

# Going Global Partnerships

## Guidance Notes

TNE Exploratory Grants

Call open: 8 May 2026

Call Closes: 6 July 2026

Guidelines for Applicants - Version 2.0

Changes from original version: addition of priority areas for Saudi Arabia, p.14.

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# Grant call for TNE Exploratory Grants

## 1. 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.

## 2. Key Information about this Grant Call

### Call name – TNE Exploratory Grants 2026

Maximum value of grant in GBP	£25,000
Minimum number of grants expected to be funded in this call	31
Deadline for applications	6 July 2026, Time: 11:59 am (BST)
Contact for further information	<a href="#">GGP TNE Grants</a>

## 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 for young people around the world.

The British Council worked with key stakeholders and launched in October 2025 the [Transnational Education Strategy](#) where our aim to facilitate and develop high quality, strategic, partnership-led, student-centric, and inclusive UK TNE globally is highlighted. The TNE strategy also aligns with, and supports the [UK government's International Education Strategy](#) in its aim of making the UK the global partner of choice supporting further growth and diversification in UK TNE, enhancing the UK tertiary education sector's reputation for high quality, enabling the development of strategic long-term partnerships, and responding to the needs, hopes and ambitions of TNE students and graduates.

In this context and recognising that TNE exists in a continuously evolving higher education landscape, the **TNE Exploratory grants** aims to foster collaborations between the UK and the participating countries: **Algeria, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Egypt, Georgia, Ghana, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and Türkiye**. 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 Grants will support Higher Education Providers to become more international and raise their quality of education in a more inclusive way.

[www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org)

The TNE Exploratory grants expects to support **31 projects** of up to £25,000 in value each, for **17 months**, starting from **1 January 2027**.

## Strategic Alignment

### TNE Strategy

The partnerships must focus on one or more of the **actions** from the TNE strategy:

- Action 1: Improve data and insights on UK TNE and its impact
- Action 2: Promote UK TNE's reputation for quality
- Action 3: Inform policy development and support the growth of UK TNE in partner countries.
- Action 4: Showcase the transformative power of UK TNE and its contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Three-level impact model: Partnerships must also focus on delivering impact on at least one of the following three impact levels. Proposals must outline realistic contributions to achieving impact at the level relevant to their project design:

- Institutional level: partnership development, curriculum scoping, early QA alignment
- Student level: inclusive design considerations, learner benefit pathways, alumni perspectives
- System level: insight sharing, barrier identification, preparatory policy/context analysis\*

\* these grants are relatively modest which may limit a project's capacity to deliver system reform, however the project may still have an impact at this level through generating insight or connections that informs and influences later system-level work.

Projects do not need to address all the actions or benefit all levels of impact stakeholders. Quality of expected outcomes will be prioritised, over the number of actions or levels of impact incorporated in the application.

To be eligible to receive funding, proposals must address one or more of the TNE Strategy Actions shown above and embed equity of opportunity and inclusivity in the proposed activities, giving particular focus to the inclusion of women and girls. Proposals which adopt an intersectional approach, embedding in their design considerations not only relating to gender but also to additional Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion areas (e.g. age, disability, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic background, etc.) are strongly encouraged

Awards will support partnerships between eligible UK institutions and partner institutions in one or more participating countries, **Algeria, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Egypt, Georgia, Ghana, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Türkiye**. The proposal must be prepared jointly by leads from both institutions but submitted by the Lead from the UK 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 to:

- **Action 1: Improve data and insights on UK TNE and its impact\***
  - Partnerships that address data and knowledge gaps related to TNE in the country or regions concerned
  - Partnerships that improve our understanding of the student experience and student outcomes produced by TNE
  - Partnerships that improve collective understanding of system, institution or individual impact of TNE in the territories where programmes are delivered.
  
- **Action 2: Promote UK TNE's reputation for quality**
  1. Partnerships that aim to develop new TNE joint projects between UK and the partner country/ies or build on existing partnerships, with the aim to further strengthen its reach and impact, advance collaboration and enhance capacity in TNE in targeting development areas.
  2. Partnerships that aim to co-create high quality innovative 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.
  3. Partnerships that focus on developing processes, frameworks and guidelines for TNE collaboration, including quality assurance mechanisms.
  4. Projects that focus on capacity building for emerging higher education leaders, which can lead to system reforms and removal of barriers to TNE and international partnerships, with emphasis on system alignment and quality assurance.
  
- **Action 3: Inform policy development and support the growth of UK TNE in partner countries.**
  - 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.
  - Partnerships that aim at or encourage the diversification of UK TNE provision by addressing barriers to academic and research qualifications.
  - Partnerships with the aim to develop communities of practice with focus on information sharing, mutual learning and developing collective capacity for further or new international collaborations
  - 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.
  
- **Action 4: Showcase the transformative power of UK TNE and its contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**
  - 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

- 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.
- Partnerships that focus on developing courses that can enhance employability skills and prospects
- Partnerships that aim to widen access to tertiary education for disadvantaged, less privileged and excluded individuals and communities.
- Projects aiming to help diversify UK TNE provision, expanding the UK TNE base and widening access to learners, institutions and partners.
  - Projects that promote TNE through focus themes of shared interest relating to the SDGs.

\*TNE Grants do not fund research studies.

## Definition of TNE

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

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

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) in the UK categorises TNE types by the venue where the provision is delivered, and by the type of programme being delivered as indicated below.

### Venue type

**International branch campus:** the UK provider typically has responsibility for the design, delivery and quality assurance of programmes delivered at this location. Separate host country organisation(s) may also have a quality assurance role. In some cases, a commercial partner may own and/or manage the physical facilities at an overseas campus. However, where the reporting provider owns and manages the intellectual operation (including academic support services), this is regarded as an international branch campus of the reporting provider.

**Joint venture:** responsibility for the design, delivery and quality assurance of programmes delivered at this location may be divided between the UK provider and the overseas provider, or sit with one or the other alone. Separate host country organisation(s) may also have a quality assurance role.

**Partner campus:** responsibility for programme design, delivery and quality assurance may be divided between the UK provider and the overseas provider, or sit with one or the other alone. Separate host country organisation(s) may also have a quality assurance role.

**Distance learning:** responsibility for programme design, delivery and quality assurance may be divided between the UK provider and the overseas provider, or sit with one or the other alone. Separate host country organisation(s) may also have a quality assurance role.

## Programme type

Independent programme: the UK provider has responsibility for programme design, delivery and quality assurance. Separate host country organisation(s) may also have a quality assurance role.

Partnership programme: responsibility for programme design, delivery and quality assurance may be shared between the UK provider and the overseas provider, though not all aspects of the provision will necessarily be divided, or divided evenly. Separate host country organisation(s) may also have a quality assurance role.

Where a programme meets the definition for both a partnership programme and a franchised programme, or a partnership programme and a validated programme, it should be coded as a franchised or validated programme respectively.

Franchised programme: the UK provider is predominantly responsible for programme design and quality assurance, but delivery is by the international provider. Separate host country organisation(s) may also have a quality assurance role.

Validated programme: the UK provider is predominantly responsible for quality assurance, while the international provider is predominantly responsible for programme design and is fully responsible for delivery. Separate host country organisation(s) may also have a quality assurance role.

## Objectives and outcomes

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

### Objectives

- 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 partnership
- 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**.

All proposals must clearly demonstrate how the project contributes to one or more of the following:

1. Strengthening higher education systems
2. Supporting institutional capacity
3. Contributing to learner-level benefits

#### 4. Promoting equitable and mutually beneficial internationalisation.

Individual grants deliver short-term, project specific outcomes given below which contribute to the above larger programme outcomes.

All projects must be designed to achieve some of the following outcomes:

### **TNE Exploratory Grants: Expected Outcomes**

TNE Exploratory Grants are expected to contribute to outcomes across one or more of the following four areas. Projects should focus on realistic, achievable outcomes appropriate to the scale and duration of the grant.

#### 1. System strengthening

Projects may contribute to system-level outcomes, including:

- Improved understanding of relevant education environments, including national and regional regulatory and policy contexts.
- Improved understanding of barriers to Transnational Education (TNE).
- Improved legal and policy environments that support inclusive and high-quality TNE.
- Improved TNE policy and quality assurance frameworks, informed by an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) lens.
- TNE barriers and imbalances addressed through insight generation, dialogue, and evidence-based engagement.
- Increased awareness of, and commitment to, building safe, inclusive TNE environments.

#### 2. Institutional capacity

Projects may support participating institutions to strengthen their capacity through:

- Establishment of new TNE partnerships between UK and overseas institutions.
- Development of new or improved curricula, teaching practices, and learning materials.
- Increased institutional readiness for TNE, including improved understanding of quality assurance, governance, and delivery models.
- Early-stage pilots demonstrating increased scale or effectiveness of TNE or joint teaching initiatives.
- Strengthened leadership and staff capacity in areas relevant to TNE.
- Identification and early mitigation of institutional barriers to TNE development.

#### 3. Learner benefits

Projects may deliver early-stage learner-focused benefits, such as:

- Increased access to transnational education opportunities for women and other underrepresented groups.

- Development of inclusive and gender-sensitive curricula.
- Early steps towards safer, more inclusive learning environments.
- Foundations for employability-focused programme design or other learner-benefiting approaches.

#### 4. Equitable internationalisation

Projects may contribute to more equitable forms of internationalisation through:

- Establishment of partnerships based on co-owned priorities and shared decision-making.
- Improved access to TNE opportunities for marginalised groups, supporting equity.
- Development of curricula that challenge stereotypes and promote equality.
- Addressing TNE barriers and imbalances through shared insight and mutual learning.
- Creation of safer, more inclusive TNE environments for all participants.

## Key Milestones

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Timelines</b>
<b>Call opens</b>	8 May 2026
<b>Deadline for clarification questions submitted by applicants</b>	8 June 2026
<b>Deadline for applications</b>	6 July 2026
<b>Results announcement</b>	By end November 2026
<b>Contracts signed</b>	Two weeks after result announcement
<b>Issuance of grant payment</b>	Within 30 days of grant agreement signing
<b>Project implementation and launch</b>	1 January 2027
<b>Progress report submission</b>	31 August 2027
<b>Project end date</b>	31 May 2028
<b>Final report submission</b>	30 June 2028

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.

### 3. 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

Each proposal must have both:

- one Lead Institution from the UK; and
- one Lead Institution from the overseas country

Each Lead Institutions must have the capacity to administer a 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 Provider 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](#)

Private/for-profit Higher Education Providers may be eligible, subject to additional due diligence checks.

Overseas 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.

Please also refer to the Exceptions section below, where **Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Nigeria, and Saudi Arabia** have additional eligibility criteria.

Please send an enquiry to our [mailbox](#) 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, some of whom have been [defined as developing countries by the OECD](#). The monies granted to these countries is therefore considered as Official Development Assistance (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 made to partnerships with ODA-eligible countries must be ODA compliant. To be counted as ODA, all activities must qualify under rules set down by the OECD, which states that 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 applications must have an adequate Gender Equality Statement.

The following paragraph is relevant to and applies to all countries (regardless of their ODA status):

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.

## Exceptions

### BRAZIL

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

- Public and not-for-profit Higher Education Providers, as locally defined, constituted, and recognised by the competent authorities in their home country are eligible as an overseas Lead Institution for UK-Brazil partnerships. Institutions selected under CAPES Global.edu are especially encouraged to apply.
- TVET and FE institutions are not eligible as an overseas Lead Institution for UK-Brazil partnerships. TVET and FE institutions may, however, participate as Associate Partners.
- For-profit non-education organisations are not eligible to participate in UK-Brazil partnerships.

### EGYPT

For partnerships with Egypt, all criteria listed under the “Eligibility criteria for institutions” remain the same **except for** the following:

Eligible institutions are free to submit more than one application. However, should the call be heavily oversubscribed, Lead Institutions - in both the UK and/or Egypt - who have submitted multiple applications may be contacted to prioritise a reduced number of applications to take forward, to ensure a fair distribution of grants.

Institutions are therefore strongly encouraged to prioritise their proposals and ensure that each application is strategically aligned with both the programme objectives and institutional strengths. Submitting multiple applications may increase the range of ideas considered, but, for the above reasons, careful internal coordination within the Lead Institutions is essential

## **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 Providers are not eligible).
- Indonesia government organisations or agencies responsible for tertiary education within the Special Economic Zones are eligible to participate in TNE Exploratory grants 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 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.

## **JORDAN**

For partnerships with Jordan, all criteria listed under the “Eligibility criteria for institutions” remain the same **except for** the following:

- Research institutions, establishment and organisations are not eligible.
- To be eligible for this UK-Jordan TNE grant. The grant must focus on establishing a partnership or collaboration, between Jordanian and UK Universities/ Colleges to provide a quality, relevant, valued and credible progression pathway to secondary school graduates of secondary school with a Pearson qualification. This should result in a range of JNQF Level 6 (RQF Level 5) qualifications that meet Jordanian regulatory and quality assurance requirements.

## **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:
  - TVET institutions are not eligible for UK-Nigeria partnerships. Only accredited universities in Nigeria are eligible.
  - Applications should demonstrate how their activities align with the TNE models present in **both** the British Council’s [TNE Strategy](#) **and also** in the [National Universities Commission TNE Guidelines](#).

### SAUDI ARABIA

For partnerships with Saudi Arabia, all criteria listed under the “Eligibility criteria for institutions” remain the same **except for** the following:

Grant projects must focus on one of the priority collaboration areas that align with the Kingdom’s national development needs:

- **Technology:** AI, Cybersecurity, and Data Science.
- **Healthcare:** Medical Sciences, Nursing, and Biotechnology.
- **Sustainability:** Renewable Energy and Water Management.
- **Growth Sectors:** Tourism, Hospitality, Logistics, and Robotics.

## 4. Funding

The **TNE Exploratory Grants** expects to support 31 projects of up to £25,000 in value each for a **17-month** period, starting from **1 January 2027**. The table below shows the distribution across overseas countries. These project grants are open to institutions from anywhere in the UK.

Country	Minimum number of grants available
Algeria	1
Azerbaijan	2
Brazil	2
Egypt	4
Georgia	1
Ghana	1
Indonesia	2
Iraq	1
Jordan	2
Mexico	5
Morocco	1
Nigeria	2

Saudi Arabia	1
South Africa	1
Türkiye	5

In addition to the above, there are **three project grants available** to **Northern Irish, Scottish, and Welsh** institutions in partnership with institutions from **Algeria, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Egypt, Georgia, Ghana, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa and Türkiye** only. For these three grants priority will be given to Welsh, Scottish and then Northern Irish institutions.

Applicants may be asked to adjust their budget if their request does not fit within funding guidelines or for other reasons related to the structure, objectives and expected outcomes of the grant call, as defined by the application review team.

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 (i.e. directly employed by the Lead Institutions) costs for personnel working directly on the grant funded project limited to 30% of the grant to be awarded.
- Expertise costs: Limited to 20% of grant to be awarded.
- Travel costs: Limited to 20% of the grant.

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.

## 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.

## 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 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 [webpage](#) for further information about Safeguarding.

## 7. 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, national partner organisations, or other relevant third-parties. 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 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 [see our website](#). We will keep your information for a period of seven years after the project.

## 8. 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 **6 July 2026, Time: 11:59 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 the specified deadline will be considered **ineligible**.

### Documentation

All supporting documents (budget sheets, CV's, 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

1. This application has been discussed and agreed between both Lead Institutions.
2. The application form and supporting documents have been completed in English.
3. 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 not be signed by Lead Applicant(s).
4. 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.
5. Applicants have submitted a detailed budget request using the budget spreadsheet provided with the grant call documents on our funding call page.
6. Applicants have submitted a CV for both Lead Applicants. The CV should not be more than three pages.
7. Where relevant, Associate Partner letters have been uploaded

## 9. 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 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.

## 10. 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.

# 11. 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, sex/gender, sexual orientation 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?

# 12. 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

[www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org)

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 [GGP TNE Grants](#) 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. 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.

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

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](#).

## 13. Budget Sheet

Budgets must only be submitted using the Budget Section of the 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 costs can be found in **Annex 1**.

## 14. 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 Good Grants. If you have not received any acknowledgement of receipt of application, please contact us with details.
- 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 the [TNE Grants mailbox](#).**

## 15. Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Score	Range
PROJECT QUALITY AND RELEVANCE	Score	Range

	35%	0–20
<p>The proposal should demonstrate awareness of and alignment with the regulatory framework for Transnational Education in the overseas country and remain adaptable to any relevant guidance issued by the education ministry in the overseas country.</p> <p>The proposal contributes to both partner country’s needs through system-level and/or institutional change and correlates with overall TNE Exploratory grants’ objectives and expected outcomes, clearly contributing to advance high quality, strategic, partnership-led, student-centric, and inclusive TNE. (this statement will have a higher weight within this section)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The proposal clearly states how the activities can contribute to structural change in promoting a more inclusive TNE and high-quality education in the Lead Institutions and how the project is relevant at a local/regional/national level.</p> <p>All projects must be co-designed and jointly governed, ensuring balanced decision-making between UK and overseas institutions.</p>	<p><b>20 points:</b> Meets all criteria to an exceptional level</p> <p><b>16 to 19 points:</b> Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level</p> <p><b>11 to 15 points:</b> Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level</p> <p><b>6 to 10 points:</b> Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p><b>1 to 5 points:</b> Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p><b>0 points:</b> Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.</p>	
<b>METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN</b>	Score	Range
	30%	0–20
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The methodology has been clearly articulated and is achievable within the given timeframes and activities described.</p> <p>Risks and any mitigation strategies have been clearly defined.</p>	<p><b>20 points:</b> Meets all criteria to an exceptional level</p> <p><b>16 to 19 points:</b> Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level</p> <p><b>11 to 15 points:</b> Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level</p> <p><b>6 to 10 points:</b> Meets the majority of</p>	

	<p>the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p><b>1 to 5 points:</b> Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p><b>0 points:</b> Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.</p>	
<b>RESOURCES</b>	Score	Range
	10%	<b>0–20</b>
<p>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.</p> <p>The proposal shows equity in the budget distribution with planning costs clearly distributed within the defined caps.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Budget distribution should demonstrate fairness, proportionality, and genuine partnership, with resources allocated to support capacity and leadership in both partner institutions.</p> <p>Outputs should reflect co-authorship and shared intellectual contribution from both institutions.</p>	<p><b>20 points:</b> Meets all criteria to an exceptional level</p> <p><b>16 to 19 points:</b> Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level</p> <p><b>11 to 15 points:</b> Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level</p> <p><b>6 to 10 points:</b> Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p><b>1 to 5 points:</b> Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p><b>0 points:</b> Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.</p>	
<b>SUSTAINABILITY</b>	Score	Range
	25%	<b>0–20</b>
<p>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 in-demand subjects.</p> <p>The proposal focuses on development towards TNE programmes that ‘meet the needs of the present without compromising the</p>	<p><b>20 points:</b> Meets all criteria to an exceptional level</p> <p><b>16 to 19 points:</b> Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level</p>	

<p>ability of future generations to meet their own needs' (United Nations Brundtland Commission).</p> <p>The proposal focuses on capacity strengthening to address TNE challenges in areas of immediate relevance to both partner countries' professionals, academics and their sectors, enabling further internationalisation of their institutions.</p> <p>There is a clear plan for how the benefits of the activity(s) will be developed within or beyond the institutions, whether at a local/regional/national level</p> <p>The proposal includes a clear and feasible description of how the Lead Applicants' institutions intend to sustain their collaboration over the longer term to ensure the outcomes are sustained beyond the funding period. This can include the Associate Partners' involvement to aid in sustaining the activity outcomes.</p> <p>There is a planned mechanism for the dissemination of the results which will enable sharing TNE practices and learning.</p> <p>Applications must include post-grant pathways (from exploratory to operationalisation) and plans for embedding and scale.</p> <p>Proposals should demonstrate how the project supports partner leadership, capacity development, and long-term autonomy.</p>	<p><b>11 to 15 points:</b> Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level</p> <p><b>6 to 10 points:</b> Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p><b>1 to 5 points:</b> Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p><b>0 points:</b> Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.</p>
<p><b>TOTAL SCORE</b></p>	<p><b>100%</b></p>

## 16. 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.

## 17. 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 contract 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.

## 18. 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  
> (for more information click [here](#))
- 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.**

## 19. 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 – 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/domestic 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.