PLuS International Interdisciplinary Researchers (PIIR) program

Overview
The PLuS International Interdisciplinary Researchers program is aimed at the next generation of research leaders with the objective of enhancing interdisciplinary skills and developing a truly global perspective and network.

Background
The major challenges facing the world today are global and interdisciplinary in nature. The development of potential, sustainable solutions are beyond the capacity of any single institution - public or private. The PLuS Alliance capitalizes on the education and research strengths of the partners (King's College London, UNSW Sydney and Arizona State University) to create and share knowledge to solve pressing educational and societal challenges. The goal of the Alliance is to empower global communities to address their local needs to create a sustainable future for all.

The primary objective of the PIIR program is to support early career researchers in developing interdisciplinary and innovative approaches to tackling global challenges, through the vehicle of the PLuS Alliance.

Program goals
- **Empower interdisciplinary teams**: train researchers in the approach, understanding and skills necessary to engage with successful interdisciplinary teams focused on global challenges.
- **Develop global networks**: expand the networks and perspectives of developing researchers.
- **Career development through mentoring**: broaden career paths for researchers within and outside academia through access to tools, training, partnerships with mentors across and outside academia, and engagement with industry, government and non-profit sectors.

Program outline
The program has three main components, which each contribute to the delivery of the program goals, with each led by one of the PLuS Alliance partners.
1. **Empower interdisciplinary teams** (ASU)
   Training course in interdisciplinarity and creativity - asynchronous online activities, monthly in person meetings at each institution, monthly webinars with all partners and in person workshops to be held in London and Sydney (participants will attend one). All participants will create a profile on the online PIIR community and engage in activities to foster collaborations.
2. **Career development through mentoring** (UNSW)
   Participants will complete an online mentoring module, supporting them to create an individual career plan and form a co-mentoring team including faculty across all three universities.
3. **Develop global networks** (KCL)
   Applying knowledge about developing teams, participants will develop one output in conjunction with a partner at a minimum of one of the two other PLuS universities. This will be supported by a live webinar on communicating persuasively and engagingly. The output might be a grant application, a conference poster or opinion piece, for example. Participants will present the research idea to the PIIR community in the final wrap up event.

Timeline

June-Aug 2018	Recruitment and application
Sept 2018	Online launch event
Sept-Dec 2018	*Course on interdisciplinary teaming I* Creativity and Innovation (Know Innovation)
Jan-May 2019	*Course on interdisciplinary teaming II* Research Innovation Lab (workshops in London and Sydney by ASU Regents Professor Barry Bozeman on fundamentals of research collaboration and team science)
March-May 2019	Online mentoring module
	Live communication webinar
March-Sept 2019	Research exchanges (individuals or small groups)
Sept 2019	Online wrap up with presentation of outputs Certificates awarded

Participants will be funded to attend the Research Innovation Lab in London or Sydney, and they can also apply for additional funds to support travel to one of the PLuS Institutions (or a site with an affiliated PLuS Program) to engage in joint activities and the development of outputs.

Benefits to early career researchers
- Enhanced employability
- Broadened awareness of research opportunities outside academia
- Diverse and widespread networks
- Agility and responsiveness to collaborative research opportunities
- Expanded training and mentoring opportunities beyond host institution
- Increased quality and impact of research outputs
- Increased competitiveness for external funding

Eligibility
Participants will be PhD students (post upgrade/confirmation) or postdocs (up to 5 years post PhD) from one of the three PLuS universities. In the 2018/19 pilot, there will be a max of 10 participants from each institution. We expect around 70% participants will be PhD students. To facilitate the development of interdisciplinary teams, the recruitment and selection of participants will be concentrated in the following areas:
- Sustainability (e.g., Water Management & Sanitation; Urbanization)
- Technology & Innovation (e.g., Global Security; Automation, Earth and Space Observing)
- Social Justice (e.g.,Indigenous Alliance, Legal Studies)
- Global Health (e.g.,Neuroscience, Nanotechnology, Infectious Disease)

Requirements
Participants will need to be able to commit to:
- full program over one year, September 2018 - September 2019 (see schedule below).
- "approximately four hours/week to the various activities/follow up work
- participate in Research Innovation Lab in London (Jan 7-10, 2019) or Sydney (February 25-28, 2019)

To apply

Application portal for ***PIIR: PLuS International Interdisciplinary Researchers program*** is available at this link - https://asu.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1773811

Instructions for how to apply can be accessed from the application portal.

See below for important deadlines for the application process and program start date.

Date	Description
Monday 9 July 2018	Call for Applications (round opens)
Monday 30 July 2018, midnight (AZ time)	Application review will begin. Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled, but we strongly encourage applicants to submit their application by this date to maximize their chances.
Monday 27 August 2018	PLuS Alliance notifications sent to PIIR applicants
September 5/6th (5th in Phoenix and London, 6th in Sydney) 2018	Launch event - virtual. Details on connecting the launch event will be set with notifications to successful applicants.

Any queries?
If you have any queries, please contact Sarah Jones at Sarah.Jones@asu.edu