

Newton Fund Impact Scheme

Frequently asked questions

Eligibility		
Question	Answer	Guidance Reference
What's the eligibility criteria for UK PIs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former and current Newton Mosharafa Grantees can apply: British Council (All completed projects under Researcher Links -Travel Grants and Workshops and Institutional Links) In addition, we will accept applications from ongoing Institutional Links projects with a grant ending before 31 March 2021 Leaders in Innovation Fellowships under Royal Academy of Engineers / AHRC projects under specific AHRC calls / Advanced fellowships projects under British Academy All project leaders must be based at either higher education institution or research institution The Project Leaders have to submit only one (1) application under this Newton Fund Impact Scheme as Project Leader. At least one of the Project Leaders and/or their institution are currently or have been previously Newton Fund grantees. Project Leads and organizations may change, subject to the conditions (according to the table page 7 of guidelines) 	Full guidance on UK PI Eligibility can be found in Section 3 of the Guidelines for Applicants page 7-8
What are STIFA's eligibility requirements for EG PIs?	STIFA eligibility check requires the following; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PI and CO-PI are Egyptian, PhD holders affiliated to Egyptian research entity. Not exceeding the maximum budget and duration. Application shall be submitted on the form announced on the site PI shall fill all the requirements stated in the application form together with the annexes. Industrial partner; end user or beneficiary is mandatory (supported by endorsement letter). 	Full guidance on EG PI Eligibility can be found in country specific section of the Guidelines for Applicants page 28-29

Question	Answer	Guidance Reference
Can project be submitted with new leaders from UK or Egypt different from the leaders from former project?	Collaborations may include a new Project Leader from either of UK or Egypt, but at least one Project Leader or Co-Leader of the team must remain the same (either UK or Egypt). and You will need to submit a letter of support from the former partner to confirm that the new partner can take over the work.	Full guidance on changes that can happen to project leaders or organizations are in the Guidelines for Applicants page 7
Can the UK PI lead an Impact Scheme proposal with Egypt and also lead another Newton Institutional links with a different country?	Yes, but a UK PI cannot apply for two projects under the Impact Scheme.	
For Royal Academy of Engineering LIF fellows, they have no UK PI. How can they submit the UK application form?	The LIF Fellow will need to find a UK PI to apply for the NFIS. Universities UK may be able to assist. https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/International/funding-and-opportunities/Pages/newton-fund.aspx	
Budget		
What are the British council rules guiding the budget on UK side?	The eligible costs at 80% FEC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff costs (including directly incurred and directly allocated posts). • Other research costs (including consumables). Please note that no single items of equipment over £10,000 may be included. • Travel and subsistence for exchange/mobility activities (including cost of workshops, meetings etc). • Estates and indirect costs. 	Full guidance on UK budget can be found in Section 7 of the Guidelines for Applicants page 11-13
What are the STIFA rules guiding the budget on EG side?	The Egyptian budget STIFA rules are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max 400,000 EGP/ 25% of total budget (whichever is lower) on salary/staff costs • Max 200,000 LE / 10% of total budget (whichever is lower) on travel costs. • Max 20% on indirect costs/overheads • The remaining 45% can go on other costs (research costs, equipment, communication, publication, materials, field work expenses). 	Full guidance on EG Budget can be found in country specific section of the Guidelines for Applicants page 28 and EG applicants must refer to the salary scale on STIFA website

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What is the maximum budget limit for each project and indirect costs?	The full estimated cost of UK budget can be up to £100,000. This will result in a grant of £80,000 from the Newton Fund and includes indirect costs. For the Egyptian side, budget is up to £100,000, Egyptian partners should review the maximum budget amounts on call guidelines under country specific guidance page 28 and salary scale on STIFA website to ensure they apply for eligible costs.	Guidance on funding available and indirect costs can be found in Section 7 of the Guidelines for Applicants page 11-12
For UK side, indirect cost may reach in some university to 50% from total grant, does this mean the actual budget will be 40K?	Yes – if that is how the University manages grants. You may want to discuss this with your Research and Innovation (or similar) team at your University when completing the budget form.	
Can the budget on the British side include cost for hiring the Post doc?	Yes – you can use funds to pay for staff working on the project, including post-Docs/Research Associates/Assistants.	
Can the costs be used for part funding to PhD students?	No – the fund can't cover costs for funding PhD students	Guidance on ineligible costs available can be found in Section 7.3 of the Guidelines for Applicants page 13
Impact – ODA		
The new proposal must connect with previous one? If should be linked to previous project, what would this link and impact look like?	Yes, the new proposal must relate with the original funded project. we do expect NFIS Applicants to make a strong case on any new activities to show how is this building on the previous project, focus primarily on impact realisation and give a full picture to context and challenges that the proposal is addressing in Egypt. Applicants are invited to think creatively about ways impact can be achieved. The grants will provide funding targeting the following key areas: I. Initiating or increasing policy impacts or user engagement. This may involve translating existing research or research outcomes into policy impacts, increasing engagement with users, measures to overcome identified barriers to impact or extending engagement into new user communities. II. Initiating or increasing engagement with impact multipliers (e.g. businesses, NGOs or charities). This may involve moving research outcomes further along the translation pipeline or extending the outcomes into the commercial sector.	Guidance on impact realization and linking NFIS projects with previous ones can be found in section 1-2 of the guidelines page 5-6 and on appendix 3 page 38

Question	Answer	Guidance Reference
<p>Is the new project supposed to show how the previous project results will be taken forward to roll out its impact? Is the new project supposed to propose new outcomes/deliverables with new contribution to knowledge?</p>	<p>The proposal for the NFIS grant should demonstrate how it builds on the former project, explain how it maximise impact and what are the development challenges it is addressing. The NFIS would expect applicants to realise impact from Newton Fund activities would be supporting Egypt’s priorities and development needs. Applicants shall review Egypt Vison 2030</p> <p>Moreover; it is important to take into consideration the ODA (Official development assistance) - In order to be considered for funding under the Newton Fund Impact Scheme. All proposals must clearly articulate a plausible route to positive impact on Egyptians within a short to medium term timeframe (within 10 years). Applications which do not meet this criterion cannot receive support under Newton Fund Impact Scheme.</p>	<p>Guidance on project impact can be found in section 1-2 of the guidelines page 5-6</p> <p>Guidance on ODA can be found in section 4 of the guidelines page 9-10</p>
<p>Regarding TRL, if the prototype that is already part of from the previous project developed and then used to have further impact on ground as an actual product, is this considered an increase in TRL? i.e. is this considered as moving to TRL 9</p>	<p>This is the role of PI to prove the added value and ensure that the submitted proposal will move the prototype to a higher level of TRL which might reach TRL 9. Important remark; fund might support scale up, but does not allow double funding for the same tasks</p>	
Gender		
<p>Do you mean by gender equality, that I have to include comparable number of male and female in the project or the final accepted project will be equally divided between male and female?</p>	<p>The gender equality statement should not only address gender balance in the project team, but should also consider how the outcomes of the project will affect people of different genders. By answering the questions in the application. In case some of the questions are not applicable to the project you will need to explain why and demonstrate your understanding of how gender equality is addressed through your project.</p>	<p>Guidance on Gender equality can be found in section 9.1 of the guidelines page 16</p>
<p>How can we give the evidence for gender equality?</p>	<p>By carefully answering the questions in the application to show that you have considered the impact of the project from a gender perspective.</p>	<p>Refer to Gender equality statement questions in application form in section 3.1</p>

Application process, Timeline and Evaluation		
Question	Answer	Guidance Reference
Do we have to submit two applications?	<p>Yes - Two applications need to be submitted:</p> <p>UK partner to submit an application with supporting documents requested from UK partner on the British Council online application portal</p> <p>Egyptian partner will need to upload their application along with the STIFA requested supporting documents on STIFA website</p>	<p>Guidance on UK PI application process can be found in section 9. of the guidelines page 15</p> <p>Full guidance on EG PI application can be found in country specific section of the Guidelines for Applicants page 28-29</p>
Do the Egyptian partner submit specific documents to STIFA?	<p>Yes - Egyptian applicants need to fill in the below annexes and upload them along with the UK partner supporting documents</p> <p>These annexes are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annex1: Research Team Information Table • Annex 2: CV Format • Annex 3: Gantt Chart • Annex 4: Budget Table • Annex 5: Acknowledgment Form • Annex 6: Endorsement letter from institute • Annex 7: Endorsement letter form industry • Annex 8: Abstract in Arabic 	<p>Full list of UK PI requested documents in Section 9.2 of the Guidelines for Applicants page 17-19</p> <p>Full guidance on EG PI requested documents can be found in country specific section of the Guidelines for Applicants page 28-29</p>
In the current situation - if EG PI cannot get supporting stamped documents due to closure of universities how can we proceed?	<p>At the application stage STIFA are flexible. applicants are asked to submit an e-mail from the appropriate person in lieu of supporting documents on headed paper with an original signature. electronic signature is accepted also. Should the project be selected for funding, STIFA will require documents with the correct stamps and signatures in pre-contracting stage. For STIFA, Endorsement letter shall includes all data of project /PI and signed even by electronic signature.</p>	

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During evaluation Phase, Will the applications be assessed in UK then Egypt?	There will be a parallel assessment in the UK and Egypt. Following this there will be a final moderation panel with representatives from both UK and Egypt to agree the final list of projects to be funded.	Full guidance on assessment and selection process can be found in section 13 of the Guidelines for Applicants page 23-25
Mentioned that the project results will be announced in Jan 2021 – When would the projects officially start?	Successful projects will be notified in January 2021 for projects to start beyond April 2021, depending on getting the required clearances from Egypt.	
Does the clearances in Egypt affect the start of the project from the UK side?	Yes –NFIS team will not start contracting process with either partners until clearance has been received in Egypt.	
What is the maximum length of a project?	24 months for projects in Egypt.	
Industrial Partner		
Is having an “industry” partner mandatory in NFIS?	by Industrial Partner; we mean either industry; Ministry or NGO.	
Do we need industry partners from both countries for NFIS?	No, it is mandatory only for the Egyptian partner. For UK it is optional.	
For EG side, sometimes it seems impossible to find an industrial partner for certain proposed works, therefore does this affect the priority or the final selection?	If there is no beneficiary supporting the submitted idea, it might affect the scoring of the project unless it is fully justified. It depends on how applicant is building the case in the proposal for the impact.	
For EG side, can we use industrial partners from countries other than Egypt?	No- Industrial partner/ beneficiaries shall be from Egypt.	
Should the end user be a specific industrial or government entity or can it be a community?	It could be a community – what is important is to demonstrate in the application how they would support project outcomes and confirm that they have agreed to be involved in the project with a letter of support.	

Newton Fund Prize		
Question	Answer	Guidance Reference
If we applied to Newton-Fund Prize 2020, is it eligible to apply to this call too?	Yes – Egyptian Newton Funded projects can apply for both the Newton Prize 2020 and the Newton Fund Impact Scheme (NFIS), subject to the specific eligibility criteria for each funding scheme. However, the same project cannot receive awards under both schemes. Following the Newton Prize 2020 Committee decision in September 2020, if the shortlisted Egyptian project is applying to both schemes, they will be asked to decide which fund they wish to continue with.	
Is the Newton Prize different than this Newton Impact grant?	Yes. The Newton Fund Impact Scheme is for a maximum project size of £200,000 split 50:50 between the UK and Egypt. The Maximum project size for UK partners is £100,000 and the maximum grant size is 80% of the Full Economic Cost (FEC) of the project, i.e. £80,000. The Maximum project size and maximum grant for Egyptian partners is £100,000 provided by Science, Technology and Innovation Funding Authority (STIFA). The Newton Prize is for up to £200,000 over 12 months starting in April 2021 – end of March 2022 (start date of projects depends on getting the required clearances from Egypt). At least 50% of the prize money will be spent within the Newton Partner Country (and therefore 50% or less spent in the UK). Both grants look to further the impact of the project.	