

**Going Global Partnerships** 

# **Guidance notes**

# **TNE Exploratory grants**

### June 2025

From 23 June to 8 September 2025

### **Guidelines for applicants – Version 2.0**

Overview of change(s) from original version

Change	Page in version 1.0	Page in version 2.0
2. The Grant Call Number of expected grants increased	4	4
from 34 to 35.		
Inclusion of Georgia in two lists, plus one table	4, 5, & 12	4, 5, & 12

1.	About Going Global Partnerships	3
2.	The Grant Call	4
3.	Eligibility criteria for Institutions	8
4.	Funding	12
5.	Ethics	13
6.	Safeguarding and protecting adults at risk	13
7.	Impact on the Environment	14
8.	Privacy Notice	14
9.	Application Process and Documentation	14
10.	Application Form	15
11.	Budget Sheet	18
12.	Pre-Submission Checklist	20
13.	Selection Process	21
14.	Assessment Criteria	22
16.	Key Milestone Dates	24
17.	Applicant screening	24
18.	Granting Process	25
19.	British Council contractual requirements	25
20.	Monitoring and Reporting	26
Ann	nex 1 – Eligible and Ineligible Costs	27

### **Grant call for TNE Exploratory Grants**

### **1. About Going Global Partnerships**

<u>Going Global Partnerships</u> 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.

See open and upcoming Going Global Partnerships opportunities. Opportunities are being launched continually, so please check this page regularly.

### 2. The Grant Call

#### Call name – TNE Exploratory grants

Maximum value of grant	£25,000
Number of grants expected to be funded in this call	35
Deadline for applications	08 September 2025, Time: 23:59 (BST)
Contact for further information	goingglobalpartnerships-TNE@britishcouncil.org

### About the Grant call Introduction

Transnational Education (TNE) - when UK tertiary qualifications are delivered outside of the UK is strongly relevant to the British Council's purposes of encouraging educational co-operation between the United Kingdom and other countries and supporting the advancement of United Kingdom education and the education standards overseas, as it involves partnerships and collaborations at individual, institutional, and national levels, and it creates opportunities to young people around the world.

The British Council worked with key stakeholders and launched in November 2023 the <u>Transnational Education Strategy</u> where our aim to facilitate and develop scalable and sustainable UK TNE globally is highlighted. The TNE strategy also aligns with, and supports the <u>UK government's International Education Strategy</u> in tackling barriers to TNE.

In this context and recognising that TNE exists in a continuous evolving higher education landscape, the **TNE Exploratory grant** aims to foster collaborations between the UK and the participating countries: Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, Georgia, Ghana, Indonesia, Nepal, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, and Viet Nam. Through these institutional partnerships, partners will work together to progress or accelerate the

internationalisation of the higher education sector. This funding opportunity will also support key actions from the TNE Strategy as outlined in the following section.

### **Overview**

The Going Global Partnerships TNE Exploratory grant will support higher education institutions to become more international and raise their quality education in a more inclusive way.

The TNE Exploratory grant expects to support **35 projects** of up to £25,000 in value each, for **17 months**, starting from **January 2026**. While applications will be welcomed from all parts of the United Kingdom, there are three ringfenced grants available (which can be with any of the overseas countries) for institutions in **Northern Ireland**, **Scotland** and **Wales** only, with Welsh institutions being prioritised.

The fund will prioritise partnerships that focus on one or more of the **priority themes** from the TNE strategy:

- Action 2: Create an enabling environment for TNE in other countries and promote the quality of UK TNE internationally
- Action 3: Contribute to a better understanding of the local context and facilitate a regulatory and operational environment to best support TNE partnerships
- Action 4: Support TNE to contribute to the transformation of local education systems and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Intersectional proposals that address one or more of the priority themes above and embed in the project one or more Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion areas are encouraged (e.g. gender, age, disability, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic background, etc.).

Awards will support partnerships between eligible UK institutions and partner institutions in one or more participating countries, Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, Georgia, Ghana, Indonesia, Nepal, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, and Viet Nam. The proposal must be prepared jointly by leads from both institutions but submitted by the Lead from the UK Institution except for UK - Thailand partnerships, which must be submitted by the Lead Thai Institution.

TNE Exploratory activities can be in any discipline or cross-discipline; and should respond to country needs and meet the **criteria** specified under "**Eligibility criteria for institutions**" in this document. Please note that partnerships with **some countries may focus on specific thematic priority areas** relevant to their context, please refer to "Eligibility criteria for institutions" for details.

Possible partnerships could include but are not exclusive:

Priority theme	Possible partnerships	
Creating an <b>enabling</b> <b>environment</b> for TNE in other countries and <b>promoting the quality</b> of UK	<ul> <li>Partnerships that aim to develop new TNE joint projects between UK and the partner country/ies or build on existing partnerships and insights from previous round of TNE grants, with the aim to further strengthen its reach and</li> </ul>	

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	<ul> <li>impact, advance collaboration and enhance capacity in TNE in targeting development areas.</li> <li>Partnerships that aim to co-create curricula relevant to the country's needs and/or deliver a pilot joint teaching that will contribute to increase both partner institutions' degrees or professional qualifications quality.</li> <li>Projects that include capacity building of academics and staff via training and development programmes for local faculty, enhancing the teaching quality and pedagogical approaches and supporting the exchange of knowledge, expertise and best practices which will contribute to stronger TNE</li> <li>Partnerships that aim to develop one or more forms of TNE, including dual, double and joint degrees. Models of TNE as well as topic areas may vary according to the partner country involved.</li> </ul>
Contribute to <b>a better</b> <b>understanding</b> of the local context and facilitate a regulatory and operational environment to best support TNE Partnerships	<ul> <li>Partnerships that aim to work together towards the recognition of UK degrees, including online and blended learning programmes. This could include the design and facilitation of policy dialogues to enhance the regulatory framework and quality assurance of TNE and degree recognition.</li> <li>Partnerships that aim at or encourage the diversification of UK TNE provision by addressing barriers to academic and research qualifications.</li> <li>Partnerships with the aim to develop communities of practice with focus in information sharing, mutual learning and developing collective capacity for further or new international collaborations</li> <li>Partnerships that focus on developing processes, frameworks and guidelines for TNE collaboration, including quality assurance mechanisms.</li> <li>Projects that focus on capacity building for emerging higher education leaders, which can lead to system reforms and removal or barriers to TNE and quality assurance.</li> </ul>
Supporting TNE to contribute to the transformation <b>of</b> <b>local education systems</b> and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals ( <b>SDGs</b> )	<ul> <li>Partnerships that provide support on the creation of a more inclusive, modern and global quality curricula which is relevant to and embedded in the local context and environment.</li> <li>Partnerships that focus on developing courses that can enhance employability skills and prospects</li> <li>Partnerships that aim to widen access to tertiary education for disadvantaged, less privileged and excluded individuals and communities.</li> <li>Projects aiming to help diversify UK TNE provision, expanding the UK TNE base and widening access to learners, institutions and partners.</li> <li>Projects that promote TNE through focus themes of shared interest relating to the SDGs</li> </ul>

### **Definition of TNE**

In this call 'UK TNE' refers to UK tertiary qualifications delivered outside of the UK. These include all types of formally recognised academic awards, such as degrees, diplomas and certificates granted by tertiary education institutions on successful completion of a programme of study, including:

- higher education and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) awards
- professional awards
- micro-credentials or certificates of learning outcomes from short-term learning experiences (including certified short courses and training).

There are four common award models:

- *Validation:* where an overseas partner designs their own programme, but the award is from the UK institution.
- *Franchise:* where a UK institution's programme is run by an overseas partner in the same way it would be delivered in the UK.
- Joint award: where the award is given jointly by two (or more) institutions.
- *Dual (or double) award:* where an award is given by both the UK institution and one or more partners.

### **Objectives and outcomes**

All TNE Exploratory awards will address one or more of the following overarching objectives and priority themes:

- contribute to long-term and **sustainable institutional change** that promotes a more inclusive access to high **quality education** through TNE.
- contribute to a better understanding of the local context and **facilitate a regulatory and operational environment** to best support TNE partnerships
- support TNE initiatives that promote positive **changes in the local education systems**, considering their context and needs, and creating a more inclusive and **accessible international education environment** that contributes to the **SDGs**.

The Going Global Partnerships programme is looking for joint projects designed to achieve some of the following outcomes:

Going Global Partnerships TNE – Outcomes		
<ul> <li>New TNE partnerships</li> <li>Improved understanding and access to relevant education environments (international awareness) to enable TNE.</li> <li>Increased scale and effectiveness of UK TNE and joint teaching programmes including digital delivery.</li> </ul>	•	Improved TNE policy and quality indices and quality assurance mechanisms and indices are addressed through a gendered and EDI lens. Increased access to opportunities for women and other underrepresented / minority groups through TNE.

- An improved legal and policy environment supporting inclusive TNE.
- New or improved curricula (course and extra-curricular based), teaching practice and materials for TNE courses, including those that support inclusion and equality and challenge gender stereotypes.
- Improved understanding and awareness of barriers to TNE at individual and institutional levels.
- TNE barriers and imbalances in tertiary education and wider society addressed through insight, research and dialogue, resources and capacity strengthening.
- Increased awareness and efforts to build safe, inclusive and non-hostile TNE learning environments.

# 3. Eligibility criteria for Institutions

Proposals must fulfil the following criteria to be eligible for funding under this call:

#### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Each proposal must have both:

- one Lead institution from one of the participating overseas country; and
- one Lead institution from the UK.
- The proposal must be prepared jointly by leaders from both institutions but submitted by the Lead from the UK Institution except for UK - Thailand partnerships, which must be submitted by the Lead Thai Institution.

UK lead institution must be one of the following:

- Higher Education provider with degree awarding powers.
  - England Check the 'awarding degrees' drop down section on the specific provider's entry on the <u>OFS register</u>. The OFS register lists all institutions in England which offer degrees, not all of which have degree awarding powers.
  - > Northern Ireland <u>https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/universities-and-colleges-northern-ireland</u>
  - > Scotland <u>https://www.gov.scot/policies/universities/</u>
  - > Wales <u>https://www.gov.uk/check-university-award-degree/recognised-bodies-wales</u>

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
- TVET/FE provider, as locally defined

**Important:** please refer to the Exceptions section below for additional eligibility criteria which has been specified by **Brazil**, **Indonesia**, **Nigeria**, **Thailand**, **and Viet Nam**.

The Lead institution in overseas countries must have the capacity to administer the grant. They need to submit a support letter to confirm their capacity, and capacity must be confirmed in the support letter.

The partnership can include in their proposals Associated Partners (from both the overseas county and the UK) affiliated with:

- Higher Education providers, including any branch or satellite campuses\*
- Not-for-profit research institutions, establishment and organisations
- TVET/FE providers\*
- Other education organisations/charities/foundations/membership bodies
- Not-for-profit organisations, including Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)
- 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

\* **Important:** please refer to the Exceptions section below for additional eligibility criteria which has been specified by **Brazil**, **Indonesia**, **Thailand**, and **Nigeria**.

For-profit non-education organisations are not eligible to receive any grant funds, except to cover travel-associated costs. The proposal must clearly define their contribution to achieving call objectives.

**Important:** please refer to the Exceptions section below for **all other additional eligibility criteria** which has been specified by **Brazil**, **Indonesia**, **Nigeria**, **Thailand**, and **Viet Nam**.

Please send an enquiry to <u>goingglobalpartnerships-TNE@britishcouncil.org</u> if you are in doubt about the eligibility of your organisation.

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

## Exceptions

#### BRAZIL

For partnerships with Brazil, all criteria listed under the "Eligibility criteria for institutions" remain the same **except for** the following:

TVET and FE institutions are **not eligible** as an overseas lead institution for UK-Brazil partnerships.

For-profit non-education organisations are **not eligible** to participate in UK-Brazil partnerships.

#### INDONESIA

For partnerships with Indonesia, all criteria listed under the "Eligibility criteria for institutions" remain the same **except for** the following:

Overseas lead institution must be a Higher Education provider, including Indonesian campuses of UK universities (branch campuses of non-UK Higher Education Institutions are not eligible).

Indonesia government organisations or agencies responsible for tertiary education within the **Special Economic Zones** are eligible to participate in TNE Exploratory grant projects as overseas lead institutions; the SEZ will need to clearly demonstrate in the application how their participation in the project will lead to the effective creation or strengthening of TNE programmes within the duration of the grant.

Partnerships with Indonesia, both lead institutions (in UK and Indonesia) must include in the supporting letters the agreed overall budget and spending distribution allocated to the UK and Indonesia.

For-profit non-education organisations are **not eligible** to participate in UK-Indonesia partnerships.

**MODELS OF TNE -** For this call, please be aware that the **Indonesian government** allows all forms of TNE **except** *franchise*.

#### NIGERIA

For partnerships with Nigeria, all criteria listed under the "Eligibility criteria for institutions" remain the same **except for** item **3** which is specified here:

Overseas lead institution **must** be an accredited university.

#### MODELS OF TNE

To be eligible to receive funding for a UK-Nigeria partnership under this call:

Applications must demonstrate how their activities will advance any of the models of TNE present in **both** the British Council's <u>TNE Strategy</u> **and also** in the <u>NUC TNE Guidelines</u>.

#### THAILAND

For UK - Thailand partnerships, the application **must be submitted by the Thai Lead Institution**, which will also be the contracting institution responsible for distributing grant monies should the application be successful. This is due to the specific regulatory conditions that apply in Thailand.

For partnerships with Thailand, all criteria listed under the "Eligibility criteria for institutions" remain the same **except for** the following:

#### Overseas lead institutions

TVET and FE institutions are **not eligible** as an overseas lead institution for UK-Thailand partnerships.

Thai government organisations or agencies responsible for tertiary education within the **Special Economic Zones** are eligible to participate in TNE Exploratory grant projects as overseas lead institutions; the SEZ will need to clearly demonstrate in the application how their participation in the project will lead to the effective creation or strengthening of TNE programmes within the duration of the grant.

For-profit non-education organisations are **not eligible** to participate in UK-Thailand partnerships.

#### MODELS OF TNE

For this call, please be aware that the **Thai government** allows all forms of TNE **except** franchise.

#### Priority Themes/Focus Areas and Outcomes:

To be eligible to this UK-Thailand TNE grant call, the applications must focus on the partnerships that aim to co-create a TNE programme; this TNE programme could include the development of an interdisciplinary curricula, or deliver a joint teaching pilot towards a dual-award qualification, etc. Projects are expected to contribute to an increase in the quality of both partner institutions' degrees or professional qualifications.

The partnerships can be in any disciplines, but priority will be given to curricula/programmes focusing on specific areas of emerging technologies identified as Thailand key priorities in science, technology, and innovation, including AI, Electric Vehicle, Semiconductor, or Satellite technologies.

#### VIET NAM

For partnerships with Viet Nam, all criteria listed under "Eligibility criteria for institutions" remain the same, however please note the following exceptions to **Priority Themes/Focus Areas** and **Outcomes**:

Only applications which focus on the following priorities will be considered as eligible partnerships between Viet Nam and the UK:

- Partnerships that aim to co-create a TNE programme; this TNE programme could include the development of an interdisciplinary curricula, or deliver a joint teaching pilot towards a dual-award qualification, etc.. Projects are expected to contribute to an increase in the quality of both partner institutions' degrees or professional qualifications.
- These curricula/programmes should focus on specific areas of emerging technologies identified as Viet Nam key priorities in science, technology, and innovation, including: AI, Internet of Things, Big data, Cloud Computing, Block chain, Semiconductor, Quantum technology, Nano, Mobile Communications (5G, 6G), or Satellite technologies.

Lead institutions are encouraged to check following articles for more information about Viet Nam's strategies for education and priority areas for collaboration with foreign universities.

- Viet Nam's emphasis on education quality and partnerships
- <u>Viet Nam announces new strategies for education and science</u>
- Viet Nam to develop Technology Training Centres of Excellence

# 4. Funding

The **TNE Exploratory grant** expects to support **35** projects of up to £25,000 in value each, for a **17 month** period, starting from **January 2026**. Please refer to the table below for the number of grants which will be initially offered per participating country. These project grants are open to institutions from anywhere in the UK.

Country	Number of grants initially offered
Algeria	1
Bangladesh	2
Brazil	1
Egypt	8
Georgia	1
Ghana	1
Indonesia	3
Nepal	1
Nigeria	2
Saudi Arabia	1
Thailand	4
Tunisia	1
Turkey	3
Viet Nam	3

In addition to the above, there are **three project grants available** for **Northern Irish**, **Scottish**, and **Welsh** institutions only (with a preference for Welsh institutions) which can be with any of the overseas countries.

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.

Should your application be successful, funding will be offered on the terms and conditions as set out in the sample grant agreement contract which has been made available as part of the funding call launch. All applicants are strongly encouraged to read the sample grant agreement contract, share it with relevant colleagues within the university (including legal teams as appropriate), and to raise any queries or questions they may have on its terms and conditions before they complete and submit their application. The timeline for completing contracting with successful applications is very tight and it will not be possible to address queries or questions once you have been notified of the success of your application. The grant agreement contract 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.

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. For most of the countries participating in this call, the Contracting Institution is the Lead Institution in the UK; however, **for UK - Thailand partnerships**, the Contracting Institution will be the Lead Institution in Thailand. 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.

For-profit associate partners are only eligible to receive funds to cover travel-associated costs. In some cases, the national partner will also provide funding to the partner country institution. Please note that this will not apply for all countries. Matching funds are encouraged but not a requirement.

### 5. 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' (<u>https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/UKRI-050321-</u> <u>PolicyGuidelinesGovernanceOfGoodResearchConduct.pdf</u>), the Inter Academy Partnership report 'Doing Global Science: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in the Global Research Enterprise' (<u>http://www.interacademycouncil.net/24026/29429.aspx</u>) or contact us for further guidance.

### 6. 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 that all staff, and those we work with, including partners and suppliers, to operate within our Safeguarding Policy which articulates our approach to protecting children and adults at risk and promoting their wellbeing.

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.

For further information please see: <u>https://www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/how-we-work/policies/safeguarding</u>

### 7. Impact on the 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 contact us via email (<u>goingglobalpartnerships-TNE@britishcouncil.org</u>), if you have any queries about the environmental impact section

### 8. 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).

We may share all application data with our funding partner in the UK or national partner organisation in order to assist with management of the application process. The reason for this is that in countries where we work with partner organisations, the final decision on the grants will be made in consultation with them. We may share selected non personal data with agencies responsible for monitoring and evaluation of the TNE Exploratory Grants.

Your information will not be used/shared beyond the partners listed 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 see our website: http://www.britishcouncil.org/privacy-cookies/data-protection. We will keep your information for a period of seven years after the project.

### 9. Application Process and Documentation

Applications must only be completed and submitted via the <u>Good Grants online platform</u> (https://goingglobalpartnerships.grantplatform.com/). 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 **deadline** for applications is **23:59** (UK BST time) on **8 September 2025** – we recommend that you send 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**.

Ensure you have included all of the documentation listed in the Pre-submission Checklist 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 resubmission process should your application be deemed ineligible.

Please ensure that process of seeking institutional approval required for the application submission should be initiated in good time to meet the application deadline. Each Grant call remains open for 4-6 weeks, which is a sufficient time to get the required approvals and documents like CV's, supporting letters, etc. Applicants must ensure all documentation listed in the Pre-submission Checklist is included as incomplete applications may be immediately regarded as ineligible. We receive a great volume of applications, so there is no scope of appeal.

Please submit the required attachments (budget sheet, CVs, etc.) as separate documents, please do not merge them into a single file.

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 via<u>goingglobalpartnerships-</u><u>TNE@britishcouncil.org</u>.

### **10. Application Form**

Applications must only be submitted via the <u>Good Grants online platform</u> (https://goingglobalpartnerships.grantplatform.com/)

Where they are specified, word limits must be followed; the application platform will not allow applications where word limits have been exceeded to be submitted.

#### **Official Development Assistance (ODA) Statement**

This TNE Exploratory grants call is open to partnerships between the UK and a range of countries, some of whom have been <u>defined as developing countries by the OECD</u>. The monies granted to these developing countries is therefore considered as Official Development Assistance (ODA), and any participating country not on the previous list is considered as non-ODA.

The following paragraph is relevant to and applies to all ODA countries (but does not apply to non-ODA countries, e.g. the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia): The grants must be ODA compliant. To be counted as ODA, all activities (research or otherwise) must qualify under rules set down by the OECD. To be ODA-eligible, the OECD states that research projects should be *directly and primarily related to the problems 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 following paragraph is relevant to and applies to all countries (regardless of their ODA status) including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: The British Council supports peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide. Our granting opportunities are aligned to this mission and reflect it in grant purpose and eligibility criteria. Granting projects which specifically include collaboration with military or security partners will also need to align with this mission. Projects focused on particular fields may preclude any military and security aspects, or aspects which dual-use impacts or outcomes.

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

#### Gender and Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Statements

Please contact us for further information on the British Council's approach. See our Equality Policy here: <u>https://www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/our-values/equality-diversity-inclusion</u>

#### **Gender Equality**

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.

#### **Gender Equality Statement**

Applicants are required to consider the impact their project will have on gender 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.
- 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 making a contribution 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.

The statement is part of the equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) assessment criterion in this call.

The following questions should be answered when writing the statement.

• 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.

- 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.
- The expected impact of the project (benefits and losses) on people of different genders, both throughout the project and beyond.
- Describe how the project will impact women, men and people with diverse gender identities. In particular show how the project will reduce the gender inequalities that have been set out in the question above.
- The impact on the relations between people of different genders and people of the same gender.
- Describe how you intend the programme to bring about change in unequal power relations. For example, changing roles and responsibilities in households, society, economy, politics, power, etc.
- How will any risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality be avoided or mitigated against, and monitored?
- Are there any relevant outcomes and outputs being measured, with data disaggregated by age and gender (where disclosed)?
- At what stage of the gender journey will the project start, and where you aim to be at the end of it.

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.

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.

#### Approach for Accessibility adjustments

Applicants are encouraged to take a proactive approach to consider accessibility into the design and delivery of their proposed activity, so that we can improve the experience for everyone, including in particular for disabled people. Applicants may request adjustments or additional support for their application, the funded project activities and reporting stages. Please provide details on specific requests for any support, access arrangements, or accommodation, and any costs associated with the adjustments. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis and dependent on the funding available. If you wish to discuss the requests and/or costs in your application, please contact <u>goingglobalpartnerships-TNE@britishcouncil.org</u>.

### **11. Budget Sheet**

Budgets must only be submitted using the Budget Sheet supplied within the Grant Call Documentation, and your application will be deemed ineligible if your budget is submitted via any other method.

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 costs can be found in **Annex 1**.

#### Section 1 – Human Resource/Staff Costs

- There is a cap set at 30% of the total grant staff costs. .
- List all Contracting and Partnering institution staff working on the project
  - > Permanent staff are employed by the hosting institution, with a contract that will outlast the project grant and reporting period. These are permanent academic (full time staff members) employed by the institution.
  - > Project staff are employed on or temporarily assigned to the project, often on fixed term, part time or short contracts, usually with more of their time dedicated to the work related with this project
- The number of units multiplied by the unit rate will populate Column H. In Column I confirm how much of this total is it intended be covered by the grant. Be clear how any residual costs will be covered if not entirely by the grant.
- If the entire cost is not being covered by the Grant, a residual amount will populate in Column J, and you will explain how this amount is being covered in Column K.
- In Column M you confirm how staff costs are monitored/controlled for Audit purposes.

#### Section 2 – Expertise Costs

Sometimes Grant applicants wish to budget for non-institutional Staff costs (e.g. Consultants, Industry experts, advisors, Associate partners etc.). These costs included in Section 2.

- There is a cap set at 20% of the total grant being applied for
- The number of units multiplied by the unit rate will populate Column H. In Column I confirm how much of this total is it intended be covered by the grant. Be clear how any residual costs will be covered if not entirely by the grant.
- If the entire cost is not being covered by the Grant, a residual amount will populate in Column J, and you will explain how this amount is being covered in Column K
- In Column M you confirm how staff costs are monitored/controlled for Audit purposes

#### Section 3 – International Travel and Subsistence

- There is a cap set at 20% of the total grant being applied for
- Supply details of approximate costs/allocation for your travel and subsistence costs. Be clear how any residual costs will be covered if not entirely by the grant.
- Read Annex 1 for guidance on permitted costs
- As per sections 1 and 2 clarify what portion of these costs is it intended be covered by the grant and how any residual costs are to be funded

#### Section 4 – Operational and Activity Costs

- In section 4 you can give the approximate costs/allocation you intend to use for specific activities. Be clear how any residual costs will be covered if not entirely by the grant.
- Read Annex 1 for guidance on permitted costs
- Domestic travel associated with the activities should be accounted for in this section
- As per sections 1, 2 and 3– clarify what portion of these costs is it intended be covered by the grant and how any residual costs are to be funded

#### Section 5 – Marketing and Communication Costs

- In section 5 you can give the approximate costs/allocation you intend to use for any Marketing and Communications aspects of your proposal. Be clear how any residual costs will be covered if not entirely by the grant.
- Read Annex 1 for guidance on permitted costs
- As per the previous sections– clarify what portion of these costs is it intended be covered by the grant and how any residual costs are to be funded

#### Section 6 – Miscellaneous and Additional Costs

- In section 6 you can give the approximate costs/allocation you intend to use for any elements not covered in sections 1-5. Be clear how any residual costs will be covered if not entirely by the grant.
- All costs claimed here need to be clearly described and fully justified.
- Read Annex 1 for guidance on permitted costs.

#### Budget Summary

After Section 6 a summary of the sections above will self-populate.

Column I shows a section-by-section summary of the costs you have indicated will be covered by your grant if you application is successful.

Column J will flag any issues. If for sections 1-3 the box turns green and displays "This is within the funding rules" then no action is required.

If, however, the box turns **red** it will give a message to highlight what the issue is e.g. "This is outside the 30% funding rules" or "This is outside the 20% funding rules" and you must return to the appropriate section and revisit your proposed budget.

Any budget sheet submitted that contains red warnings will be returned and may jeopardise your application.

The last row of the Budget Sheet will show in Column G, the grant amount you are applying for and in Column I the total budget you are intending to submit.

- If your planned budget exceeds the grant you are applying for you will see a warning message stating, "Your budget exceeds the grant you have requested – please review your budget before submitting"
  - > You cannot budget for more than the value of the grant and if your budget sheet is submitted with this warning it will be returned and may jeopardise your application
- If your planned budget is lower than the grant you are applying for you will see a warning message stating, "Your planned budget is less than the grant you have requested do you need to review your budget to ensure everything has been included"
  - > If this is the case, you could either revisit the grant you are claiming and reduce it to your planned budget; or revisit your budget to ensure you haven't miscalculated
  - If you submit your application with this message your application will still be considered but based on your proposed budget and not the grant figure so please ensure you are happy that you have not missed anything.

# **12. Pre-Submission Checklist**

This application has been discussed and agreed between both lead partners who are aware of this project.

The application form and supporting documents have been completed in English.

The applicants have included supporting letters from each of the Contracting and Lead Institutions, on headed paper, signed by the Head of Department or other person with appropriate delegated authority, giving specific commitment to the project. Supporting letters must be in English and not be signed by Lead Applicant(s). As stated in these guidelines, email versions of letters are acceptable.

**Indonesia only** – partnerships with Indonesia must include in the supporting letters the agreed overall budget and spending distribution allocated to the UK and Indonesia.

**Thailand only** - the application **must** be submitted by the Thai Lead Institution.

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.

Applicants have submitted a detailed budget request using the budget spreadsheet provided with the grant call documents on our funding call page.

Applicants have submitted a CV for both Lead Applicants.

Where relevant, Associated Partner letters have been uploaded

Human resource costs: Staff costs for personnel working directly on the grant funded project limited to 30% of the grant to be awarded.

[\*\* Limit mandatory for ODA countries and highly recommended to others as a good practice to follow]

UK expertise costs: Limited to 20% of grant to be awarded. [\*\* Limit mandatory for ODA countries and highly recommended to others as a good practice to follow]

Travel costs: Limited to 20% of the grant.

[\*\* Limit mandatory for ODA countries and highly recommended to others as a good practice to follow]

### **13. 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 <u>goingglobalpartnerships-TNE@britishcouncil.org</u>. If you have not received any acknowledgement of receipt of application please contact us with details.
- Applications will be reviewed for 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.
- <u>Applications will be assessed by a panel of subject experts, on the basis of assessment criteria specified in the next section</u>
- Top ranked applications will be selected and will be notified about their selection for contracting and disbursement of grants
- Unsuccessful applications will be notified at a later stage. You can ask for feedback to your application by writing to <u>goingglobalpartnerships-TNE@britishcouncil.org</u>.

# **14. Assessment Criteria**

15	Score	Range
15. PROJECT QUALITY AND RELEVANCE	35%	0–20
<ul> <li>The proposal contributes to both partner country's needs through system-level and/or institutional change and correlates with overall TNE Exploratory grant objectives and expected outcomes, clearly contributing to advance sustainable, scalable and equitable TNE. (this statement will have a higher weight within this section)</li> <li>The importance of the project focus area to the Lead institutions is clearly demonstrated and it meets the partner country's higher education priorities and capacity strengthening needs to further internationalise their institutions.</li> <li>The proposal identifies clear benefits and impact to both Lead institutions and stakeholders involved, including leadership, staff, students and the wider community in both countries.</li> <li>The proposal shows how to kickstart and/or accelerates long-term strategy to address some existing barriers to TNE in both Lead institutions and/or sector.</li> <li>The proposal clearly states how the activities can contribute to structural change in promoting a more inclusive TNE and quality education in the Lead institutions and how the project is relevant at a local/regional/national level.</li> </ul>	criteria to exception 16 to 19 Meets the the criter high level 11 to 15 Meets the the criter level 6 to 10 p Meets the the criter adequate 1 to 5 por some of an adeq	nal level points: the majority of tria to a very points: the majority of tria to a high points: the majority of tria to an the level points: Meets the criteria to uate level : Fails to y of the points: points: the content of the content of the criteria to the criteria to

METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN	Score	Range
	30%	0–20
<ul> <li>The activities are well planned and defined. The proposal contains clear, feasible, and realistic objectives, as well as potential for long term impact in promoting a more inclusive international environment for TNE.</li> <li>Lead institutions clearly articulate specific outputs anticipated from the collaboration defining how they will be achieved and how they support the priority themes for this call.</li> <li>The timelines are realistic and there is an effective monitoring and evaluation framework in place, with clear indicators defined to show how the project aims to make changes.</li> <li>The methodology has been clearly articulated and is achievable within the given timeframes and activities described.</li> <li>Risks and any mitigation strategies have been clearly defined.</li> </ul>	20 points: I criteria to ar exceptional 16 to 19 po Meets the n the criteria t high level 11 to 15 po Meets the n the criteria t level 6 to 10 poin Meets the n the criteria t adequate le	n level ints: najority of to a very ints: najority of to a high nts: najority of to an

1 to 5 points: Meets some of the criteria to
an adequate level
<b>0 points:</b> Fails to
meet any of the criteria to an
adequate level.

RESOURCES	Score	Range
	10%	0–20
<ul> <li>The proposal represents value for money and all costs are fully justifiable. This means that proposal must achieve the best possible outcomes with the funding and resources available, while ensuring funding and resources are used effectively, economically and without waste.</li> <li>The proposal shows equity in the budget distribution with planning costs clearly distributed within the defined caps.</li> <li>The proposal's aims are commensurate with the experience of the individuals involved in the project demonstrated by a clear definition of roles and responsibilities.</li> <li>The Lead institutions have sufficient relevant experience to lead the proposed activities and achieve the stated objectives, supported by an implementing team with the required expertise.</li> <li>The proposal offers development opportunities for staff who are under-represented in senior roles. This includes measures to ensure equal and meaningful opportunities for people of different background, races, faith background, ages, gender, sexual orientation, and dis/ability to be involved throughout the project. This includes involvement as people who run the project, project activity participants and also beneficiaries.</li> </ul>	20 points: criteria to a exceptiona 16 to 19 p Meets the of the crite very high I 11 to 15 p Meets the of the crite high level 6 to 10 point Meets the of the crite adequate 1 to 5 poin Meets son criteria to a adequate 0 points: meet any criteria to a adequate	an al level <b>oints:</b> majority eria to a evel <b>oints:</b> majority eria to a <b>bints:</b> majority eria to an level <b>nts:</b> ne of the an level Fails to of the an

SUSTAINABILITY	Score	Range
	25%	0–20
<ul> <li>The proposal includes a possibility of scalable TNE, where programmes can be expanded after an initial pilot phase to reach significant numbers of students and widen access to indemand subjects.</li> <li>The proposal focuses on development towards TNE programmes that 'meet the needs of the present without compromising the</li> </ul>	20 points: criteria to a exceptiona 16 to 19 p Meets the of the crite very high I	an al level o <b>oints:</b> majority eria to a

ability of future generations to meet their own needs' (U	
Nations Brundtland Commission).	Meets the majority
The proposal focuses on capacity strengthening to address	
challenges in areas of immediate relevance to both part	5
countries' professionals, academics and their sectors, e	<b>U</b>
further internationalisation of their intuitions.	Meets the majority
There is a clear plan for how the benefits of the activity(s) v	
developed within or beyond the institutions, whether at a	a adequate level
local/regional/national level	1 to 5 points:
The proposal includes a clear and feasible description of he	
Lead Applicants institutions intend to sustain their collab	ooration criteria to an
over the longer term to ensure the outcomes are sustain	ned adequate level
beyond the funding period. This can include the Associa	ate <b>0 points:</b> Fails to
Partners involvement to aid in sustaining the activity out	comes. meet any of the
There is a planned mechanism for the dissemination of the	results criteria to an
which will enable sharing TNE practices and learning.	adequate level.

#### TOTAL SCORE

100%

### **16. Key Milestone Dates**

Milestone	Timelines
Call opens	23 June 2025
Deadline for clarification questions submitted by applicants	21 July 2025
Deadline for application submission	8 September 2025
Results announcement	27 November 2025
Grant Agreement (contracts) signed	01 December 2025
Period of grant payments	9 January 2026
Project implementation and launch	5 January 2026
Progress report submission	1 July 2026
Project end date	1 June 2027
Final report submission	1 July 2027

All dates may be subject to change at the discretion of the British Council or due to any unforeseen circumstances. If timelines change, applicants will be contacted.

No project activities can take place after the project end date. If a funded project's planned activities timelines are required to be adjusted, an official request must be submitted in advance to <u>goingglobalpartnerships-TNE@britishcouncil.org</u>

# **17. 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 grant call.

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. By completing and submitting an application via <u>the online platform</u>, all applicants are indicating their understanding and acceptance of the screening process.

### **18. 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 standard Grant Agreement for signatures. 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.

## **19. 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 Councilfrom time to time
   > (see: www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/structure/status).
- The Contracting Institution for the partnership will sign the Grant Agreement with the British Council. 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 successful applicants will be expected to undertake activities in the UK and in the overseas countries listed in these guidelines.
- 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: <u>By submitting a response to this call for</u> <u>applications, you are agreeing to be bound by the terms of these guidelines and the</u> <u>Grant Agreement without further negotiation or amendment</u>.
- If you have any concerns or queries in relation to the Grant Agreement, you should submit a clarification request to <u>goingglobalpartnerships-TNE@britishcouncil.org</u> in accordance with the provisions of this call for applications by the application deadline.
- The British Council is under no obligation to consider any clarifications/amendments to the Grant Agreement requested following the application deadline.

### 20. 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. Please note if the progress report or final report is not completed on time, the British Council will reserve the rights to recoup funds or not give future instalments of funds that are due.

The British Council may conduct regular monitoring and evaluation, including the commission of independent evaluations for selected activities of strategic importance to the project.

A record should be kept of project activities, contracts, expenditures, financial transactions, and other important documentation for external auditing purposes.

# Annex 1 – Eligible and ineligible costs

### Eligible costs

The following costs are <u>eligible</u> 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).
- 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, etc..