

Newton-Mosharafa PhD Programme

as part of

**The Central Department of Missions Unified Announcement for the fourth
year 2020/2021**

Guidelines for Applicants

August 2020 Version 0.2

Background

The Newton Fund builds research and innovation partnerships with 17 active partner countries to support their economic development and social welfare, and to develop their research and innovation capacity for long-term sustainable growth. It has a total UK Government investment of £735 million up until 2021, with matched resources from the partner countries.

The Newton Fund is managed by the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), and delivered through 7 UK delivery partners, which includes the British Council, UK Research and Innovation (comprising the 7 research councils and Innovate UK), the UK Academies and the Met Office.

For further information visit the Newton Fund website (www.newtonfund.ac.uk) and follow via Twitter: [@NewtonFund](https://twitter.com/NewtonFund)

Tackling global challenges – such as extreme weather conditions, urbanisation, access to affordable health care, food and energy security, and meeting the social and economic needs of a growing population – requires an integrated research and innovation approach, bringing together communities from different disciplines, sectors, and countries in high-quality collaborations.

Ethics and research governance

It is essential that all legal and professional codes of practice are followed in conducting work supported under this Programme. Applicants must ensure the proposed activity will be carried out to the highest standards of ethics and research integrity. Specifically, applications that involve research on animals, human participants, human tissue or patient/participant data must be accompanied by necessary permission certificates from the relevant local ethical review committees/authorities in the UK and the partner country, or an undertaking to obtain this permission in advance of the activity commencing. Failure to do so will result in applications being rendered ineligible and any funding already committed through this Programme being rescinded.

Please refer to the Research Councils UK 'Policy and Guidelines on Governance of Good Research Conduct'

(<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/Publications/researchers/grc/>), the InterAcademy 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 at Newton-Mosharafa@britishcouncil.org for further guidance.

Call for Applications

The UK Department of Business, Energy and Industrial strategy (BEIS), the British Council The Ministry of Higher education and Scientific research represented in Central department of Missions are pleased to invite applications for funding to support Egyptian students to do part or all of their PhD at UK institutions as part of the Central department of Missions unified annual program for the scholarship plan for the fourth year 2020/2021 of the eighth five-year plan 2017-2022

1. The PhD Programme will sponsor:
 - a. **Full Scholarships**- full three-year PhD with degree awarded by a British Higher Education institution
 - b. **Joint Supervisions**- the opportunity to spend a year doing research at a British Higher Education institution as part of a PhD at an Egyptian university

General Conditions for application:

2. Please note, **there are no appeals** for the Newton-Mosharafa PhD scholarship programme and by applying you explicitly accept these terms and conditions of the scholarship
3. Applicants **cannot** change their mission type from one mission to another (General Mission to Joint supervision or from Joint supervisions to General Mission) after submitting their application. Applicants will need to withdraw and re-apply in the next call if they decide they would change to other mission.
4. Applicants must be employed by a university or research Centre which is part of the Missions plan. For a full list of eligibility criteria, please see Annex 1 pages 11
5. The Newton-Mosharafa PhD Scholarship will cover all living expenses and travel costs, as well as tuition and bench fees. The Fund will not cover the cost of dependents. If scholars wish to travel with dependents they will have to accept the associated costs themselves.
6. Students will need to begin their study within one year from the announcement of award, which includes all the travel arrangements as obtaining the higher IELTS score requested by the host university and getting the visa for travel ... etc)
7. Egyptians wishing to apply for full PhD scholarships or one-year PhD placements may apply on the [Central Department of Missions website](#) no later than 23:50 Cairo time on **1stOctober 2020**

8. Applicant can apply through the unified call, with a maximum of two universities offers for one study plan. In case the scholar applies with more than one university offer, the university with higher international rank will be selected
9. Applicants can submit their proposals under one of the main thematic areas as referred to in page 6 and any proposals that will not fit any of those thematic areas will not be accepted.
10. In case the applicant was accepted in one of the grants provided by the government, he will have to implement the government mission and withdraw from the other scholarship according to the applied rules.
11. If we found any scientific impersonation in the applicant's scientific proposals the applicant will be excluded according to the missions law, please note that the scientific proposals submitted by applicants will be reviewed through one of the specialized applications in detecting any scientific impersonation
12. Applicants can be excluded during any of the announcement phases in case it was proved that any of documents or data submitted is not authentic and their home university will be notified to take the legal procedures in this case.
13. It is not permitted to apply for more than one type of missions in the same announcement.
14. It is not permitted to apply for scholarship while a student is traveling on a study leave.
15. It is not permitted to change the place of study after approving the result and committing to the country of mission that was evaluated based on it through the scientific committees.
16. Applicant cannot travel to the host country before getting the training course and the Scholar Qualification Program (SQP) undertaken by the Central Department of Missions.
17. The language level required for delegates to the United Kingdom is 6.5 on the IELTS test and no other test is accepted. please refer to the IELTS requirements page 12.
18. A full list of eligibility criteria can be found in Annex 1 of this document page 11

How to apply

Applicants can apply **Electronically only** within the call duration till Thursday 1st of October 2020 at 23:50 Cairo time, through filling in all the application form and submitting scanned copies of all the required approved and stamped documents and forms on the Central Department of Missions website according to the guidance available on the Central Department of Missions website

19. Create an account on the online application on <https://eservices.cdm.edu.eg> , please note that the application form will be available on the website starting Sunday 9 August 2020
20. Fill the application form and upload all the requested documents
21. The applicant will be asked to submit the hard copies of the requested approved and stamped documents and forms **after they pass the interview phase only and according to the CDM request.** Please note that all documents and forms shall be identical to what have been submitted to the online portal. In case there was a difference in the documents or forms between what have been uploaded on the online portal and what have been submitted in hard copies, the applicant will be excluded directly from the announcement.

Context

22. The Newton-Mosharafa Fund aims to bring together the British and Egyptian scientific research and innovation sectors to find joint solutions to the challenges facing Egypt in economic development and social welfare.
23. In Egypt, the Fund is worth £55 million GBP over seven years and is supported by the British and Egyptian governments through a ministerial agreement.
24. The PhD Scholarship fund is managed by the British Council and the Central Department of Missions
25. The funding on the UK side comes from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with the British Council also serving as a contributing partner.
26. The funding on the Egyptian side comes from the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

27. The UK's Newton Fund money is classed as **Official Development Assistance (ODA)**. Newton Fund activities need to demonstrate that they aim to generate lasting benefits or improve the economic and social welfare of Egypt. Applicants should ensure that their research adheres to ODA eligibility criteria before they apply (full information about ODA can be found in Annex 2 of this document page 14-15).

Aims

28. The aim of the Programme is to facilitate the capacity building of individuals through full PhD scholarships and one-year PhD placements. These will be focussed on research areas which have been identified at the country level as important for fulfilling the Fund goals. Please refer to the section on priority sectors.
29. The approach will be student centred to ensure that the best possible development experience is provided for each student.
30. The PhD programme will enable students to:
- Learn valuable new skills or techniques;
 - Access facilities or resources not readily available in their home country;
 - Build relationships with potential new collaborators, including industry partners where relevant;
 - Advance complementary collaborative research;
31. Supervisors are encouraged to engage and participate in the programme to ensure that an appropriate research environment for the student is accessible at host institutions, and to encourage the development of sustainable relationships between institutions.

Outcomes

32. The primary outcomes of the Newton Mosharafa PhD programme will be the following:
- Development of individual capacity through international training and development opportunities.
 - Highly trained researchers in Egypt with international experience, able to contribute to the absorptive capacity for research and innovation and thus bring about economic and social benefits.
 - Participation of Egyptian PhD students in international intellectual networks, building cultural understanding, and fostering long-term sustainable research collaborations.
 - Development of international joint training pathways.
 - Awareness of the research strength of the UK and Egypt.

Priority sectors

33. Applications are welcome in any subject or research area that is relevant to following priority themes:
- Sustainable water management
 - Renewable Energy
 - Sustainable food production
 - Affordable and inclusive healthcare
 - Environmental Protection
 - Information Technology and communication
34. The overall goal of Newton-Mosharafa is the economic development of Egypt. Applicants will need to be able to demonstrate how their PhD research contributes to the economic development of Egypt.
35. If the number of candidates in one particular field or specialisation is high, then we reserve the right to apply quotas at our discretion to ensure that scholarships awarded support the national interest/Egypt Vision 2030.

Funding arrangements

36. In 2020/2021 the Newton-Mosharafa Fund will grant funds to cover both full scholarships and one-year placements.
37. Funding from the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, via the British Council, will cover tuition, research and bench fees at UK universities.
38. The Central Department of Missions will cover travel and living expenses, including flights (economy), accommodation allowance, living stipend, insurance and visa costs according to the regulations of the Central Department of Missions.

The table below provides a detailed breakdown of the living costs offered to the PhD scholar:

| Item | Amount in £ Pounds Sterling | Frequency |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Arrival allowance | 485 | Once |
| Monthly stipend | 1210 | Monthly (Inside London) |
| Housing allowance | 180 | |
| Monthly stipend | 970 | Monthly (Outside London) |
| Housing allowance | 145 | |
| Book allowance | 970 | Yearly |
| Clothes allowance | 970 | Yearly |

39. The Fund will not cover the cost of dependents. If scholars wish to travel with dependents, they will have to accept the associated costs themselves.
40. The Fund will not cover conferences fees or purchasing equipment.

Eligibility criteria

41. The applicants should ensure their applications meet the criteria set out below. The principles underlying the assessment of applications will be:
 - All questions on the Application Form are answered;
 - All eligibility conditions are met and requested documents are submitted where Missions sector will carry out the eligibility checks (A full list of eligibility conditions and documents required be found at the end of this document in annex 1 pages 11- 13)
 - Applications are welcome in any subject or research area that is relevant to following priority themes:
 - Sustainable water management
 - Renewable Energy
 - Sustainable food production
 - Affordable and inclusive healthcare
 - Environmental Protection
 - Information Technology and communication
 - The research area is ODA eligible; (see annex 2 pages 14-15)
 - The activities are planned to deliver the outcomes in the most effective way. If the applicant applies for a mission and it is deemed by the reviewers that it could be completed more appropriately with different mission, the application will be ruled ineligible. Yet, the scholar can apply again the following year for the recommended mission by the interview panel.
 - The mobility programme will contribute towards developing a long-term sustainable partnership between UK and Egyptian universities.

Evaluation process

42. Applications will be screened for their relevance to the country priorities.
43. The Central Department of Missions will conduct initial screening and will conduct a peer review process to select an initial list of potential candidates. This list will be submitted to the British Council's and Mission's sector pool of scientific expert reviewers who will assess the proposals.

44. The British Council will screen all proposals to ensure that they adhere to ODA principles.
45. After the ODA review and the panel reviews, the British Council and Central Department of Missions will then conduct interviews with those on the short-list to come up with the final list of successful candidates.

Contracting and Financial Arrangements

46. The Egyptian Cultural Bureau in London will be responsible for arranging the academic bookings for all successful selected scholars and will be responsible for negotiations with the host institute regarding fees.
47. The host institution will be responsible for:
 - Provision of financial accounts to detail how Newton-Mosharafa funds have been spent on each PhD student over the reporting periods by the end of March in each year of the scholarship.
 - Alerting the Egyptian Cultural Bureau in London to any substantive changes that will impact on project outcomes.
48. For three-year scholarships, funding for each year will be dependent on successful completion of the previous year's study.

Support to students

49. The Newton-Mosharafa PhD Programme expects that the host institution offers high standards of supervision, management and mentoring to full scholarship and placement students. In your proposal, you might want to consider the following:
 - The host institution's standards of supervision, management and mentoring.
 - Support and training supervisors receive so that they provide the highest-quality supervisory support for their doctoral students
 - Mechanisms that are in place to assess, provide for and monitor individual doctoral student needs and offer the student appropriate development opportunities
 - Professional and transferable skills training offered to doctoral students, including training in the principles of good research conduct in their discipline and in the relevant ethical, legal and professional frameworks
 - Learning and training opportunities available to doctoral students to raise awareness of the broader context of their research area, particularly in reference to societal and ethical issues, and the importance of engaging the public with research

For further information on UK standards for doctoral training, please refer to the 'Statement of Expectations for Doctoral Training' <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/RCUK-prod/assets/documents/skills/statementofexpectation.pdf>

50. Prospective applicants to an open Newton Fund call should note that Universities UK International (UUKi) offers a student support service to help connect Newton Fund partner country students to potential UK supervisors. Those interested in applying to an open Newton Fund PhD call, and who would like assistance in finding a UK supervisor, should complete the Host Request Form on the UUKi website.

Please note that request may take up to 5 weeks to find a suitable university for specialization, so you are requested to contact UUKi as soon as the call open and at least four weeks ahead of the call deadline.

Reporting and Monitoring

51. Each PhD student and supervisor will submit a report, detailing training progress and financial accounts, to the Egyptian Cultural Bureau in London as per their procedures and guidelines for each year of the scholarship or placement.

Diversity

52. The British Council is committed to equal opportunities and diversity in all our activities. This includes avoidance of bias due to gender, disability, racial or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or religious belief.
53. For more on the British Council's approach, see our Equality Policy at: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/how-we-work/policies/equality-diversity-inclusion>

Data protection

How we use your information

54. The British Council will use the information that you are providing for the purposes of processing your application, making any awards, monitoring and review of any award.
55. We shall share any necessary data on your application with the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and with our funding partners in your country in order to assist with management of the application process; any decisions on grants will be made in collaboration with them.
56. Organisation details, where collected, are used for monitoring and evaluation and statistical purposes. Gender information, where collected, is used solely in preparing statistical reports.
57. The British Council collects country of origin for reporting and statistical purposes and to contact you within your own country.

58. 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 the Data Protection Team infogovernance@britishcouncil.org or see our website: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/privacy-cookies/data-protection>.

Key dates (please note that these dates may be subject to change):

| Activity | Date (please note that these dates are estimates and might be slightly changed) |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Announcement of the PhD call | 19 July 2020 |
| Call for online application | 9 August 2020 |
| Closing Date | 1 October 2020 23:50 Cairo Time |
| Final Interviews | November –December 2020 |
| Successful candidates notified | Jan 2020 |

Contact point

If you have any enquires or faced any technical problems when uploading your application, please send an email to call2020@cdm.edu.eg

You can check the frequently asked questions on the Central department of Missions website: www.cdm.edu.eg

Annex (1) Eligibility Criteria and required documents and important information for all applicants

| Condition | General Mission applicants | Joint Supervision applicants |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Age | <p>Applicant's age should not exceed 30 years by the date of the Call for Application</p> <p>The executive committee may permit an extension of a maximum of two years beyond the limit of 30 after taking the opinion of the partner country for circumstances related to general good</p> | <p>Age should not exceed 35 years by the date of the Call for Application.</p> |
| Position experience | <p>Assistant lecturer, or a research assistant, teaching assistant, or research assistant, who holds a master's degree in mission specialisation / It is possible to apply for those who has been appointed for a year in service on the date of the announcement, however they cannot travel until after completing two years of service</p> | <p>Assistant lecturer or assistant researcher who holds a master's degree in mission specialisation</p> |
| Required certificate | <p>Bachelor (very good) / Master Degree (if available)</p> | <p>Bachelor (very good) / Master Degree</p> |
| Language proficiency | <p>For acceptance on to the scholarship, we require a minimum of IELTS 6.5 Please note, your university could have different language requirements, for more information to the language requirements page 12</p> | |
| Registration | <p>If the applicant has already registered for the PhD degree, then the registration date should not be exceeding one year by the date of the Call for Application. And if the applicant didn't register for PhD, the date of receiving his/her master's degree date shouldn't exceed two years.</p> | <p>Applicant should have registered for the PhD degree as a requirement for travel. Registration should not be exceeding three years by the date of the Call for Application.</p> |
| Recurrence | <p>Applicant shouldn't have received a PhD mission or scholarship before. In case the applicant has applied for a scholarship and his/her application was not decided on by the date of the Call for Application, the applicant should be dispatched to the scholarship in case his/her application is accepted and the nomination for the mission should be cancelled.</p> | |
| Military Service | <p>Applicant should have finished his military service or exempted.</p> | |

International English Language Testing System / English as a Foreign Language Test (IELTS): -

For acceptance on to the scholarship, we require a minimum of IELTS 6.5 to be submitted by **1st October 2020**

Please note, your university could have different language requirements, if your university requires a higher IELTS score than 6.5, then you will need to have attained this before your travel.

IELTS score of 6.5 is our minimum requirement; if your university requires lower than this, you will still need at least 6.5 for entrance onto the scholarship scheme.

Required Documents for General Mission:

1. Arabic data form approved and stamped by college and University (**GM01-2020 form on CDM website**).
2. A career progression statement for physicians applying for missions (period of resident physician) approved and stamped by the dispatching authority.
3. Accredited English certificate of the first-level university degree and General Estimate.
4. Accredited Certificate for master's degree if he holds a master's degree or provide a certificate stating the date of registration of the master's thesis.
5. A Certificate with the Ph.D. registration date: accredited and stamped by the faculty council, in case the applicant has registered the PhD.
6. The original IELTS test certificate at the required level which is 6.5 valid by the date of the announcement.
7. A certified statement verifying that the applicant did not receive a mission or scholarship or a scientific mission through Central Department of Missions or any other program funded by the Central Department of Missions before. (**GM02 - 2020 form on CDM website**).
8. English PhD study plan (**GM03 2020 form on CDM website**):
 - No more than 3 pages.
 - Approved, signed and stamped from head of Department of home university and dean of the faculty or the Head of the research centre.
 - The study plan and the cover of it must not have any personal data.
9. Acceptance letter from one or more foreign universities.
 - **Acceptance letter:** Preliminary approval of the research plan from the host UK professor to confirm the supervisor's approval to host the student with confirmation of the research topic, title, duration and required fees. (acceptance letter) by **1st October 2020**

10. **Unconditional offer letter from the host Institution:** To confirm that the host institution and the supervisor in this institution are willing to host the PhD student and determine the duration of the stay and the fees required. Deadline for submission of the UK university offer letter is **before travel date**
11. Provide evidence of the military service status for males.
12. Approval of the employer to apply for the mission accredited by the Faculty Dean or the president of the Research Centre; Endorsement letter. **(AA01 – 2020 form on CDM website)**
13. Three different professors' names that can be referred to them when there is a need with their emails.

Registration: The registration of a research point and its authorisation by the University committee, not the date of enrolment or the start of studies in the doctoral program.

Required Documents for Joint Supervisions:

1. Arabic Dara data form approved and stamped by college and University **(JS01-2020 form on the website).**
2. A career progression statement for physicians applying for missions (period of resident physician) approved and stamped by the dispatching authority.
3. Accredited English certificate of the first-level university degree and General Estimate.
4. Accredited Certificate for master's degree or equivalent.
5. A Certificate with the Ph.D. registration date: accredited and stamped by the faculty council, in case the applicant has registered the PhD. (university approval on registration)
6. The original IELTS test certificate at the required level which is 6.5.
7. A certified statement verifying that the applicant did not receive a mission or scholarship or a scientific mission through Central Department of Missions or any other program funded by the Central Department of Missions before **(JS02 - 2020 form on CDM website).**
8. English PhD study plan: **(JS03 - 2020 form on CDM website).**
 - No more than 3 pages.
 - Approved, signed and stamped from head of Department of home university and dean of the faculty or the Head of the research centre.
 - The study plan and the cover of it must not have any personal data.
9. Acceptance letter from one or more foreign universities.
Acceptance letter: Preliminary approval of the research plan from the host UK professor (acceptance letter) by **1st October 2020.**
10. Provide evidence of the military service status for males.
11. Approval of the employer to apply for the mission accredited by the Faculty dean or the president of the Research Centre; Endorsement letter.

12. Three different professors' names that can be referred to them when there is a need with their emails.

Registration: The registration of a research point and its authorisation by the University committee, not the date of enrolment or the start of studies in the doctoral program.

Annex 2: ODA (Official Development Assistance) Eligibility Criteria

For the PhD scholarship programme, we define activities leading to impact with development relevance as activities that have the potential to contribute to the economic development and social welfare of low and middle-income countries³, benefitting low income and/or vulnerable populations in these countries.

3 As defined by the OECD DAC list of official development assistance (ODA) recipients

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/documentupload/DAC%20List%20of%20ODA%20Recipients%202014%20final.pdf>

In order to be considered for funding under the Newton Mosharafa PhD scholarship, **all proposals must clearly articulate a plausible route to positive impact on these populations within a short to medium term timeframe (within 10 years). Applications which do not meet this criterion cannot receive support under the Newton Mosharafa Fund**

In some disciplines, development relevance can be longer term and less direct than in other areas. In all cases, it is the responsibility of the applicant to articulate within the application how the proposed activities will meet these criteria.

For more on our approach to ODA, please see:

<http://www.newtonfund.ac.uk/about/what-is-oda/>

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.

You must be able to answer the below questions to reflect the ODA in your submitted proposal.

1. How is your proposal directly and primarily relevant to the development challenges in Egypt? Please provide evidence of the development need and articulate how the proposed activity is appropriate to address this need.

2. How do you expect that the outcome of your proposed activities will promote the economic development and welfare of the partner country?
3. What approach(es) will you use to deliver development impact within the lifetime of the proposal and in the longer-term?

ODA transparency and reporting

As part of the UK government's commitment to ODA transparency and in line with DFID ODA reporting requirements, there is a requirement to publish information about ODA grants including project titles and summaries via the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) registry and via DFID's national statistics.

The purpose of publishing information via the IATI registry is to make information about ODA easily accessible to governments, stakeholders and other relevant groups in beneficiary countries. All funded projects from this programme will be published in this way. Please therefore write your project title and summary in such a way that they are meaningful and accessible to non-specialist audiences, following publication.

It is expected that the project title and summary are written in plain English and avoid the use of jargon, acronyms, puns and plays on words. **Please also make clear in your project title and summary how your proposal is ODA-compliant**, for example by identifying the development challenge(s) being addressed, the aims of the proposals and the beneficiaries