

Science Journalism Training Program

Guidelines for Applicants

April 2021 Version 0.1

Background

The British Council builds connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language. We have been working in Egypt since 1938. Every year we connect with thousands of students, educators, policymakers, science scholars, creatives, and entrepreneurs in Egypt.

We work in three key areas – Education, Society, and the Arts. In Egypt all our work in these areas supports the themes of ‘employability’ and ‘voice’, making a real difference in the lives of the people with whom we work. Our mission is to develop strong and vibrant relationships that provide opportunities for young people in both countries working to support our shared aspiration for a stable and prosperous future.

Our science work in Egypt is focusing on supporting scientific research collaborations and exchange between the UK and Egypt, as well as promoting the STEM fields in Egypt and providing training opportunities to develop the capabilities and skills of young scientists. In addition to providing various activities for science communication to ensure the participation of the public, increase their awareness to the importance of science in our life, and promote scientific topics and discussions.

Context

The British Council Egypt is organising an online training program in science journalism, within its vision of building capacities in science media and communication in Egypt. This program targets journalists and media professionals working in Egyptian media outlets who are interested in covering scientific topics and writing about sciences. The training aims to equip the participants with essential knowledge and skills in science journalism through series of virtual workshops. The workshops cover basics of reporting scientific topics and writing about sciences such as finding science stories, pitching ideas to editors, interviewing scientists and researchers, and writing engaging science stories. The training program gives participants the opportunity to produce science stories through providing support and guidance from science journalism experts. It also provides the opportunity to meet Egyptian scientists and researchers enabling participants to build their professional network in science journalism.

Eligibility Criteria to apply

The online training program in science journalism is open to:

- Journalists and Media Professionals working in Egyptian media outlets (Full-time, Part-time or Freelance)
- 2-7 years of professional experience in journalism or media
- Proficiency of Arabic language and good knowledge of English language
- Interest in covering scientific topics and writing about sciences

How to apply

- Applicants can apply electronically within the call duration from 4.04.2021 till 25.04.2021; 23:59 Cairo time
- Applicants need to fill in the online application available on (<http://bit.ly/ScienceJournalismBCEg>)
- Applicants will be asked to upload the below required documents when filling in the application
 - CV of no more than 3 pages
 - A record of one of your published work as a written article, video or voice record.
 - Cover letter of no more than 1500 words to express why you need to attend this training programme for science journalism and how this will affect your career path

Aims

- This training programme is aiming to introduce science journalism and writing to Egyptian journalists and media professionals, through an online workshop with the opportunity to interview an Egyptian scientist to produce a science story.

Outcomes

The online interactive workshop is designed to equip the participants with:

- Essential theoretical knowledge and practical skills to cover science through written formats to engage the public with science effectively.
- The program provides participants the opportunity to write science story through an interview with scientists and researchers, as well as receiving guidance and feedback on story production and publishing.
- Participants will have the opportunity to meet experienced science journalist and science editor.
- Receiving a guide on basics of science journalism and writing in Arabic language will be developed, through the program, for the participating journalists and media professionals to share best practices and top tips on reporting science.

Evaluation process

Applications will be screened according to

- The eligibility criteria set in the call for application
- The cover letter submitted

Diversity

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

Data protection

Data Collection

The British Council will use the information that you provide for the purposes of processing your Science Journalism application

If you are among the successful participants of the Science Journalism training we will keep your contact details, for 7 years from the end of the training, so that we can include you in future events and projects. For unsuccessful applicants we will keep your application details for a period of (1) year from the submission of your application to the Science Journalism Training.

We may use your information for the purposes of research and service improvement, we may send you research materials such as questionnaires or surveys from time to time; we do this in our legitimate interest.

Your Right:

The British Council complies with data protection law in the UK and laws in other countries that meet internationally accepted standards. 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 have concerns about how we have used your personal information, you also have the right to complain to a privacy regulator. For detailed information, please refer to the privacy section of our website, www.britishcouncil.org/privacy or contact British Council Egypt Science team: Science.Egypt@britishcouncil.org.eg .

Key dates

Activity	Date
Announcement of the call	4 April 2021
Closing call	25 October 2021 23:59 Cairo Time
Applications screening	26 April – 6 May 2021
Successful candidates notified	9 May 2021

Contact point

If you have any enquiries, please send an email to
Science.Egypt@britishcouncil.org.eg

Workshop Dates:

- Workshop 1: Friday, 4th of June 2021 (14:00-18:00 Cairo time)
- Workshop 2: Saturday, 5th of June 2021 (14:00-18:00 Cairo time)
- Meet a Science Editor Session: Thursday, 10th of June 2021 (18:00-20:00 Cairo time)
- Workshop 3: Friday, 11th of June 2021 (14:00-18:00 Cairo time)
- Workshop 4: Saturday, 12th of June 2021 (14:00-18:00 Cairo time)
- Meet a World-class Expert Science Journalist Session: Tuesday, 15th of June 2021 (18:00-20:00 Cairo time)
- Interview with Egyptian Scientists and Researchers: 1 hour during the third week of June 2021 (date and time to be confirmed later).
- Support and Guidance Individual Session: during the last week of June 2021 (date and time to be confirmed later).
- Note: The training program will be conducted in Arabic language.

The Trainer

Mohamed Elsonbaty

Award-winning Science Journalist, Science Media and Communication Trainer, Co-founder of Arab Forum of Science Media and Communication. Elsonbaty has 9 years of professional experience as a freelance science journalist at many reputable websites and magazines including Scientific American, SciDev.Net and Popular Science. Elsonbaty holds a master's degree in science communication from the University of Edinburgh, UK through Chevening Scholarship.