding is requested, a maximum of one page for the plan and a maximum of one page for the budget).
- Letter from the main supervisor (maximum of 2 pages) justifying the connection of the activities for which funding is requested under the Planetary Wellbeing framework and the multidisciplinary of these activities with respect to the main field or discipline in which the doctoral thesis is developed.
- CV of the applicant

- CV of the main supervisor
- CV of the supervisor of the receiving center (in case of mobility applications)

#### **14.1.6. Criteria for evaluating / prioritizing applications**

Priority will be given to applications in which:

- the doctoral thesis project is directly related to the area of planetary wellbeing, or it is justified that the performance of the action will allow to give a planetary wellbeing approach to those projects not directly focused on this area
- the research project has a marked multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary component, or justify that the implementation of the action will allow to give this interdisciplinary approach to the project
- the action allows the implementation of methodologies, themes or points of view that are innovative into the doctoral thesis
- the proposed action or actions favour online activity or save CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, especially caused by air travel, or justifying the need for such travel

#### **14.1.7. Final report**

Beneficiaries of grants must submit a report after completion of the activity and an economic report justifying the expenses derived from the corresponding action (boarding pass, course registration receipt, or others, as applicable). The form and deadline for submission will be communicated directly to the successful applicant.

### **14.2. CATEGORY 2. PILOT RESEARCH PROJECTS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS ON PLANETARY WELLBEING**

#### **14.2.1. Goal**

The aim of this category is to support actions that promote collaborative research and allow researchers to seek external funding for projects in larger collaborative areas in the research areas of strategic relevance to the Planetary Wellbeing through the application of proposals in competitive international calls. These actions can range from pilot projects to support future applications with initial data, up to the organization of working meetings with national and international researchers to work on these proposals. As particularly positive will be considered proposals that include a commitment to generate projects for the ERC calls, including the Sinergy modality.

#### **14.2.2. Financing**

Up to € 20,000 per application may be funded, up to a total in this category of 100,000 €.

#### **14.2.3. Eligible expenses**

Eligible expenses include:

- Expenses for organizing meetings or encounters, especially with researchers with whom you want to establish contacts for the application for funds of competitive research, including travel and accommodation expenses
- Expenses for carrying out any research activity that is justified in the framework of the project presented
- Expenses for hiring research support staff, always within the maximum granted by aid and prioritizing the co-financing of these expenses with other sources

#### **14.2.4. Eligibility criteria**

All proposals submitted by groups of researchers who form the group will be eligible, if the applicants have one or two Principal Investigators (PIs), who must be doctors and members of the UPF research and teaching staff and if the proposal is related to topics of Planetary Wellbeing. Groups may submit a joint application with researchers, research groups or institutions outside of the UPF.

#### **14.2.5. Application**

Applications must include the following information in a single PDF file:

- Application form corresponding to this category 2 (with a maximum of 8 pages). This form must include a first sheet with the basic data of the application, a maximum of 5 pages with the description of the research project and the activities for which funding is requested, a maximum of one page for the work plan and a maximum of one page for the budget)
- Complete CV of the principal investigator
- Brief CV (1 page) of the collaborating researchers who are part of the applicant group

#### **14.2.6. Criteria for evaluating / prioritizing applications**

Priority will be given to applications in which:

- the research project is focused on the area of planetary wellbeing
- demonstrate a clear interdisciplinary and innovative component
- adaptation of the project to be competitive in competitive international calls
- the proposed action or actions favour online activity or save CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, especially caused by air travel, or duly justifying the need for such travel.

#### **14.2.7. Final report**

Beneficiaries of grants must submit a report after completion of the activity and an economic report justifying the expenses derived from the corresponding action. The form and deadline for submission will be communicated directly to the successful applicants.



## **14.3. CATEGORY 3. ORGANIZATION OF WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES AND CONGRESSES**

### **14.3.1. Goal**

The aim of this category is to promote interdisciplinary workshops, conferences and congresses, dedicated to the debate on cutting-edge research topics related to Planetary Wellbeing. They are expected to bring together a group of international researchers from various academic fields for a short period at the UPF facilities.

### **14.3.2. Financing**

Up to € 6,000 per application may be funded, up to a total in this category of € 36,000.

### **14.3.3. Eligible expenses**

Any expenses for organizing workshops, conferences and congresses are eligible if duly justified, from the edition of materials or billboards, the expenses of diffusion prior to the convening of the event, the accommodation and travel expenses of the speakers, coffee break, etc., as well as the costs of retransmission, and editing and / or publication of the results.

### **14.3.4. Eligibility criteria**

Proposals submitted and led by a minimum of two UPF researchers will be eligible for this action (from different disciplinary fields).

### **14.3.5. Application**

Applications must include the following information in a single PDF file:

- Application form corresponding to this category 3 (with a maximum of 6 pages). This form should include the first few pages with the basic data of the application, a maximum of 2 pages with the description of the events that are to be organized and for which funding is requested, and a maximum of one page per budget description.
- Complete CV of the applicants
- Brief CV of the invited researchers / academics (if they are already known)

### **14.3.6. Criteria for evaluating / prioritizing applications**

Priority will be given to applications in which:

- the activity focuses on topics that connect more centrally with the area of Planetary Wellbeing
- the activity provides an original and innovative point of view, for example the application of new ones methodologies or themes
- the activity has an interdisciplinary component
- the proposed action or actions favour online activity or save CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, especially caused by air travel, or duly justifying the need for such displacements.

#### **14.4.7. Final report**

Beneficiaries of grants must submit the final program of the workshop / conference and an economic report justifying the expenses arising from the corresponding action. The form and the deadline for submission will be communicated directly to the successful applicants.