## Wellcome Trust Investigator Awards – UCL institutional letter of support

The Wellcome Trust have a number of expectations of support from host institutions for the Investigator Award scheme that must be articulated in the host institution letter of support.

We have put together a suggested template for WTIA letters of support that covers these requirements.

It is not mandatory to use this template, but it gives an idea of the layout and content for these letters.

We strongly recommend an absolute maximum of 1.5 pages of text and no longer than 2 pages including letterhead/signatures.

The applicant and their Division/Institute Director should draft and agree the content of the letter, especially around host institution commitments. The SLMS Strategic Research Facilitators (slms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk) can help to edit the letter (for example, with respect to strategic context) and to obtain Dean and Vice Provost (Health) signatures.

[Vice Provost Health letterhead]

The Wellcome Trust
[Relevant Expert Review Group]
215 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE

date

**Professor X application for a Wellcome Trust Investigator Award – Institutional Statement of Support**

Dear Committee Members,

We are writing to affirm the highest level of Institutional support for X's application for a Wellcome Trust Investigator Award.

**Why UCL considers that X merits an Investigator Award**

- Brief paragraph of biography (position currently held at UCL, brief details of previous career with esteem measures where possible)
- Summarise excellence of candidate in their research field, career; anything else that makes them stand out as a great candidate. Include measures of esteem, major research findings, other activities that have advanced the field or contributed to UCL in general (e.g outreach)
- Why is the proposed programme of work important and innovative and why is the candidate the best person to do it

**How X's research proposal addresses UCL's strategic research priorities**

- How it aligns with other work at UCL, and with UCL's strategy (this can be the Faculty, Division, university strategy)
- How it aligns with Wellcome's strategy

**How UCL will support X in undertaking his/her Investigator Award research programme**

- What support will be provided to ensure that the research ambitions are achieved. This can include
  - Specific financial commitments direct to this project such as matched funding for equipment items
  - Mention of other general resources (infrastructure, facilities or initiatives) and support provided by UCL that the application will make use of. Examples of this are lab/space resource, shared staff/technical posts, shared facilities, mentoring programmes, PhD programmes etc. It is useful to provide facts and figures wherever possible and include mention of recent (strategic) investment e.g. lab refurbishments

Short statement to confirm the following:

- the nature of your employment contract and its compliance with our eligibility criteria for an Investigator Award
- the source of your salary for the duration of the award
- that additional space, facilities and infrastructure will be provided for the duration of the award if your group size expands.

Yours sincerely,

Professor David Lomas
Vice Provost (Health), UCL

Professor
Dean, UCL Faculty of X