

Newton-Mosharafa PhD Programme for 16/17

Call for Applications

1. The UK Department of Business, Energy and Industrial strategy (BEIS), the British Council, British Embassy Cairo and Egyptian Cultural Affairs and Missions Sector are pleased to invite applications for funding to support Egyptian students to do part or all of their PhD at UK institutions.
2. The PhD Programme will sponsor:
 - a. **Full Scholarships**- full three year PhD with degree awarded by a British Higher Education institution (with possibility of extension to a fourth year under certain circumstances)
 - 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 (with possibility of extension to a second year under certain circumstances.)
3. Please note applicants must be employed by a university which is part of the Missions plan. For a full list of eligibility criteria, please see page 8
4. The Programme will cover all living expenses and travel costs, as well as tuition and bench fees.
5. Students will need to begin their study by latest **December 31, 2017**.
6. Research will need to focus on one of the following areas:
 - a. Sustainable Water Management;
 - b. Renewable Energy;
 - c. Sustainable Food Production;
 - d. Archaeology and Cultural Heritage;
 - e. Affordable and Inclusive Healthcare
7. Egyptians wishing to apply for full PhD scholarships or one year PhD placements may apply on Cultural Affairs and Mission Sector official website ([Check here](#))
8. The deadline for applications for both of these schemes is 2:00 pm Cairo time on **28 October, 2016**. Interviews will be held in **January 2017** and decisions will be announced by the **February 2017**.

9. Applicants have to submit all the required documents before the deadline of 28th October. Applicants must submit scanned documents online with the application, and original hardcopy documents can be delivered from Sunday-Thursday from 9:00am until 3:00pm to Mr Ayman – room 37 at Mogamaa Tahrir 7th floor (Mission sector office) Full list of required documents can be found in Appendix 1 of this document (page 10).
10. A full list of eligibility criteria can be found in Appendix 1 of this document (page 8).

Background

11. 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.
12. The scheme is part of the UK's £375 million Newton Fund to support science and innovation partnerships between the UK and emerging powers.
13. In Egypt, the Fund is worth £40 million over seven years and is supported by the British and Egyptian governments through a ministerial agreement.
14. The PhD Scholarship fund is managed by the British Embassy, British Council and the Cultural Affairs and Missions Sector.
15. 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.
16. The funding on the Egyptian side comes from the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.
17. 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 Appendix 2 of this document page 12).

Aims

18. 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.
19. The approach will be student centred to ensure that the best possible development experience is provided for each student.
20. 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;
21. 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

22. 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

23. Applications are welcome in any subject or research area that is relevant to following five priority themes:
- Sustainable water management
 - Sustainable food production
 - Energy
 - Affordable and inclusive healthcare
 - Cultural heritage and archaeology.
24. 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.

Eligibility

25. A full list of eligibility requirements can be found at the end of this document in appendix 1 page 8.

Application

Every Application should be submitted with an endorsement letter from the home and host Institution, which 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.

Funding arrangements

26. In 2016/2017 the Newton-Mosharafa Fund will grant roughly 20 full scholarships and 20 one year placements in this year. The programme will run again next year subject to funding availability from both partners.
27. Funding from the British Government will cover tuition, research and bench fees at UK universities. While there is an upper limit for the bench fees of joint supervision by £ 10,000 .The amount of tuition and/or bench fees requested by the hosting institution will be taken into consideration by the review panel when making the final decision on which applicants to fund. Acceptance letters from the University should specify the tuition fees (if applicable) and bench fees to be charged, including a brief breakdown of costs for bench fees.
28. Funding from the Egyptian Government covers travel and living expenses, including flights (economy), accommodation allowance, living

stipend, insurance and visa costs according to the regulations of the Egyptian Cultural and Missions Sector.

Evaluation criteria

29. 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;
 - The research area is relevant to the Newton-Mosharafa Fund priorities which are:
 - Sustainable water management
 - Sustainable food production
 - Energy
 - Affordable and inclusive healthcare
 - Cultural heritage and archaeology
 - The research area is **ODA eligible**; (see Appendix 2)
 - The activities are planned to deliver the outcomes in the most effective way;
 - The mobility programme will contribute towards developing a long term sustainable partnership between UK and Egyptian universities.

Evaluation process

30. Applications will be screened for their relevance to Newton-Mosharafa Fund priorities.
31. The Ministry of Higher Education 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.
32. A UK expert will screen all proposals to ensure that they adhere to ODA principles.
33. After the ODA review and the panel reviews, the British Council and Cultural Affairs and Missions Sector will then conduct interviews with those on the short-list to come up with the final list of successful candidates.

Contracting and Financial Arrangements

34. The Egyptian Cultural Bureau in London will be responsible for arranging the academic bookings for all successful selected scholars.
35. 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 British Council to any substantive changes that will impact on project outcomes.
36. For three year scholarships, funding for each year will be dependent on successful completion of the previous year's study.

Support to students

37. 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>

Reporting and Monitoring

38. 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.

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

Activity	Date
Call Open	29 August 2016
Closing Date	2:00 pm Cairo Time 28 October 2016
Shortlisting of the candidates	December 2016
Deadline for submission of IELTS results	31 January 2017
Deadline to confirm unconditional acceptance and fees by UK host institution	31 December 2016
Final Interviews	January 2017
Successful candidates notified	February 2017

Contact point

If you have any questions at all, please send an email to:

Newton.Mosharafa@britishcouncil.org or for technical questions regarding the online application please contact it_cams@yahoo.com

Annex 1: Details on eligibility requirements, supporting documents to submit, and other important information for all applicants.

General Conditions for General Mission

1. Scholarship should be in a UK institution for higher education
2. Study should be in one of the five themes of Newton-Mosharafa (water management, food production, renewable energy, healthcare and cultural heritage)
3. Applicant must be a lecturer or a research assistant who got his Master's Degree or a teacher assistant or research assistant in one of the bodies listed in the Missions' plan who has been appointed for no less than two years (in case of teacher assistant who hasn't been appointed in his position, he can submit what proves his appointment in this position before his travel, in case he was not appointed he will be excluded).
4. Applicant's age should not exceed 30 years by the date of the Call for Application.
(In some exceptional circumstances, an extension of a maximum of two years beyond the limit of 30 might be granted (Contact the Missions sector for more details).
5. If the applicant has already registered for the PhD degree it is preferable that registration 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 Master's degree date shouldn't exceed two years.
6. General Estimate of the Applicant's first-level university degree should be "Very Good", at least.
7. Applicant should have obtained an IELTS score of 6 as a requirement for applying. Higher levels of Language proficiency required by the foreign university shall be observed. See below page 11 for more details.
8. Applicant should have finished his military service or exempted.
9. Applicant shouldn't have received a scholarship or grant to have the PhD 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 should submit a waiver of the mission.

10. The Data Form should be approved by the home institution.
11. Applicants should have obtained a master's degree in the Mission's discipline.

General Conditions for joint supervision

1. Scholarship should be in a UK institution for higher education.
2. Study should in one of the five themes of Newton-Mosharafa (water management, food production, renewable energy, healthcare and cultural heritage).
3. Applicant must be a lecturer or a research assistant who got his Master's Degree or a teacher assistant or research assistant in one of the bodies listed in the Missions' plan who has been appointed for no less than two years (in case of teacher assistant who hasn't been appointed in his position , he can submit what proves his appointment in this position before his travel , in case he was not appointed he will be excluded)
4. Applicant should not have been appointed as a lecturer or research assistant for more than three years by the date of the Call for Application.
5. Applicant's age should not exceed 35 years by the date of the Call for Application.
6. The Applicant should have registered for the PhD degree as a requirement for travel. Registration should not be exceeding two years by the date of the Call for Application.
7. Applicants should have obtained a master's degree in the Mission's discipline.
8. Applicant should have obtained an IELTS score of 6 as a requirement for applying. Higher levels of Language proficiency required by the foreign university shall be observed. See below for more details. See below page 11 for more details.
9. General Estimate of the Applicant's first-level university degree should be "Very Good", at least.
10. Applicant should have finished his military service or exempted.
11. 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.

12. Data form should be approved from the sending Institution (certified and stamped by college and university).

Documents:

Required Documents and conditions for General Mission Applicants

1. Accredited English certificate of the first-level university degree and General Estimate.
2. Accredited Certificate with the estimates of all the different subjects in all academic years as well as the General Estimate for each academic year separately.
3. Accredited Certificate for Master's degree or its equivalent that should be submitted in English Language.
4. A Certificate with the Ph.D. registration date in case the applicant has registered the PhD.
5. The applicant should have attained master's degree in the Mission's Specialization.
6. Valid Language certificate on date of application with 6 on IELTS or the higher IELTS score required by host university, the certificate should be valid for two years from exam date.
(see below page 11 for more details)
7. A certified statement verifying that the applicant did not receive a mission or scholarship or a scientific mission through mission sector before.
(Joint supervision, internal mission, foreign mission, scientific mission, a state one of the programs missions expenses, or any other program funded by missions sector).
8. Approved PhD study plan in no more than 3 pages.
9. A certificate verifying the applicant's Military Service Status.
10. Preliminary approval of the research plan from the host UK professor.
11. Approval of the employer to apply for the mission accredited by the Vice President for Post Graduate Studies and Research.
12. Three different professors names that can be referred to them when there is a need and their contact details.
13. Arabic and English data form approved and stamped by college and University.

Required Documents and conditions for Joint Supervision Applicants

1. Accredited English certificate of the first-level university degree and General Estimate.
2. Accredited Certificate with the estimates of all the different subjects in all academic years as well as the General Estimate for each academic year separately.
3. Accredited Certificate for Master's degree or its equivalent.
4. The applicant should have attained master's degree in the Mission's Specialization.
5. Valid Language certificate on date of application with 6 on IELTS or the higher IELTS score required by host university, the certificate should be valid for two years from exam date .
(see below page 11 for more details)
6. Approved and stamped PhD study plan in no more than 3 pages.
7. Certificate with Date of PhD registration approved by the employer (university approval for registration).
8. Preliminary approval of the research plan from the host UK professor.
9. Approval of the employer to apply for the mission accredited by the Vice President for Post Graduate Studies and Research.
10. Three different professor's names that can be referred to them when there is a need and their contact details.
11. Accredited data forms from home institution (certified and stamped from the college and university).
12. A certified statement verifying that the applicant did not receive a mission or scholarship or a scientific mission through mission sector before.
(Joint supervision, internal mission, foreign mission, scientific mission, a state one of the programs missions expenses, or any other program funded by missions sector).

IELTS:

For acceptance on to the scholarship, we require a minimum of IELTS 6

Please note, your university could well have different language requirements. If your university requires a higher IELTS score than 6, then you will need to have attained this by the language score deadline (31/01/2017).

IELTS 6 is our minimum requirement; if your university requires lower than this, you will still need at least 6 for entrance onto the scholarship scheme.

Appendix 2: ODA (Official Development Assistance) Eligibility Criteria



This note helps donors to decide whether a particular expenditure qualifies as official development assistance (ODA). It supplements the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Statistical Reporting Directives.

Further guidance on ODA eligibility of expenditures in the field of conflict, peace and security is available in the DAC's "ODA Casebook on Conflict, Peace and Security Activities."

IS IT ODA?

DAC Members occasionally request the Secretariat's view as to whether a particular expenditure should be reported as official development assistance (ODA). This paper outlines the reasoning the Secretariat uses to answer such enquiries, and discusses some specific cases. It should not be taken as a definitive guide to ODA eligibility, since only the DAC may determine such eligibility. Further details are provided in the Statistical Reporting Directives (available at www.oecd.org/dac/stats/dac/directives).

Official development assistance is defined as those flows to countries and territories on the DAC List of ODA Recipients (available at www.oecd.org/dac/stats/dac/list) and to multilateral development institutions which are:

- i. provided by official agencies, including state and local governments, or by their executive agencies; and
- ii. each transaction of which:
 - a) is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective; and
 - b) is concessional in character and conveys a grant element of at least 25 per cent (calculated at a rate of discount of 10 per cent).¹

1. This calculation helps determine whether a loan is concessional. If the loan satisfies the ODA criteria, then the whole amount is reported as ODA. The grant element itself is not reportable as a flow. Reporting is on a cash (nominal) basis, except for Paris Club debt service reduction (see under "Flows" below).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE AS THE MAIN OBJECTIVE

This is often the decisive criterion for determining ODA eligibility. In the final analysis it is a matter of intention. But in order to reduce the scope for subjective interpretations and promote comparable reporting, Members have agreed to limits on ODA reporting, *e.g.*:

- **Exclusion of military aid** - The supply of military equipment and services, and the forgiveness of debts incurred for military purposes, are not reportable as ODA. On the other hand, additional costs incurred for the use of the donor's military forces to deliver humanitarian aid or perform development services are ODA-eligible.
- **Peacekeeping** - The enforcement aspects of peacekeeping are not reportable as ODA. However, ODA does include the net bilateral costs to donors of carrying out the following activities within UN-administered or UN-approved peace operations: human rights, election monitoring, rehabilitation of demobilised soldiers and of national infrastructure, monitoring and training of administrators, including customs and police officers, advice on economic stabilisation, repatriation and demobilisation of soldiers, weapons disposal and mine removal. (Net bilateral costs means the extra costs of assigning personnel to these activities, net of the costs of stationing them at home, and of any compensation received from the UN.) Similar activities conducted for developmental reasons outside UN peace operations are also reportable as ODA, but not recorded against the peacekeeping code. Activities carried out for non-developmental reasons, *e.g.* mine clearance to allow military training, are not reportable as ODA.
- **Civil police work** - Expenditure on police training is reportable as ODA, unless the training relates to paramilitary functions such as counter-insurgency work or intelligence gathering on terrorism. The supply of the donor's police services to control civil disobedience is not reportable.
- **Social and cultural programmes** - As with police work, a distinction is drawn between building developing countries' capacity (ODA-eligible) and one-off interventions (not ODA-eligible). Thus, the promotion of museums, libraries, art and music schools, and sports training facilities and venues counts as ODA, whereas sponsoring concert tours or athletes' travel costs does not. Cultural programmes in developing countries whose main purpose is to promote the culture or values of the donor are not reportable as ODA.
- **Assistance to refugees** - Assistance to refugees in developing countries is reportable as ODA. Temporary assistance to refugees from developing countries arriving in donor countries is reportable as ODA during the first 12 months of stay, and all costs associated with eventual repatriation to the developing country of origin are also reportable.
- **Nuclear energy** - The peaceful use of nuclear energy, including construction of nuclear power plants, nuclear safety and the medical use of radioisotopes, is ODA-eligible. Military applications of nuclear energy and nuclear non-proliferation activities are not.
- **Research** - Only research directly and primarily relevant to the problems of developing countries may be counted as ODA. This includes research into tropical diseases and developing crops designed for developing country conditions. The costs may still be counted as ODA if the research is carried out in a developed country.
- **Anti-Terrorism** - Activities combatting terrorism are not reportable as ODA, as they generally target perceived threats to donor, as much as to recipient countries, rather than focusing on the economic and social development of the recipient.

ODA ELIGIBILITY OF AID TO MULTILATERALS AND NGOS

Annex 2 of the Statistical Reporting Directives lists those international agencies contributions to which are reportable as ODA. ODA coefficients are provided for United Nations agencies which conduct part of their activities in favour of development. These coefficients are revised every few years in consultation with the agencies concerned.

United Nations agencies have established many specific-purpose funds. These are too numerous, and arise and disappear too quickly, to be listed in the Directives. The same applies to national non-governmental organisations. In both cases, Members must use their judgement as to whether contributions have an ODA character². When in doubt, they may consult the Secretariat, at *dac.contact@oecd.org* providing details of the fund in question.

The Directives also list the main international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) contributions to which are reportable as ODA. These are increasingly numerous. Where Members have contributed to INGOs not on this list, they should assess their ODA character in the light of the INGOs' aims, programmes and membership. If they believe the contribution should be counted as ODA, they should inform the Secretariat so that Members can consider the INGO in the annual review of Annex 2.

2. The coefficient established for an agency partly active in development does not normally apply to specific-purpose funds it sets up, the ODA character of which should be assessed individually. For example, 70 per cent of contributions to WHO's core budget are reportable as ODA. But contributions to WHO's bilharzia programme are 100 per cent ODA-reportable, while contributions to its International Agency for Research on Cancer are not ODA-reportable.

OFFICIAL AGENCIES

Official flows comprise transactions undertaken by the official sector (i.e. Government) at their own risk and responsibility, regardless of the source of funds (taxation of or borrowing from the private sector). Official agencies include federal, state and local departments and agencies. The market-based transactions of central monetary authorities, however, do not enter into the statistics.

Sometimes one official agency subsidises another. Since the subsidy is internal to the official sector of the donor country, it is not reported as a flow. Rather, the transaction recorded is that between the subsidised agency and the developing country. If this transaction meets the other ODA criteria described in this paper, it is recorded as ODA.

Official subsidies to private firms may be recorded as other official flows (OOF). They are not considered to meet the tests of ODA, since by definition they support activities with a primarily commercial objective.

Official subsidies to private not-for-profit organisations ("non-governmental organisations") that are active in development are reportable as ODA.

FLOWS

Flows are transfers of resources, either in cash or in the form of commodities or services. Since DAC statistics concentrate on transactions likely to have a development impact, loans for one year or less are not counted. Repayments of the principal of ODA loans count as negative flows, and are deducted to arrive at net ODA, so that by the time a loan is repaid, the net flow over the period of the loan is zero. Interest is recorded, but is not counted in the net flow statistics. Where official equity investments in a developing country are reported as ODA because of their development intention, proceeds from their later sale are recorded as negative flows, regardless of whether the purchaser is in a developed or a developing country.

Disbursements are measured on a cash basis, not an accruals basis, except that:

- wherever contributions to multilateral development banks and funds are made in the form of promissory notes, the full amount of the note is recorded at the time of deposit; and
- the net present value of debt relief provided by implementing a Paris Club debt reorganisation through debt service reduction is reportable as an ODA grant in the year of the reorganisation.

Some transactions not recorded as transfers in balance of payments statistics are nevertheless eligible to be recorded as ODA, since they represent an effort by the official sector in favour of development. These include the costs of developmentally relevant secondary and tertiary education and vocational training (including stipends and travel) provided to developing country nationals in the donor country, the administrative costs of ODA programmes, subsidies to non-governmental organisations, in donor refugee costs and programmes to raise development awareness in donor countries.

Capital investment in the donor country is not regarded as a flow and is therefore not eligible to be reported as ODA. This applies even to the construction and equipment of training and research facilities related to development issues. The running costs of such facilities may, however, be counted as ODA.

CONCESSIONAL IN CHARACTER

From the earliest discussions of the concept of ODA, Members agreed that it should represent an effort in favour of developing countries by the official sector. Loans at market terms were excluded. When in the early 1970s interest rates began rising sharply, it was further specified that loans could only be reported as ODA if they had a grant element of at least 25 per cent, calculated against a notional reference rate of 10 per cent per annum.

These elements remain today. In recent years, long-term interest rates in most OECD Member countries have fallen well below 10 per cent, so the 25 per cent grant element level has become easier to attain. But to qualify as ODA, loans must still be concessional in character, i.e. below market interest rates.

Where concessional and non-concessional financing are combined in so-called "associated financing packages", the official and concessional elements may be reported as ODA, provided they have a grant element of at least 25 per cent. Such contributions must also meet the special concessionality tests for associated financing, which are based on market interest rates and set out in the Arrangement on Guidelines for Officially Supported Export Credits (OECD, 2008 Revision).