

**Going Global Partnerships**

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# **Guidance Notes**

**Gender Equality Partnerships.**

June 2023

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# Grant call for Gender Equality Partnerships

**Countries: Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, Ukraine and Vietnam.**

## Going Global Partnerships

[Going Global Partnerships](#) supports universities, colleges and wider education stakeholders around the world to work together towards stronger, equitable, more inclusive and internationally connected higher education, science and TVET.

Through international partnerships, system collaborations and opportunities to connect and share, we enable stronger transnational education, more collaborative research, higher quality delivery, enhanced learner outcomes and stronger, internationalised, equitable and inclusive systems and institutions.

We help to strengthen higher education and TVET in five core areas:

- **Enabling research** – supporting research, knowledge and innovation collaborations to address local and global challenges and promote inclusive growth.
- **Internationalising higher education and TVET** – supporting systems, institutions and individuals to benefit from internationalisation, including enabling transnational education and system alignment.
- **Strengthening systems and institutions** – improving the quality and efficiency of higher education and TVET institutions and systems.
- **Enhancing learner outcomes** – addressing the qualities of the global graduate, including soft skills, employability and community outcomes.
- **Increasing equality, diversity and inclusion** – making higher education and TVET more accessible, equitable and accountable.

See open and upcoming Going Global Partnerships opportunities [on our portal](#).

Opportunities are being launched continually, so please check this page regularly.

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# Call Name: Gender Equality Partnerships

## Introduction

The **Gender Equality Partnerships** aims to build partnerships and systemic change in the priority themes detailed below:

- Prevention of violence against women and girls with a particular focus on higher and further education institutions as safe spaces for women
- Addressing women's underrepresentation in higher and further education leadership
- Enabling access and tackling subject segregation, particularly in the area of STEM (including encouraging STEM-related learning).
- Strengthening pathways into employment for women graduates from further and higher education.

Gender equality issues impact and are reflected in higher and further education systems worldwide – with unequal access to higher and further education in many countries, women having less access to resources and fewer opportunities, the existence of violence against women affecting students and staff and sustained underrepresentation of women in leadership positions in higher and further education institutions. Despite women succeeding academically, evidence shows that it is more challenging for women to succeed in their future careers both within and outside education following their studies, particularly in fields where men are overrepresented, including Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). For further information please see [Gender Equality in Higher Education: Maximising impacts](#) report.

The British Council has put an increasing emphasis on gender equality over the past five years and this is reflected in our Strategy 2025. Our cultural relations expertise and our neutrality in many countries worldwide enables us to broker relationships, build trust and facilitate dialogue on gender inequalities in ways that might be difficult for other organisations. In our higher and further education work in particular, we build partnerships and networks, support learning and collaboration, convene policy dialogue and support innovation through international engagement. This creates many opportunities to make a difference and to facilitate learning between the UK and the rest of the world on how values of equality can be put into practice.

The Going Global Partnerships Gender Equality Partnerships is one of our responses to a report that the British Council recently commissioned, entitled Gender Equality in Higher Education: Maximising the Impacts. This report identified some key global gender equality challenges – as well as some examples of how governments, higher education institutions, sector bodies and funders are successfully addressing these issues.

## Overview

The Going Global Partnerships **Gender Equality Partnerships** will support higher and further education institutions and sector bodies to progress gender equality – building on the potential of sector to influence wider society.

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Applicants are encouraged to check the [“Guide to addressing gender equality”](#) document when discussing and designing the joint proposal.

The Gender Equality Partnerships expects to support **10 projects of between £20,000 and £25,000 in value each**, for a 12-month period, starting from **January 2024**. The fund will prioritise partnerships that focus on one or more of the **priority themes** that are **globally relevant**:

- Prevention of violence against women and girls with a particular focus on higher and further education institutions as safe spaces for women
- Addressing women`s underrepresentation in higher and further education leadership
- Enabling access and tackling subject segregation, particularly in the area of STEM (including encouraging STEM-related learning)
- Strengthening pathways into employment for women graduates from further and higher education.

Intersectional proposals, which address one or more of the priority themes above **and** one or more Equality, Diversity and Inclusion areas are encouraged (e.g. age, disability, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and socio-economic background).

Awards will support partnerships between eligible UK institutions and partner institutions in one or more of the participating countries, **Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, Ukraine and Vietnam**. Proposals should be designed by the Lead Applicant in the overseas partner country, with the support of the UK partner organisation.

Gender Equality Partnerships activities can be in any discipline or cross-discipline; and should respond to country needs and meet the **criteria** specified under “**Eligibility Criteria**” in this document. Please note that **partnerships with some countries may focus on specific thematic priority areas relevant to their context**.

Possible partnerships could include:

- Development or strengthening of gender equality policies and/or strategies at an institutional or departmental level.
- Initiatives to research and address barriers to career progression among women in higher and further education including technical staff, researchers, teaching and management.
- Initiatives that will improve employment outcomes for women and girls.
- Development of policies and processes for prevention and response to gender-based violence.
- Initiatives to support access and progression of girls and women in STEM.

## Objectives and outcomes

All Gender Equality Partnerships awards will have the following overarching objectives:

- stimulate innovative approaches to addressing gender inequality in higher and further education institutions in the UK and our partner countries

- contribute to long term and sustainable institutional change that promotes gender equality, opportunities for women and girls and addresses gender related biases
- support initiatives that promote gender equality, particularly in one or more of the four priority themes that the British Council has identified as globally relevant
- encourage collaboration between disciplines and between countries which build cultural relations and mutual understanding based on shared values.

The Going Global Partnerships programme is looking for joint projects designed to achieve some of the following gender strategic outcomes:

| Going Global Partnerships Gender – Outcomes  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women are empowered to participate in political, social and economic spheres.</li> <li>• An improved legal and policy environment supporting gender equality.</li> <li>• Improved employability outcomes for women.</li> <li>• Higher and further education institutions develop inclusive policies and practice that support gender equality and safer learning environments.</li> <li>• Increased participation of women in meaningful academic and research careers.</li> <li>• Increased quality, inclusiveness and relevance of learning and female student experience.</li> <li>• Female students are upskilled with relevant skills, including for employability or entrepreneurship, community outcomes, or soft skills.</li> <li>• Increase in women in leadership positions in tertiary education.</li> <li>• Increased awareness &amp; recognised value of women in tertiary education.</li> <li>• Environment that supports women developing international outlook and networks.</li> <li>• Increased agency amongst women.</li> <li>• Increased in quality research outcomes that address local and global challenges through a gendered lens.</li> <li>• Building of safe, inclusive and non-hostile learning and work environments.</li> <li>• Curricula (course and extra-curricular based), teaching practice and materials support gender equality and challenge gender stereotypes.</li> <li>• Policy and quality indices and quality assurance mechanisms and indices are addressed through a gendered lens.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New or improved regulatory frameworks to enable gender equality - including recruitment and assessment policies for staff and students.</li> <li>• Increased participation of women in international mobility opportunities.</li> <li>• Increased participation and retention of women in research and knowledge production in HE.</li> <li>• Increased participation of women studying for level 4 in STEM subjects.</li> <li>• Empowered people and effective systems to challenge and change hostile learning and work environments within HE.</li> <li>• Awareness of good practice through a gendered lens around recruitment, retention and career progression policies, quality assurance mechanisms, integrating gender transformative content and practice within pedagogy, and safe and inclusive learning and working environments.</li> <li>• Improved skills and access to opportunities that enhance women's opportunities for work after completing higher and further education.</li> <li>• Access to opportunities for women in research and knowledge production, tertiary education leadership, international mobility pathways.</li> <li>• Understanding and awareness of barriers to participation for women in: STEM and other underrepresented subject courses, academic research and policy positions and international mobility.</li> <li>• Gendered barriers and imbalances in tertiary education and wider society are addressed through insight, research and dialogue, resources, capacity strengthening, direct gender transformative grants and scholarships</li> </ul> |

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## Equitable partnerships

The Going Global Partnerships programme value the contributions of each partner and recognise the mutual benefits partnerships can bring. The programme supports partnerships where all partners are seen as trusted collaborators who bring different strengths to the partnership. Although outputs and benefits can be different between partners, the collaborative work should provide space for both partners to lead and create an equitable relationship. Through open dialogue, partners can challenge structural drivers of unequal power dynamics.

**The grant will be awarded to the lead applicant at the UK partner institution**, which will be responsible for the grant administration and overall project management of the collaboration. **The UK lead partner should be able to transfer part of the grant to the country lead partner institution** so activities can be implemented in a timely manner.

The lead applicants must ensure funds between UK and overseas institution are distributed in proportion to the planned activities, generating mutual benefit and impact. This should be **clear and visible from both the application form and the finance application template** submitted.

## Relevance to economic and social welfare

For the purpose of this **Gender Equality Partnerships** call, capacity strengthening activities with development relevance are defined as activities that have the potential to contribute to the economic development and social welfare of partner countries, benefitting low-income and vulnerable populations specifically. The funding is Official Development Assistance (ODA).

In order to be considered for funding under the programme, all **proposals must** clearly articulate a plausible **route to positive impact** on these populations within a short- to medium-term timeframe (3-5 years). Applications which do not meet the **ODA criteria** cannot receive funding.

Applicants should therefore consider, within their proposals, how the proposed capacity strengthening activities will address issues related to development effectively and efficiently, working in areas of demonstrable relevance to local challenges and using the strengths of the UK to address them. Applicants are asked to highlight relevant SDGs that the project will support (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>), with particular reference made to SDG 5.

In some disciplines, development relevance can be longer-term and less direct than in other areas and impact may be harder to measure. However, in all cases, it remains the responsibility of the applicant to articulate how the activity proposed will aim to meet the ODA criteria and has the potential for lasting impact. Applicants should not expect reviewers to make assumptions about development impact that is not clearly described within the proposal.

For general information about ODA, please visit the OECD website at <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/official-development-assistance.htm>

**Failure to demonstrate ODA eligibility will render your application ineligible regardless of other success criteria. Please make sure you consider the ODA relevance of your application.**

In order to show development relevance within the context of the proposed project, applicants are advised to include within the application reference to any local or national consultation, links to government policies, and existing links with government institutions.

Agreements for ownership and exploitation of intellectual property generated through project activities must be consistent with the primary aim of addressing development issues in the country of the Lead Applicant.

## Eligibility criteria

Proposals must fulfil the following criteria in order to be eligible for funding under this call. The eligibility may vary slightly according to the chosen partner country, please refer to the specific country eligibility criteria below.

| COUNTRY | ELIGIBILITY   |
|---------|---|
| ALL     | <p><b>1. Each proposal must have both:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- one Lead Applicant from the partner country and</li><li>- one Lead Applicant from the UK, submitting one joint application</li></ul> <p><b>2. UK lead partner must be one of the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Higher Education provider with <a href="#">degree awarding powers</a>. Check the 'awarding degrees' drop down section on the specific provider's entry on the <a href="#">OFS register</a>. The OFS register lists all institutions which offer UK degrees, not all of which have degree awarding powers.</li><li>- Not-for-profit research institutions, establishment and organisations (See <b>Annex 2</b> for a complete list of these)</li><li>- Any public or private organisations with a role in the Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET)/Further Education (FE) system</li></ul> <p><b>3.: Overseas lead partner must be one of the following</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Higher Education provider, as locally defined</li><li>- Not-for-profit research institutions, establishment and organisations; as locally defined<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In <b>Jordan</b> this includes: HE public sectoral bodies, Research institutions within HEIs, NGOs and associations working directly with HEIs or representing academics</li></ul></li><li>- Any public or private organisations with a role in the Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET)/Further Education (FE) system</li></ul> |

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|  | <p><b>4. The Lead Applicant’s institution in the partner country (the ‘Lead Institution’) must have the capacity to administer the grant and capacity must be confirmed in the support letter.</b></p> <p><b>5. Lead Applicants can include in their proposals Associated Partners (from both the partner county and the UK) affiliated with:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Higher Education providers</li> <li>- Not-for-profit research institutions, establishment and organisations</li> <li>- TVET/FE providers</li> <li>- Other education organisations/charities/foundations/membership bodies</li> <li>- Not-for-profit organisations, including Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)</li> <li>- For-profit/commercial organisations, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs)</li> <li>- Branch and satellite campuses of UK Higher Education providers</li> <li>- Government organisations</li> <li>- Employer organisations and industry bodies</li> <li>- Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Social Enterprise organisations</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

## Exceptions

### UKRAINE

For partnerships with Ukraine, all the criteria listed under the “**Eligibility Criteria**” on the table above remain the same **except** for **items 2 and 3** and **priority theme**, which are specified here.

Projects between Ukraine and UK should focus only **on the** following **priority theme**, and priority will be given to partnerships that are aiming to reach impact on the national level.

- Addressing women`s underrepresentation in **higher education leadership** (and all its related outcomes)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>2. UK lead partner</b> must be one of the following   | <b>3. Overseas lead partner</b> must be one of the following   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher Education provider with <a href="#">degree awarding powers</a>. Check the ‘awarding degrees’ drop down section on the specific provider’s entry on the <a href="#">OFS register</a>. The OFS register lists all institutions which offer UK degrees, not all of which have degree awarding powers.</li> <li>• Not-for-profit research institutions, establishment and organisations (See <b>Annex 2</b> for a complete list of these)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher Education provider, as locally defined</li> <li>• Not-for-profit research institutions, establishment and organisations; as locally defined</li> </ul> |



## INDONESIA

For partnerships with Indonesia, all the criteria listed under the “Eligibility Criteria” remain the same. The only exception refers to the thematic areas. Projects between Indonesia and UK should **focus** on the following **priority themes**:

- **Enabling access and tackling subject segregation, particularly in the area of STEM (including encouraging STEM-related learning)** - we expect that proposals will address ‘interest issue’; referring to last year report which shows that only 36% STEM researchers with PhD in Indonesia are female.
- **Strengthening pathways into employment for women graduates from further and higher education** - we expect that proposals will address ‘performance and recognition issues’; again referring to last year report, overall only 36% of the total 193 STEM research proposals funded by BRIN (Indonesia National Research and Innovation Agency) in 2022 have a female team leader

## VIETNAM

For partnerships with Vietnam, all the criteria listed under the “Eligibility Criteria” remain the same as well as all priority themes. Note though that project proposals **should include** the following outcome:

- Partnerships with teaching universities to develop gender equality training curriculum for pre-teachers in Vietnam.

## Funding

The Gender Equality Partnerships expects to support **10** projects of **between £20,000 and £25,000** in value each, for a 12-month period, starting from **January 2024**. For partnerships with Vietnam and/or Myanmar we expect to support only one project. For all other countries, we expect to support at least one partnership in each country.

For partnerships with Egypt, the **Egyptian Lead partner must be able to provide the required approvals** to facilitate the transfer of the grant from the UK Lead institution to the Egyptian Lead institution timely. It is advised these discussions are held as early as possible as they could affect the implementation of the project activities.

Funds will be disbursed directly to the Lead Institution (that is, the Lead Applicant’s institution) in the UK according to the approved final budget. Applicants may be asked to adjust their budget if their request does not fit within funding guidelines or if this is considered not appropriate by the application reviewers.

For an equitable partnership, the **UK Lead Institution should be able to timely transfer funding** to its Co-Lead institution in the partner country and/or to Associated Partners for activities which support the objectives of the collaboration and the overall Programme, allowing activities implementation to be implemented without delay. For-profit associate partners are only eligible to receive funds to cover travel-associated costs. Funds to be allocated for all travel can be up to 20% of the total grant per project.

In some cases, the national partner will also provide funding to the partner country institution. Please note that this will not apply for all countries. Matching funds are encouraged but not a requirement.

Gender Equality Partnerships awards are intended to contribute to the direct costs of establishing and operating your collaboration and implementing the jointly planned capacity strengthening activities (that is, costs directly related to implementing activities contained in the proposal). Please complete the budget spreadsheet as provided on the call website with details of all costs.

Please also complete the budget summary form with the totals from your budget spreadsheet and a brief justification for the amounts applied for. Please consider the limits described below:

| Category                     | Type  | Percentage Limits                         | Notes  |
|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| <b>Human Resources costs</b> | Staff costs for personnel working directly on the grant-funded project  | Limited to 30% of grant awarded           |  |
| <b>UK expertise costs</b>    | Only where these are strictly essential, appropriate, and relevant to the design and implementation of the capacity strengthening activities. | Limited to 20% of grant awarded           |  |
| <b>Operational costs</b>     | Travel (economy class) and subsistence costs.   | Travel costs limited to 20% of the grant. | Only covers travel to the partner country or the UK (limited to 20% of the grant).   |
|                              | Visa fees, vaccinations and medical insurance for travel essential to collaboration.  |   | Only covers travel to the partner country or the UK.   |
|                              | Costs of meetings, training events, seminars and conferences integral to the collaboration  |   | This can include short-term room hire, hire of audio-visual equipment (projectors, etc.) and stationery supplies (flip charts, etc.), reasonable levels of refreshments. |
|                              | Equipment and consumables.  |   | Permission must be obtained from The British Council before the purchase of equipment over £1,000. Criteria are normally:  |

|                             |   |  |  |
|-----------------------------|---|--|--|
|                             |   |  | <p>1. Equipment is essential to delivery of the project and cannot be expected to be provided by institutions.</p> <p>2. Equipment will be used in the partner country and will remain there at the end of the grant.</p>  |
|                             | Specialist software licences essential to the collaboration.        |  |  |
| <b>Communications costs</b> | Access fees to facilities or library services.                      |  | <p>This includes web page development by external providers, if appropriate.</p> <p>Virtual delivery costs, which may include but not limited to cost of facilitators and technicians who are recruited to manage the virtual platform, translators and/or digital tools to provide easier access for people with disabilities.</p> <p>We encourage open access publishing, and publication-related costs such as author payment charges (APCs) can be included. The British Council must be notified prior to publication and reserves the right to approve APCs or other publication costs before they are incurred.</p> |
|                             | Use of telecommunications such as video / audio / web conferencing. |  |  |
| <b>Other costs</b>          | Bank charges for transfer of funds from                             |  | Note that for-profit organisations are only  |

|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
|  | the Lead Institution to other Partners. |  | eligible to receive funds for travel associated costs. |
|--|---|--|--|

The British Council is committed to equal opportunities and diversity and will consider, on a case-by-case basis, requests for support for any additional travel and participation requirements in the applications, as long as sufficient justification is provided.

The Gender and Equality Partnerships **cannot cover**:

- Direct staff costs for partners based in commercial organisations.
- Tuition Fees
- Bench Fees
- Costs related to writing up, promoting or disseminating previous research.
- Attendance at conferences or other events unless this is to present outputs and outcomes of the project.
- Patent costs
- Costs relating to the construction, procurement or rental of physical infrastructure (e.g. office buildings, laboratory facilities). It is expected that any rooms and facilities essential for the routine operation of collaboration are provided as an in-kind contribution by the participating institutions. These can be detailed as an in-kind contribution in the budget breakdown.
- Purchase or rental of standard office equipment (except specialist equipment essential to the activity). This includes:
  - IT hardware – laptops, personal computers, iPads, tablets, etc.
  - Office software
  - Desks, chairs, filing cabinets, photocopiers, printers, fax machines.
- Mobile phone rental or purchase, and Roaming charges
- Entertainment costs such as:
  - Gifts
  - Alcohol
  - Restaurant bills or hospitality costs for personnel not directly participating in the project.
  - Excessive restaurant costs.
- Other indirect costs not listed in the above table or detailed in **Annex 3**.

Please contact the [goingglobalpartnerships@britishcouncil.org](mailto:goingglobalpartnerships@britishcouncil.org) email inbox if you are in doubt which costs can and cannot be covered.

The maximum duration of the proposed collaboration is 12 months. Funding, if approved, begins from signature of the Grant Agreement by the British Council. The project start and end dates are provided in the Grant Agreement. The expenses incurred by the institutions prior to the effective start date, including any costs incurred in the production of the proposal, cannot be charged to the grant. The British Council Grant Agreement will be signed with the Lead Applicant in the UK, who is then wholly responsible for the financial and logistical administration of the project (including the organisation of visits to / from the UK, and the disbursement of any funds required for participating institutions).

Grant Agreements will include a requirement to fulfil a detailed monitoring and evaluation process with the British Council where all non-financial contributions would have to be supported by the relevant documentation. This framework will be the mechanism by which quality control of project implementation is achieved.

To ensure value for money, the budget requested in your proposal (including human resource costs) should cover only costs that are essential, appropriate and relevant to the implementation of the capacity strengthening activities. The proposal should maximise cost share through direct and indirect institutional contributions, in-kind funding, other funding sources, and private sector support.

Please indicate in the appropriate budget spreadsheet (and summarise as indicated on the application form) funds applied for from other sources to cover the activities and collaboration; please clarify the status of the funding applications (that is, successful; decision pending). Please indicate when you will know the outcome of any pending applications

## Scope and timelines

The timeline for the Gender Equality Partnerships is as following:

| Activity  | Key dates                |
|---|--------------------------|
| Call for applications opens for UK institutions                 | 21 June 2023             |
| Deadline for Clarification questions submitted by applicants ** | 18 July 2023             |
| Application <b>deadline</b>                                     | <b>20 September 2023</b> |
| Notification of application outcome                             | Week of 6 November 2023  |
| Agreement signing   | 27 November 2023         |
| Allocation of funding   | 12 December 2023         |
| Project implementation and launch                               | 3 January 2024           |
| Introduction meeting with British Council in-country staff      | January 2024             |
| Submission of first Progress report                             | 31 July 2024             |
| Project end and submission of Final report                      | 3 February 2025          |

## Submission process

Formal applications are invited from all UK universities and/or Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) providers in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The overseas and UK partners will prepare a joint application which must be submitted by the UK Lead partner.

The **deadline** for the submission of applications is **23:59 UK time, 20 September 2023**. Applications must be **submitted by email** to Going Global Partnerships ([goingglobalpartnerships@britishcouncil.org](mailto:goingglobalpartnerships@britishcouncil.org)).

We recommend avoiding submitting applications at the last minute. Applications shall be judged by an evaluation panel. Successful applicants will be informed by email in the week commencing **6 November 2023**. Contracts and agreements will be **signed by 27 November 2023**, subject to due diligence procedures.

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The applications must clearly identify how the proposed activities will contribute to achieving/enhancing the overall objectives of the project.

Applications must include:

- A breakdown of the budget requested
- Information on how the proposed capacity strengthening activities will support the economic and social welfare of the most vulnerable populations in the partner countries where the Lead Applicant institution is based
- A detailed activity plan of activities, including timeline, milestones and division of roles and responsibilities
- A detailed plan for monitoring and evaluation
- A detailed plan for dissemination of the results and sustainability of the projects. This should include a description of the means and resources that will be used to sustain the activities beyond the duration of the grant
- A Gender Equality statement

In addition to filling in the application form, applicants are required to submit:

- **Two letters of support** from 1. the UK and 2. the partner country Lead Applicant's institutions in English, on headed paper, signed by the Head of Institution, Head of Department or other person with appropriate delegated authority, expressing specific commitment to the proposed project, confirming capability of the Lead Applicant is suited to the project content, and confirming the capacity of the institution to administer the grant. **Please note that supporting letters must not be signed by the Lead Applicants.** IMPORTANT: If it is not possible to provide signed letters on headed paper, we can accept formal emails from Heads of Department (or equivalent) in pdf format.
- **CVs** for UK and partner country Lead Applicant
- Completed **budget spreadsheet** (template available on the British Council call webpage)
- If the proposal includes **Associated Partners**, further information is required on Associated Partners of up to 300 words per partner, summarising the organisational and individual skills, knowledge and experience each partner will bring to the project and the role they will take.

If you experience problems with accessing the application form or any key document, please contact [goingglobalpartnerships@britishcouncil.org](mailto:goingglobalpartnerships@britishcouncil.org) **before the submission deadline**. If you alert us to technical issues only after the deadline, we may not be able to take them into consideration when assessing the eligibility of your application.

Before the completed applications can be submitted, applicants will be asked to confirm on the form that they have:

- Obtained permission to submit the proposal on behalf of the Lead Institution in the partner country and the UK institution(s). This must be confirmed by attaching Letters of Support from the respective institutions signed by the Head of institution or person with appropriate delegated authority.
- Confirmed the UK Lead Applicant's Institution's willingness to receive the funds and to sign a grant agreement with the British Council, also confirmed in the Letters of Support.
- Complied with British Council policies on prevention of fraud, bribery, money laundering and addressed any other financial and reputational risk that may affect a transparent and fair grant award process.

Once the application is submitted, you should expect to receive **an email acknowledging receipt**.

## Implementation

All projects must be implemented in accordance with the submitted proposal and other formal/written communications provided by the British Council. Any changes to the proposed project activities must be approved by the British Council prior to execution.

## Project reporting, monitoring and evaluation

The delivery partners and associates are required to submit two reports to the British Council on their progress with a final narrative and financial report within 30 days of the project (refer to Scope and Timeline for reporting). Report templates will be provided. Please note if the progress reports or final report is not completed on time, the British Council will reserve the rights to recoup funds or not give future instalments of funds that are due.

Applicants are also expected to report gender equality-related indices, such as the benefits to participants from working on the project.

The British Council will conduct regular monitoring and evaluation, including the commission of independent evaluations for selected activities of strategic importance to the project.

A record should be kept of project activities, contracts, expenditures, financial transactions, and other important documentation for external auditing purposes.

## Selection process

Gender Equality Partnerships activities can be in any discipline or cross-discipline; there are no limits to the type of activities that can be delivered, as long as these respond to country needs and meet the following **criteria**.

| CRITERIA  | SCORE (WEIGHT) |
|---|----------------|
| <b>RELEVANCE TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL WELFARE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The proposal clearly articulates a plausible pathway along which the activity(s) may contribute to the economic development and social welfare of the partner country and lead to positive impact on the lives of the most vulnerable populations within a reasonable timeframe (3 to 15 years).</li><li>• It clearly demonstrates a contribution to gender equality.</li><li>• It also considers the impact activities may have on the environment with clear measures to mitigate them.</li></ul> | Y/N            |
| <b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION: QUALITY AND RELEVANCE</b>   | 30%            |



|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal contributes to the country needs through structural and institutional change and correlates with overall Going Global Partnerships objectives and expected outcomes.</li> <li>• The activities are well planned and defined. The proposal contains clear, feasible, and realistic objectives, as well as potential for long term impact.</li> <li>• The proposal demonstrates the potential to be transformative in terms of gender relations, i.e. address some of the root causes of gender inequalities within the sector.</li> <li>• The proposal shows kickstart and/or accelerates long term strategy to address gender inequality in the institution/sector.</li> <li>• The proposal identifies clear benefits and impacts to higher and further education stakeholders including leadership, staff, students and the wider community in both countries.</li> <li>• The proposal focuses on capacity strengthening to address gender equality challenges in areas of immediate relevance to partner countries professionals, academics, researchers and their sector.</li> </ul> |     |
| <b>FUNDING AND RESOURCES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal represents value for money and all costs are fully justifiable.</li> <li>• The proposal shows equity in the budget distribution</li> <li>• The proposal planning costs are clearly distributed within the defined caps.</li> <li>• The proposal's aims are commensurate with the experience of the individuals involved in the project.</li> <li>• There is a clear definition of roles and responsibilities.</li> <li>• The proposal demonstrates strong gender expertise in the implementing team</li> <li>• The proposal offers development opportunities for staff who are under-represented in senior roles.</li> </ul>   | 20% |
| <b>METHODOLOGY: MONITORING AND EVALUATION, RISKS AND COMMUNICATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The description of the activity(s) includes clear, feasible and realistic objectives and outputs.</li> <li>• Applicants clearly articulate specific outputs anticipated from the collaboration and objectives likely to be achieved.</li> <li>• The methodology has been clearly articulated and is achievable within the given timeframes.</li> <li>• Risk assessment and mitigation plan are clearly defined.</li> <li>• The timelines are realistic and there is an effective monitoring framework in place.</li> <li>• The proposal shows solid mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation and defined plans for sustainability.</li> <li>• There are clear indicators defined to show the change and transition made in the Gender/EDI journey.</li> <li>• There is a planned mechanism for the dissemination of the results of the activities.</li> </ul>   | 25% |
| <b>SUSTAINABILITY AND CAPACITY STRENGTHENING</b>  | 25% |



|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal includes a clear and feasible description of how the Lead Institutions intend to ensure the outcomes are achieved beyond the funding period.</li> <li>• There is a clear plan for how the benefits of the activity(s) will be developed beyond the institutions, whether at a local/regional/national level</li> <li>• The proposal demonstrates the potential for future collaborations and the establishment of long-term relationships</li> <li>• There is involvement of Associated Partners who will aid in sustaining the activity outcomes (if/when working with associated partners)</li> </ul> |             |
| <b>TOTAL MAXIMUM SCORE</b>  | <b>100%</b> |

The evaluation panel will assess the applications based on the overall criteria above.

## Ethics

It is essential that all legal and professional codes of practice are followed in conducting work supported by this Programme. Applicants must ensure the proposed activity will be carried out to the highest standards of ethics and research integrity.

In the application form, applicants must clearly articulate how any potential ethical and health and safety issues have been considered and how they will be addressed, ensuring that all necessary ethical approval is in place before the project commences and all risks are minimised.

Please refer to the Research Councils UK 'Policy and Guidelines on Governance of Good Research' (<https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/UKRI-050321-PolicyGuidelinesGovernanceOfGoodResearchConduct.pdf>) , the Inter Academy Partnership report 'Doing Global Science: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in the Global Research Enterprise' (<http://www.interacademycouncil.net/24026/29429.aspx>) or contact us for further guidance.

## Safeguarding and protecting adults at risk

The British Council is committed to safeguarding children and adults at risk and to upholding their rights in accordance with all applicable legislation and statutory guidance. As part of that commitment, we require that all staff, and those we work with, including partners and suppliers, operate within our Safeguarding Policy which articulates our approach to protecting children and adults at risk and promoting their wellbeing.

We have robust systems and procedures in place to both prevent incidents (covering, for example, the recruitment of appropriate staff, training and support given so that staff can work safely, and standards regarding the way in which we carry out activities) together with responsive actions necessary to address situations where we become aware that a child or an adult at risk may have been harmed. As part of our policy, all countries have a named Safeguarding Focal Point (SFP) who is supported by a Regional Safeguarding Manager (RSM) and the British Council Safeguarding Team. For further information please see: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/how-we-work/policies/safeguarding>.

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# Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Applicants are encouraged to ensure equal opportunities in the teams implementing their proposed activity. Applicants may apply for additional funding to cover any specific requirements necessary to ensure full participation.

Please make additional costs in the 'human resources' section of the budget request within your application. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Please contact us for further information on the British Council's approach. See our Equality Policy here: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/our-values/equality-diversity-inclusion>

## Gender Equality

To comply with the International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014, applications must outline how they have taken meaningful yet proportionate consideration as to how the project will contribute to reducing gender inequalities in the Gender Equality Statement section of the application form.

### Gender Equality Statement

Applicants are required to consider the impact their project will have on gender and provide a gender statement. It should not be a re-statement of your Institution's policy; you may refer to the policy but should show how the policy will be implemented in terms of the project.

Below are the project aspects that can be taken into consideration for the gender statement but not limited to.

- Outputs
- Outcomes
- Make-up of the project team; participants, stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project
- Processes followed throughout the programme.

The statement is part of the equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) assessment criterion in this call. The following questions should be answered when writing the statement.

- Have measures been put in place to ensure equal and meaningful opportunities for people of different genders to be involved throughout the project? This includes the development of the project, the participants of the research and innovation, and the beneficiaries of the activities.
- The expected impact of the project (benefits and losses) on people of different genders, both throughout the project and beyond.
- The impact on the relations between people of different genders and people of the same gender. For example, changing roles and responsibilities in households, society, economy, politics, power, etc.

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- How will any risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality be avoided or mitigated against, and monitored?
  - Are there any relevant outcomes and outputs being measured, with data disaggregated by age and gender (where disclosed)?

Not all questions will be applicable. If a question is not applicable, you will need to articulate the reasons why.

British Council reserve the right to reject the application if no consideration has been given to gender equality or if the proposal is assessed to result in a negative impact for gender equality.

## Impact on the Environment

The British Council is committed to minimising its environmental impact. For this call, we have developed a couple of questions which will enable us to understand the expected impact of a proposed project on the climate (and environment more broadly). We welcome information from Applicants regarding environmental considerations such as reducing carbon emissions for their projects (for example, alternatives to national or international travel such as virtual delivery), minimising waste or promoting resource efficiency.

Please note, responses to these questions will not form part of the grant assessment criteria and will not be subject to peer review. The British Council collects this information for internal purposes only. Please contact us via email ([goingglobalpartnerships@britishcouncil.org](mailto:goingglobalpartnerships@britishcouncil.org)), if you have any queries about the environmental impact section.

## Applicant screening

In order to comply with UK government legislation, the British Council may at any point during the application process, carry out searches of relevant third-party screening databases to ensure that neither the applicant institutions nor any of the applicants' employees, partners, directors, shareholders are listed:

- as an individual or entity with whom national or supranational bodies have decreed organisations should not have financial dealings;
- as being wanted by Interpol or any national law enforcement body in connection with crime;
- as being subject to regulatory action by a national or international enforcement body;
- as being subject to export, trade or procurement controls or (in the case of an individual) as being disqualified from being a company director; and/or
- as being a heightened risk individual or organisation, or (in the case of an individual) a politically exposed person.

If the applicant or any other party is listed in a Screening Database for any of the reasons set out above, the British Council will assess the applicant as ineligible to apply for this grantcall.

The applicant must provide the British Council with all information reasonably requested by the

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British Council to complete the screening searches.

Please read the text to this effect on the application form and tick the box to show that you understand this.

## Covid-19 guidance

Should COVID-19 impact global travel, we would advise that applicants consider, and put in place, contingency plans for remote working and digital collaboration where possible, for example utilising video conferencing in place of face-to-face meetings.

The British Council's Global Information Security Policy has banned Zoom usage for the British Council and for contracted suppliers and grant award holders. The British Council recommends using Microsoft Teams to deliver virtual activities. Should you be successful in securing a grant, and if you require a Microsoft Teams licence, you will need to discuss this with the British Council. Applicants who want to use other online tools or online platforms, must follow British Council safeguarding and security protocols. Online tools or platforms other than Microsoft Teams must be discussed with the British Council and requests to use a different platform or tool would need to be approved for successful grant recipients.

Please consider flexible and technological solutions to progress activity for planned work where feasible.

## British Council contractual requirements

- The contracting authority is the British Council which includes any subsidiary companies and other organisations that control or are controlled by the British Council from time to time
  - (see: [www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/structure/status](http://www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/structure/status)).
- The Grant Agreement Holder for the partnership will be the UK Lead Institution
- The successful applicants will be expected to undertake activities in the UK and in the overseas countries listed in these guidelines.
- The British Council is subject to the requirements of the UK Freedom of Information Act, ("FOIA"). Please indicate in your application whether FOIA also applies to your organisation, so that we can reflect this in the Grant Agreement should you be successful in your application.
- (Terms and Conditions of the Grant Agreement) ("Grant Agreement"). **By submitting a response to this call for applications, you are agreeing to be bound by the terms of these guidelines and the Grant Agreement without further negotiation or amendment.**
- In the event that you have any concerns or queries in relation to the Grant Agreement, you should submit a clarification request to [goingglobalpartnerships@britishcouncil.org](mailto:goingglobalpartnerships@britishcouncil.org) in accordance with the provisions of this call for applications by the application deadline. The British Council reserves the right not to make any changes to the Grant Agreement.

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- The British Council is under no obligation to consider any clarifications / amendments to the Grant Agreement requested following the application deadline.

## Privacy Notice

The British Council and UK partners comply with UK GDPR and the UK Data Protection Act 2018 and data protection laws in other countries that meet internationally accepted standards. The British Council will use the information that you provide for the purposes of processing your application, making any awards and the monitoring & review of any grants. The legal basis for processing your information is agreement with our terms and conditions of application (contract).

We may share all application data with our funding partner in the UK in order to assist with management of the application process. We may share selected non personal data with agencies responsible for monitoring and evaluation of the Gender Equality Partnerships. Your information will not be used/shared beyond the partners listed above for any other purpose without your specific consent. British Council and its partners reserve the right to publish and share anonymised aggregated information with stakeholders.

Organisation details, where collected, are used for monitoring and evaluation and statistical purposes. Gender information and country of origin, where collected, is used solely for statistical purposes. If we need to contact you, we will do so using the contact details you have provided. Under UK Data Protection law, you have the right to ask for a copy of the information we hold on you, and the right to ask us to correct any inaccuracies in that information. If you want more information about this, please contact your local British Council office or see our website: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/privacy-cookies/data-protection>. We will keep your information for a period of seven years after the project.

## Annex 1 – Eligibility criteria checklist

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| The application has been submitted by the applicant by the published deadline.  |  |
| The application is completed in full.   |  |
| The application form and supporting documents have been completed in English.   |  |
| <p>Lead institution is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher Education provider with <a href="#">degree awarding powers</a>. (See links above for the UK)</li> <li>• Not-for-profit research institutions, establishment and organisations. (See <b>Annex 2</b> for a complete list of these).</li> <li>• Any public or private organisations with a role in the Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET)/Further Education (FE) system</li> </ul> <p>For the UK, if the lead institution is not a higher and/or further education institution, the list of eligible UK research organisations is available as <b>Annex 2</b>. If unsure, please contact: <a href="mailto:goingglobalpartnerships@britishcouncil.org">goingglobalpartnerships@britishcouncil.org</a></p> |  |
| The applicants have included 2 supporting letters, one from each of the 2 Lead Institutions, on headed paper, signed by the Head of Department or other person with appropriate delegated authority, giving specific commitment to the project. Supporting letters must be in English, and not be signed by Lead Persons. As stated in these guidelines, email versions of letters are acceptable.  |  |
| Lead Persons must have the capacity to administer a grant and satisfy British Council requirements to prevent bribery, fraud and professional misconduct. Applicants confirm that they comply with British Council requirements by responding to Pre-submission Confirmation in the application form.   |  |
| Applicants have submitted a detailed budget request using the budget spreadsheet provided with the grant call documents on our funding call page.   |  |
| Applicants have submitted a CV for both Lead Applicants.  |  |

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| Where relevant, Associated Partner letters have been uploaded.   |  |
| *Human resource costs: Staff costs for personnel working directly on the grant funded project limited to 30% of the grant to be awarded. |  |
| *UK expertise costs: Limited to 20% of grant to be awarded.  |  |
| *Travel costs: Limited to 20% of the grant.  |  |

## **Annex 2 – List of eligible not-for-profit research institutions, establishment and organisations**

Please note that where organisations have both for-profit and not-for-profit arms, it must be clear that this grant is held and administered by the not-for-profit arm of the organisation

- Alan Turing Institute
- All NHS Trusts, hospitals, boards, primary care trusts and GP practices
- Animal and Plant Health Agency
- Anthony Nolan
- Armagh Observatory
- Babraham Institute
- BirdLife International
- British Film Institute
- British Institute of International and Comparative Law
- British Library
- British Museum
- British Trust for Ornithology
- Butterfly Conservation
- CABI (Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International)
- Cambridge Arctic Shelf Programme
- Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre
- Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult

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- Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
  - CERN
  - Chatham House (Royal Institute of International Affairs)
  - Culham Centre for Fusion Energy (part of UK Atomic Energy Authority)
  - Defence Science and Technology Laboratory
  - Diamond Light Source
  - Earlham Institute
  - Earthwatch Institute
  - Environment Agency
  - European Bioinformatics Institute
  - European Synchrotron Radiation Facility
  - Fera Ltd
  - Forest Research
  - Health and Safety Executive PSRE
  - Health Data Research UK
  - Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England
  - Historic Environment Scotland
  - Historic Royal Palaces
  - HR Wallingford Group
  - Imperial War Museum
  - Institute for Fiscal Studies
  - Institute of Development Studies
  - Institute of Occupational Medicine
  - International Institute for Environment and Development
  - Isaac Newton Group
  - John Innes Centre
  - Joint Astronomy Centre
  - Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
  - London Institute for Mathematical Sciences
  - Malaria Consortium (UK)
  - Manufacturing Technology Centre



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- Marine Biological Association
  - Marine Scotland Science
  - Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
  - Moredun Research Institute
  - MRC Harwell Institute
  - MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology
  - MRC London Institute of Medical Sciences
  - Museum of London Archaeology
  - National Archives
  - National Centre for Social Research
  - National Foundation for Educational Research
  - National Gallery
  - National Institute of Agricultural Botany
  - National Institute of Economic and Social Research
  - National Maritime Museum
  - National Museum Wales
  - National Museums Liverpool
  - National Museums of Scotland
  - National Nuclear Laboratory
  - National Oceanography Centre
  - National Physical Laboratory
  - National Portrait Gallery
  - Natural England
  - Natural History Museum
  - NERC British Antarctic Survey
  - NERC British Geological Survey
  - Nesta
  - Office for National Statistics
  - Overseas Development Institute
  - Plymouth Marine Laboratory
  - Public Health England

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- Quadram Institute Bioscience
  - RAND Europe Community Interest Company
  - Rosalind Franklin Institute
  - Rothamsted Research
  - Royal Botanic Gardens – Edinburgh
  - Royal Botanic Gardens – Kew
  - Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
  - Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies
  - Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture.
  - Science Museum Group
  - Scottish Association for Marine Sciences
  - Sightsavers
  - STFC laboratories
  - Tate
  - Tavistock Institute of Human Relations
  - The Faraday Institution
  - The Francis Crick Institute
  - The James Hutton Institute
  - The Manufacturing Technology Centre Ltd
  - The National Trust
  - The Office of the Health Economics
  - The Pirbright Institute
  - The Resolution Foundation
  - The Royal Shakespeare Company
  - The Welding Institute
  - Transport Research Laboratory
  - UK Astronomy Technology Centre.
  - UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
  - Victoria and Albert Museum
  - Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute
  - World Conservation Monitoring Centre

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- Young Foundation
  - Zoological Society of London, Institute of Zoology.

If you believe your research organisation is eligible but is not on this list, please contact us via [goingglobalpartnerships@britishcouncil.org](mailto:goingglobalpartnerships@britishcouncil.org) before submitting a proposal to this Programme.

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<sup>1</sup> The list includes Public Sector Research Establishments affiliated with UK Government Departments and Research Councils; Independent Research Organisations recognised by Research Councils UK; and research organisations funded by the Scottish Government.

## Annex 3 – Eligible and ineligible costs

### Eligible costs

The following costs are eligible for funding:

- Travel: Travel (economy class) and subsistence costs to the UK/partner country, visa fees, vaccinations, quarantine costs (not exceeding GBP800 per person for 14 days), medical insurance, and roaming charges during travel essential to the project, to the UK and partner country.
- Local travel in the UK and overseas (public transport to and from the airport and for meetings/visits is encouraged where possible).
- Reasonable accommodation and subsistence costs for staff when visiting their partner organisation in the UK or overseas
- Reasonable hospitality costs (excluding self-entertaining costs).
- Reasonable production costs (such as for the development of materials but excluding time spent by staff in relation thereto).
- Consultancy fee (for external procurement and up to 30% of the total project costs).
- Essential equipment for use in the project including consumables, specialist software licences essential to the collaboration, access fees for facilities or library services. Equipment must be essential to project delivery and beyond the scope of institutional provision.
- Cost of meetings, training events, workshops, public engagement events, and seminars integral to the proposal. Translation and interpreter fees.
- Publication costs directly related to the collaboration, including web page development by external providers, if appropriate. Open access publication is encouraged.
- Online platform and relevant costs for digital delivery can be included.
- Attendance at conferences or other events in the UK, partner countries, or virtual events to present the outputs and outcomes of the project.
- Monitoring and evaluation costs.
- All the foregoing activities must be directly related to the development and delivery of the

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agreed project. Partners will be asked to provide the British Council with information on expenditure, supported by receipts for monitoring and auditing purposes.

- The cost of staff time for full-time personnel working directly on the project, plus the costs of temporary personnel and other temporary staff recruited to work solely on the project

## Ineligible costs

The following costs are ineligible for funding:

- Full economic costs (FECs).
- Promotional activities solely concerned with the recruitment of overseas students.
- Institutional overheads including administration fees and other indirect costs.
- Costs associated with Master's and PhD scholarships (including stipends).
- Purchase or rental of standard office equipment (except specialist equipment essential to the research). This includes IT hardware – laptops, personal computers, tablets, smartphones, Mac workstations, computer parts and peripherals, etc. Any standard hardware routinely used by researchers and academics will not be funded.
- Office software and office equipment including desks, chairs, filing cabinets, photocopiers, printers, and fax machines.
- Mobile phone costs including rental or purchase, and monthly phone bills.
- Exchange rate costs/losses and other banking-related costs.
- IP costs, patent, copyright, licensing, or other IP-related costs.
- Costs relating to the construction, procurement, or rental of physical infrastructure (e.g., office buildings, laboratory facilities). Rooms and facilities essential for routine collaboration are provided as an in-kind contribution by participating institutions. These can be detailed as an in-kind contribution in the budget breakdown.
- Entertainment costs such as gifts, alcohol, restaurant bills, or hospitality costs for personnel not directly participating in the project, excessive restaurant costs, and excessive taxi fares.
- No profit or fees must be charged to the grant.