

**Going Global Partnerships**

# **Guidance Notes for Grant Calls**

**Researcher Challenges Grants**

**Call open: 22 July 2026**

**Call Closes: 17 September 2026**

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# About 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.

Higher education and TVET providers and research organisations can access funding to develop collaborative partnerships with institutions in other countries, focusing on key areas such as capacity strengthening, collaborative research projects, developing joint teaching programmes and establishing new transnational education links. These mutually beneficial partnerships help universities and colleges develop and sustain stronger international connections.

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.

If you are interested in our work in this area and want to get involved, please regularly visit our [Opportunities and insights webpage](#), where we open all our funding calls and other opportunities.

## Key Information about this Grant Call

### Researcher Challenges Grants

|                                                             |                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Participating Countries                                     | Brazil, Morocco, Egypt and Palestine   |
| Maximum value of grant in GBP                               | £ 40,000                               |
| Minimum number of grants expected to be funded in this call | 6                                      |
| Deadline for applications                                   | 17 September 2026 Time: 11:00 am (BST) |
| Contact for further information                             | <a href="#">ResearcherChallenges</a>   |

# About the Grant Call

## Researcher Challenges Grant Call

The Researcher Challenges Grant call sits under the Enabling Research strand of Going Global Partnerships. The call aims at strengthening research collaborations and fostering research capacity strengthening to address some of the most pressing global challenges: climate change, sustainable energy transitions, public health vulnerabilities, food security. Addressing these issues require innovative, context-specific, and interdisciplinary research solutions that are both locally grounded and globally informed.

The Grant will provide structured platforms to Early Career Researchers from the UK and participating countries to engage with experienced researchers, exchange ideas across disciplines, and co-develop problem-oriented research agendas.

Researcher Challenges will foster capacity building among early-career researchers through guided mentorship and facilitated collaboration. By bringing together early-career researchers and senior researchers in structured workshop settings, the initiative will create a dynamic environment for knowledge exchange, problem framing, and the co-creation of research ideas. The model emphasizes strengthening institutional linkages and building sustainable research networks that extend beyond the duration of the programme.

## Call objectives and intended outcomes

### Objectives

- **Build capacity of early-career researchers** through mentorship and structured engagement with senior researchers.
- **Facilitate knowledge exchange** and strengthen mentorship relationships across career stages.
- **Promote new research networks and institutional collaborations** within and across developing countries.
- **Support co-creation of interdisciplinary research ideas** addressing global challenges in climate, energy, health, and AI for development.
- **Encourage innovative, context-relevant solutions** to development challenges through collaborative project design.
- **Provide a platform for dialogue and partnership-building** to enable sustained research collaboration beyond the programme.

### Intended Outcomes

- **Enhanced research capacity** of early-career researchers, including improved skills in interdisciplinary research design and proposal development.
- **Established mentorship relationships** between early-career and senior researchers.
- **New and strengthened research networks** between UK and participating countries

- **Development of high-quality, collaborative research concepts** addressing key theme areas
- **Increased institutional collaboration**, including potential for joint funding applications and partnerships.
- **Generation of innovative, context-relevant solutions** to global challenges affecting developing countries.
- **Sustained engagement beyond the programme**, leading to continued collaboration, publications, and project development.

Key theme areas for Brazil, Morocco and Egypt

- Energy Conservation, Clean technology, Food Security, Natural Resources
- Artificial Intelligence for Public Health /Food security/Education Governance/
- Artificial Intelligence for Development
- Climate change
- Health and Medicine
- Gender and Inclusion

Key theme areas for Palestine

- Health, Medicine & Life Sciences
- Environment, Climate Change & Natural Resources
- Energy, Water & Food Security
- Economic Development, Innovation & Entrepreneurship

## Project model

We will support the delivery of one virtual workshop of 3-5 days total duration, organised jointly by the UK and overseas partner institution (in each participating country) bringing together up to 46 participants of early career researchers, principal researchers and mentors to work on a key challenge in one of the thematic areas. Researchers from the UK and partner country from a wide range of disciplines will come together in these workshops, to discuss issues of particular importance for the partner country. The transdisciplinary nature of the workshops makes for a unique opportunity to build a richer, fuller picture of the topics.

Each workshop will be co-ordinated by two Leading or Established Researchers (Principal Applicants), one from each country. Principal Applicants can identify up to four additional Leading or Established Researchers (two from each country) to be involved in the workshop and act as mentors, but the remaining participants must be researchers at an earlier stage in their career . It is highly recommended that at least one Leading or Established Researcher involved should come from a social science, arts or humanities field and at least one from a science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) field, to encourage interdisciplinary dialogue. Principal Applicants should also identify a digital workshop facilitator and technical support for the workshop.

See table below for the composition of workshop participants:

| Participants                                      | UK         | Partner country |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| <b>Principal Applicants</b>                       | 1          | 1               |
| <b>Leading/Established Researchers or mentors</b> | Maximum 2  | Maximum 2       |
| <b>Participants</b>                               | Maximum 20 | Maximum 20      |

Workshop places must be allocated to early career researchers through an open call once the British Council has notified the applicants that their proposal has been successful. Early career researchers must not hold or have yet held a permanent academic post with a research related element to the role since the completion of their PhD. Career breaks or time spent outside academic, or research settings will not affect consideration of career stage. If a researcher does not hold a PhD but has research experience equivalent to a PhD holder and works in a field where a PhD is not a prerequisite for established research activity, they can still be considered eligible. Participants from for-profit organisations cannot be funded.

**Challenge Prizes:** During the workshops, early career researchers will form teams and submit proposals to secure small enabling grants (Challenge Prizes). These can fund mobility, pilot research, stakeholder or public engagement or other related small activities. The Challenge Prize criteria and parameters must be detailed as part of the application.

**Role of the Principal Applicants:** Principal Applicants submit the online application form along with a budget request, determine the workshop theme, shape the content/agenda of the workshop and the challenge prizes. Principal Applicants will also be responsible for selecting early career researchers to participate in the workshop and disbursing and overseeing the challenge prizes from the overall grant.

Principal Applicants will be responsible for all organisational aspects of the virtual workshop. Principal Applicants are encouraged to recruit online facilitators to support the delivery of the workshop.

The grant agreement will be signed by the UK Principal Applicant's home institution which will be responsible for the management of the grant (including financial reporting).

**Role of the Mentors:** Established Researchers can give a limited number of keynote lectures but must also act as mentors to the early career researchers during the workshop and for the Challenge Prize award process. Ideally, they would also remain in contact with the early career researchers after the workshop has finished and mentor the early career researchers who have been awarded the Challenge Prizes.

## **Workshop Content**

Principal Applicants are expected to lead on developing the research content of the workshops. Workshops are intended to be a career development opportunity for early career researchers with a focus on promoting international collaboration.

Sessions should be as interactive as possible given the consideration and restriction of online platforms, and all participants encouraged to share knowledge, experience and ideas. Principal Applicants and mentors should share their expertise.

### **Suggested sessions:**

- Formal keynote lectures by the Principal Applicants and mentors. These must take up no more than a half day in total (ideally spread over the workshop).
- Research sessions where the early career researchers can share their current research.
- Networking sessions where researchers can interact and explore opportunities for collaboration (e.g. speed networking sessions, breakout groups).
- Involvement of non-academic stakeholders: Principal Applicants should include a session with non-academic stakeholders such as NGOs, underrepresented groups (e.g. indigenous communities), industry representatives, policy makers, community leaders, women's organisations, activists or other individuals or groups who might be able to provide new perspectives or additional input into the research.

- Overview of the research base and funding opportunities: a brief introduction to the research base in the UK and partner country – how research is funded, size, strengths, international collaborative activity and links with industry.
- Career development opportunities in the UK and partner country. This could be an informal discussion amongst the researchers or a more structured look at career development.

## **Recruitment of participants**

Following the selection process, successful Principal Applicants will be responsible for recruiting participants to the workshops. Participants must be based in the UK and in the partner country.

Early career researchers recruited to participate in the workshop must have a PhD or equivalent research experience. There must be an open call for participants which must be disseminated through various defined channels<sup>1</sup> (so that workshops are advertised as widely as possible). No more than a third of early career researchers from each country may be recruited from within the institutions of the Principal Applicants and mentors.

The selection of early career researchers to participate in the workshop must be fair and transparent. To ensure interdisciplinarity, we highly encourage the recruitment of participants from different disciplines including the arts, social sciences and humanities as well as STEM fields.

The maximum number of participants per workshop is 46 (including Principal Applicants, mentors and ECRs).

Equality diversity and inclusion are at the heart of the British Council's cultural relations work. Principal Applicants are encouraged to work towards as equal a gender balance as possible, promote diversity, and ensure that no applicants are excluded from participation on the basis of ethnicity, gender, religious belief, sexual orientation or disability.

## **Challenge Prizes**

Principal Applicants are expected to plan and design the Challenge Prizes including selection process and monitoring and evaluation for the prizes with advice from the British Council, if appropriate. Applicants and mentors cannot apply for the Challenge Prizes and/or use the prizes for their own research activities. Principal Applicants are responsible for managing the grant overall including the Challenge Prizes and communicating with the prize winners on the reporting requirements once the grants are disbursed. The Challenge Prizes must be awarded within 30 days after the workshop and the prize winners must complete all activities by the end of the grant period.

The selection process must include the following criteria:

- Project must be ODA-eligible (support economic development or welfare in partner country).
- Demonstrate how the project will generate positive development-related impact in the next 10 years.

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<sup>1</sup> Examples of dissemination channels: Euraxess: <https://www.euraxess.org.uk/>; UK Research Staff Association: <https://www.vitae.ac.uk/doing-research/research-staff/uk-research-staff-association>; British Academy Africa Desk: <http://www.africadesk.ac.uk/pages/home/>  
[www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org)

- Establish collaboration between ECRs from the UK and from the partner country.

### Communication, promotion and publicity

Principal Applicants are expected to plan the communication and promotion of the activities and share the results and outcomes of the project with external stakeholders where appropriate. Branding guidelines will be shared along with the grant agreement.

Additionally, they should keep the British Council local office updated regarding all programme activities and changes, this could be through periodic meetings. This will be agreed at the start of the project.

### Project duration

12 months

### Showcase event

A virtual dissemination event may be organised at the end of the project by the British Council, to provide a platform to project teams to present their work to a wider audience including other project teams. This would further increase their visibility and opportunities to collaborate with others. British Council will discuss the possibility of such an event with the grantees in the last quarter of the project's term.

Grantees may also be invited to present their work plan at British Council events during the project duration, to support their visibility and engagement with the network.

## Key Milestones

| Milestone                 | Timelines                                    |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Deadline for applications | 17 September 2026                            |
| Results announcement      | Third week of November 2026                  |
| Contracts signed          | November – December 2026                     |
| Period of grant payments  | 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2026 -February 2027 |

Note that all dates may be subject to change if the call received significantly more applications than expected.

## Eligibility Criteria for Institutions and Projects

Eligibility checks will be applied to all applications after the grant call closes. Those applications which are not eligible, will be rejected during these checks.

### Eligibility Criteria for Institutions

1. Each proposal must have both:
  - one Lead Institution from the UK; and
  - one Lead Institution from the overseas country: Brazil, Morocco, Palestine or Egypt

Each Lead Institution must have the capacity to administer the grant.

The proposal must be prepared jointly by leaders from all institutions involved in the project but must be submitted by the UK Lead Institution on behalf of the partnership.

The Contracting Institution is the Lead Institution that has submitted the application, and if the application is successful, will sign the Grant Agreement with the British Council. A grant can only be awarded if the Contracting Institution is in good standing with the Going Global Partnerships programme, with no outstanding funds to be recovered from a previous grant or activity.

The UK Lead institution must be one of the following:

- Higher Education provides with [degree awarding powers](#).
  - England - Check the 'awarding degrees' drop-down section on the specific provider's entry on the [OFS register](#). The OFS register lists all institutions which offer UK degrees, not all of which have degree awarding powers.
  - [Northern Ireland](#)
  - [Scotland](#)
  - [Wales](#)
- Research-active Higher Education providers that are submittable to the [UK Research Excellence Framework exercise](#)
- Not-for-profit research institutions, establishments and organisations. (See [Annex 1](#) for a complete list of these in the UK).

Overseas Lead Institution must be one of the following:

- Higher Education provider, as locally defined,
- Not-for-profit research institutions, establishments and organisations, as locally defined,

The partnership can include in their proposals Associate Partners (from both the overseas country and the UK

Associate Partners can be included in a partnership as long as they bring necessary expertise, demonstrable added value, and/or access to relevant target groups to the partnership. They will play a lesser role in the proposed project, and the funding they are eligible to receive reflects this. As they are already included in the partnership, you cannot name additional staff or personnel of any of the named Lead Institutions as Associate Partners. Associate Partners may be affiliated with:

- Higher Education providers,
- Not-for-profit research or education institutions, establishments or organisations including non-governmental organisations (NGOs),
- TVET/FE providers.
- Education charities, foundations, or membership bodies.
- For-profit/commercial organisations, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
- Government organisations.
- Employer organisations and industry bodies.
- Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Social Enterprise organisations.

Please send an enquiry to [Researcher Challenges](#) if you are in doubt about the eligibility of your organisation.

Eligible institutions are free to submit more than one application however should the call be heavily oversubscribed to ensure a fair distribution of grants, Lead Institutions (UK and/or overseas) who have submitted multiple applications may be contacted to prioritise a reduced number of applications to take forward. The other applications will be withdrawn.

## Eligibility Criteria for Projects

This grant call is open to partnerships between the UK and a range of countries [defined as developing countries by the OECD](#). The monies granted will therefore be considered as Official Development Assistance (ODA).

The Grants made to partnerships with ODA-eligible countries must be ODA compliant. To be counted as ODA, all activities (research or otherwise) must qualify under rules set down by the OECD, which states that research projects should be ***directly and primarily related to the needs and interests of developing countries***. Please outline the economic development and social welfare impact of your work, including how it is conducted as well as the outputs and potential outcomes. The work should be relevant to at least one of the Sustainable Development Goals. The applications must have an adequate Gender Equality Statement.

The British Council supports peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide. To align our granting to this mission, we are unable to support projects with military or security partners, or with military, security or dual-use impacts or outcomes. All applications will be checked to ensure alignment with this policy at the eligibility stage.

All applications are checked to ensure alignment with this policy at the eligibility stage.

## Funding

The Researcher Challenges Grants expects to support 6 projects of £40,000 in value each, for a 13 - month period, starting from **1 January 2027**.

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.

Matching funds from institutions are encouraged but are not a requirement.

There are some limits on funding allocations:

- For-profit non-education organisations are only eligible to receive funds to cover travel-associated costs. The proposal must clearly define their contribution to achieving call objectives.
- 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 to be awarded.
- For successful partnerships, funds will be disbursed directly to the Contracting Institution according to the approved final budget and after signing of the Grant Agreement. The Contracting Institution is responsible for all budget management, including grant transfers to overseas partner/s. For an equitable partnership, the Contracting Institution should be able to transfer funding to the partnering institution(s) for activities in a timely way. Implementation will be delayed and the objectives of the collaboration and the overall project impacted if the funds are not shared in time. We encourage partners, especially first-time partners, to discuss in advance their internal mechanisms that will enable the budget transfer between countries.

# Ethics

It is essential that all legal and professional codes of practice are followed in conducting work supported by this call. 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](#)', the Inter Academy Partnership report '[Doing Global Science: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in the Global Research Enterprise](#)', 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 all organisations - and by extension the staff who work for them - who contract with us, plus any other Associated Partners and suppliers, to operate within and adhere to our Safeguarding Policy which articulates our approach to protecting children and adults at risk, and ensures their wellbeing. By completing and submitting an application to this call, you are accepting and agreeing that the partnership and all associated organisations and persons will comply with and uphold all aspects of our Safeguarding Policy.

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.

Visit [Safeguarding](#) webpage for more information.

# 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).

Your information will not be used/shared beyond the partners mentioned 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 [Visit our project website](#). We will keep your information for a period of seven years after the project.

# Application Process, Documentation and Pre-Submission Checklist

Applications must only be completed and submitted via the [Good Grants online platform](#)

Any applications submitted via any other channel will be ineligible and will not be considered for funding. It is possible to download a blank version of the application form to enable your partnership to develop your answers together before it is submitted. The Good Grants platform will not allow submission where any specified word limits are exceeded or questions missed.

## Accessibility

The Good Grants platform offers a wide range of accessibility support, and is fully compliant with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) WCAG 2.2 AA standards, the Revised Section 508 ICT standards from the U.S. Access Board, and the European Union's

EN 301 549 Accessibility requirements for ICT products and services.

If you require any access adjustments or have any additional support or learning needs in order to submit the application, please contact us prior to the deadline.

## Deadline

The deadline for applications is **17 September 2026, Time: 11:00 am (BST)**. We recommend that you submit at least an hour before to avoid any last-minute technical glitches.

Due to the volume of applications, we receive, any application received after specified deadline will be considered **ineligible**.

## Documentation

All supporting documents (CVs, supporting letters) must be uploaded on to the Good Grants platform prior to the deadline.

Ensure you have included all of the documentation listed in the Pre-Submission Checklist below as incomplete applications may be immediately regarded as ineligible. The British Council receives large numbers of applications to its funding calls, and for this reason we cannot facilitate a resubmission process should your application be deemed ineligible.

## Pre-Submission Checklist

2. This application has been discussed and agreed between both Lead Institutions.
3. The application form and supporting documents have been completed in English.
4. The applicants have included supporting letters from each of the Lead Institutions, on headed paper, signed by the Head of Department or more senior person, giving specific commitment to the project on behalf of the institution. Supporting letters must be in English and must not be signed by Lead Applicant(s).
5. Lead Institutions 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.
6. Applicants have completed budget section in the online application form

7. Applicants have submitted a CV for both Lead Applicants. The CV should not be more than three pages.
8. Where relevant, Associate Partner letters have been uploaded.

## Impact on Environment

The British Council is committed to minimising its environmental impact. For this call, we have developed a set of questions in the application form 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.

## Gender Equality Statement

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.

Applicants are required to consider the impact their project will have on gender equality 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 project, including methodologies and sampling processes;
- Budget;
- Risk;
- Measures taken to facilitate the participation of people from different genders.

Please note that the Gender Equality Statement should clarify and enable a clear demonstration that contributing to addressing gender inequalities has been considered in the project development. It is expected that the approach will be reflected in other sections of the application including the project description, outcomes and outputs.

All applications are checked for an adequate Gender Equality Statement at the eligibility stage.

The following questions should be answered when writing the statement.

### Analysis

- What are the key gender equality issues that are relevant to your project and how it will contribute to addressing these? Please include data and evidence to support your analysis

of the relevant gender equality issues. This should include issues relevant to the theme of your project and to the team that will deliver it.

## Measures

- 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.
- Drawing on the analysis of the gender equality issues, think about the barriers to participation and engagement in the project and how you will overcome these through your project plan and activities.

## Impact

- Describe how the project will impact women, men and people with diverse gender identities, both throughout the project and beyond. Specifically, show how the project will address the barriers that have been set out in the question above.
- Consider also the potential impact of the project on relations between men and women e.g. changes in voice, decision making, leadership, etc Please refer to the examples shared in the application form for more information.

## Risks

- How will any risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality be avoided or mitigated against, and monitored?

## Outcomes

- 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.

Applicants are encouraged to check the [Guide to Addressing Gender Equality](#) document which provides further information which will help you to write your gender statement e.g guidance on how to undertake a gender analysis etc.

British Council reserve the right to reject the application if inadequate consideration has been given to gender equality, or if the proposal is assessed to result in a negative impact for gender equality.

# Equality Diversity and Inclusion Statement

The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. Working effectively with equality, diversity and inclusion is an essential part of our purpose. We want to ensure that everyone who works with us and for us is treated with respect and dignity. We aim to remove barriers to granting, redress any identified imbalances caused by inequality and provide and maintain a fair and accessible process, ensuring application requirements have been designed to support inclusion and diversity.

Applicants are encouraged to structure response to EDI section by considering those questions below. You will be requested to report the progress and outcomes in your interim and final report.

- Will your project target specific groups (e.g. age, disability, race/ethnicity, religion/belief, and socio-economic background)?

- What activities are going to be designed to include or benefit these groups? How are these groups going to be engaged in the planning, delivery, or evaluation of the project?
- What are the intended outcomes for these groups?
- Can you anticipate any barriers to participation of these groups and consider ways to remove them? How will the EDI outcomes be sustained or built upon after the project ends?

# Accessibility and Adjustments

## Approach for reasonable adjustment and access support

We provide disability and accessibility support for applicants and grant recipients at different stages of the grant from application, project delivery to reporting.

### Application stage

If you need support when applying for funding, you should try to speak to your employer first, if applicable (e.g., your university, or other host institutions).

If you need additional support to apply for this opportunity, please contact the British Council at [Going Global Partnerships](#) as early as possible (and at least two weeks before the application submission deadline as early notification helps us provide more timely assistance) to discuss individual needs for reasonable adjustments or disability-related support during the application. This includes e.g. requests for application information in alternative formats, access support worker to help you make an application, etc.

### Project accessibility costs

Applicants and grant recipients are encouraged to take a proactive approach to build accessibility into the design and delivery of their proposed activities and events, so that we can improve the experience for everyone, particularly for disabled people

e. These include e.g. support from a Sign Language interpreter to make your designed event inclusive, remediation service to make your research report accessible, etc. These project accessibility costs should be planned and included in your project budget.

### Personal access costs

These are designed to remove barriers and support the grant recipients (or their core team) in managing grants and delivering the project. These include e.g. requests for information in alternative formats, access to a support worker to help you during the project and in drafting the end of project report, a travel assistant to support your attendance to events, etc.

Note that these personal access costs should be planned as additional expenses on top of the project budget and therefore should be listed separately from the project budget. Make sure you plan for any personal access support you might need during or at the end of the project. Make sure you plan ahead where possible and consider our reporting requirements. These costs can only be for the project period (between your project start date and end date) and must be specific to your project. We are not able to cover costs for support that is unrelated to the activity. The amount of personal access costs you can include in your application should be relevant to your activity and the size of your task. These costs are submitted separately from your project budget and we do not take them into consideration in the evaluation of your application, as this allows for all applications to be submitted and assessed on an equal basis.

For example, if the maximum amount you can apply for the project is £10,000. Your application is for £10,000 and you also need an extra £500 personal access costs. We will consider this as an application for £10,000, rather than £10,500 and you will be eligible to apply. Please include as much detail in the expenditure line description. We need to understand what you are going to use

the additional costs for, and how it's specific to your needs and project. Our grants cannot cover any activity or spending that takes place before we can make a decision.

These will be considered on a case-by-case basis and dependent on the funding available. Requests for Personal Access Costs will be reviewed only after the project is selected for funding. We may contract with the Contracting Institution for the main project and then do a contract amendment for any additional amounts shortly afterwards. [Kindly note request for Personal Access Cost won't affect the evaluation of the proposal. The requests for personal access cost would be reviewed by British Council EDI team and project members.]

If you wish to discuss the requests and/or costs in your application, please contact the British Council at [Going Global Partnership](#).

Please note that funding allocated for personal access costs is ring-fenced and must only be used for the stated purpose. Any unused funds should be returned in line with the British Council requirements.

Please contact us for further information on the British Council's approach. See our [Equality Policy](#).

## Budget Sheet

Budgets must only be submitted using the Budget section of online Application form.

You will note that some budget categories are subject to a cap which is set as a percentage of the total amount of funding being applied for. Where a budget cap is specified, it must be adhered to as it is a stipulation of the funding. If caps are not adhered to, your requested budget may be subject to correction by the British Council to make it compliant, and this may result in a reduction of your grant.

A list of eligible and ineligible cost can be found in [Annex 1](#).

## Selection Process

- All applications received by the deadline will be logged and acknowledged – if you have not received an acknowledgement within seven days, please check your spam folder for messages from British Council Good Grants. If you have not received any acknowledgement of receipt of application, please contact us with details by writing at [Researcher Challenges](#)
- Applications will be reviewed for eligibility and completeness – if we do not have everything requested in the Pre-submission Checklist your application may be declared ineligible and not proceed to next stage. We receive large volumes of applications so we may not be able to notify you of this outcome at this stage.
- **Applications will be assessed by a panel of subject experts, on the basis of the assessment criteria specified.**
- Top ranked applications will be selected and will be notified about their selection for contracting and disbursement of grants.
- Requests for Personal Access Costs from successful applicants will be reviewed only after the project is selected for funding.
- Unsuccessful applications will be notified at a later stage. **You can ask for feedback to your application by writing to [Researcher Challenges](#)**

# Assessment Criteria

| Project team                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Score | Scoring Guide                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The Lead Applicants have knowledge and understanding of the topics and issues, and sufficient relevant experience to lead the proposed project and achieve the stated objectives                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 10    | Meets all criteria to an exceptional level: 10 points<br>Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level: 7 points<br>Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level: 5 points<br>Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level: 3 points<br>Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level: 0 points   |
| Quality, relevance and budget                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p>The proposed activities clearly meet the overseas country's priorities as listed in national policy documents and/or based on relevant research.</p> <p>The academic importance and timeliness of the proposed project is clearly demonstrated.</p> <p>The budget requested is in line with the guidance provided in the call document and the cost amounts are necessary and reasonable.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 30    | Meets all criteria to an exceptional level: 30 points<br>Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level: 22 points<br>Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level: 16 points<br>Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level: 8 points<br>Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level: 0 points |
| Workshop design                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p>The description of the workshop includes clear, feasible and realistic objectives and outputs.</p> <p>There is clear evidence that the proposed workshop supports new links or significantly extends and develops existing links.</p> <p>The benefits and relevance of the collaboration to the UK and partner country institution, and to the research itself, are clearly described.</p> <p>The workshop is justified as a standalone activity, or as part of a larger programme.</p> <p>The agenda of the workshop is well structured with interactive sessions.</p> <p>The workshop proposals takes interdisciplinary collaboration into account.</p> <p>Non-academic stakeholders will be integrated in the workshop.</p> | 30    | Meets all criteria to an exceptional level: 30 points<br>Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level: 22 points<br>Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level: 16 points<br>Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level: 8 points<br>Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level: 0 points |
| Project delivery and management                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| The description of the project includes clear, feasible and realistic objectives and outputs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 20    | Meets all criteria to an exceptional level: 20 points<br>Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level: 15 points                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>The timelines are realistic and there is an effective monitoring, evaluation and learning framework in place.</p> <p>Risks and any mitigation strategies have been clearly defined.</p> <p>The proposal includes a plan for stakeholder engagement and dissemination plan for the findings/outcomes of the proposed activities.</p>                                                  |           | <p>Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level: 10 points</p> <p>Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level: 5 points</p> <p>Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level: 0 points</p>                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Sustainability and long term impact</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p>The potential of professional development and capacity building of early career researchers is clearly described.</p> <p>The proposal includes a clear and feasible description of how the Principal Applicants' institutions intend to sustain their collaboration over the longer term. The proposal contains potential for long term impact with a clear sustainability plan.</p> | <b>10</b> | <p>Meets all criteria to an exceptional level: 10 points</p> <p>Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level: 7 points</p> <p>Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level: 5 points</p> <p>Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level: 3 points</p> <p>Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level: 0 points</p> |

## Applicant Screening

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; and/or
- 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; and/or,
- 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 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.

# Granting Process

When a decision has been made on applications the British Council will send out a notification to all successful applicants with a timeline to accept the Grant.

This will be followed by sharing of the British Council Grant Agreement for signatures. Funding will be offered to successful applications on the terms and conditions as set out in the sample grant agreement which has been made available as part of the funding call launch. The terms and conditions in this template are non-negotiable and standard for all grants from Going Global Partnerships. Contracting Institutions are expected to obtain necessary institutional approval for these contractual terms prior to application submission. Please ensure you seek approval from any necessary internal colleagues or teams, such as pre-award, legal and/or finance, before the deadline for submission. The Grant Agreement to successful applicants will be populated with some of the data you have entered into your application, so please ensure that the responses you give are full and correct in order to prevent errors in the contract once it is issued.

Funds will be disbursed only upon the British Council receiving an acceptably signed copy of the Grant Agreement. It will be expected that the Grantee is able to return a signed copy of agreement within the stipulated timelines given by the British Council, and the funding may be at risk if the stipulated timelines are not adhered to.

British Council will also ask for a copy of the Contracting Institution's most recent Bank Details which should be supplied on the provided form and on the institution's letter head.

## 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. **Visit - British Council**
- The Contracting Institution is the Lead Institution that has made the application on the Good Grants platform. The Contracting Institution for the partnership will sign the Grant Agreement with the British Council. The Contracting Institution must be eligible to receive and manage grant funds. The Contracting Institution is accountable for delivery, reporting, and compliance with all grant requirements.
- Other key partners are names in the Grant Agreement. The Contracting Institution is responsible for flowing down the relevant clauses to the other partners.
- 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.
- A copy of the Grant Agreement is available with the call document.
- Terms and Conditions of the 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.

# Monitoring and Reporting

The Contracting Institution is responsible for complying with the requirements of monitoring and reporting as detailed in the Grant Agreement. We require both financial and activity reporting.

## Annex 1: 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- Young Foundation
- Zoological Society of London, Institute of Zoology

If you believe your organisation is eligible but is not on this list, please [contact us via email](#) before submitting a proposal for this call.

## Annex 2 – 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 20% 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 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 -only the time allocated for the project, plus the costs of temporary personnel and other temporary staff recruited to work solely on the project,
- Exchange rate costs and other banking-related costs.

## Ineligible costs

The following costs are ineligible for funding:

- 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 and tuition).
- 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.
- 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.
- British Council Grants cannot be converted to any Gift Cards, non-monetary assets, Crypto currencies.