

UK-China Outward Mobility Partnership Fund

Introduction

Generation UK aims to support Chinese provincial governments and higher education institutions to increase their capacity to attract and host an increased number of international students and develop their wider internationalisation strategies.

China has ambitious targets to internationalise its education system, including an ambition to play host to over 200,000 international students a year in China by 2020. Through this Partnership Fund, this programme supports China's efforts to internationalise higher education, and to learn from the UK's experience in hosting international students

As a secondary benefit, it is anticipated that the support will lead to an increased flow of UK students studying or taking up mobility programmes in China. As reflected in the UK Government's Strategy for Outward Mobility and in alignment with the devolved administrations China strategies, boosting the number of UK students with international experience is a key priority for HMG. The Generation UK campaign directly supports this strategy and its goals of improved employability and international awareness.

About Generation UK

Generation UK is a campaign that was launched by the British Council in 2013. It directly advances the UK government commitment to a Global Britain and is supported by all four UK administrations.

The campaign aims to ensure that the UK has a generation of young people that will be able to drive forward the relationship with China. It represents a strategic investment in the UK's competitiveness as well as in the employability and language ability of the participants.

There are three core areas of priority:

- To raise awareness among a young generation in the UK of the opportunities to build their understanding of China through study and internships
- To promote favourable conditions for these young people to intern or study in China by working with the Chinese government and partners to support their internationalisation
- To provide specific funded opportunities for UK young people to study and intern in China through Generation UK branded programmes

In 2013, the Prime Minister set a target for the campaign and it sets out to help 80,000 young people from the UK to have spent time in China by 2020, through both British Council programmes and wider initiatives. In 2017, 10,000 young people from the UK gained experience in China and this represents a 70% increase in UK mobility to China.

Strategic Objectives

The key objectives of this fund are to support China's ambitious higher education internationalisation strategy by:

- support capacity building through workshops, training and learning development in:
 - international student recruitment
 - marketing/promotion activities
 - student experience

- pastoral care and well-being services
- boosting outward student mobility to China through development of practical mobility programmes e.g. summer school programmes, faculty exchanges etc.
- academic study missions to the UK in line with internationalisation aims
- convene dialogues and partnerships brokering with Chinese institutions for best-practice sharing
- diversifying the range of students gaining international experience in China, including those from lower socio-economic households, first-generation, underrepresented ethnic groups etc.

Funding Amount

For each project, funding of up to £30,000 will be awarded per institution covering the whole project duration. Projects in receipt of funding will be expected to start in late March 2019 and can run for two years (until March 2021).

Funding Requirements

Proposals must meet the following operational requirements:

- Value for money:
Projects must achieve the best possible outcomes with the funding and resources available, while ensuring funding and resources are used effectively, economically and without waste.
- Deliverability:
Proposals must incorporate a credible delivery plan with realistic milestones for progressing the different elements of the project to completion on time and within budget. This will require a team with relevant skills and experience.
- Affordability and sustainability:
Project proposals must be affordable in relation to the overall funding available and be financially sustainable with benefits that can endure beyond the funding period.
- Partnership:
All project proposals must partner with at least 1 Chinese institution and involve the outward student mobility of a minimum 50 UK students to China. In addition, the project proposal must have sign off from the most senior representative of the bidding UK institution. (e.g.: Vice Chancellor, College Principals, President)
- Monitoring and evaluation plan:
Projects must have a clear monitoring and evaluation plan. The plan should explain what the key performance indicators are and how monitoring will be carried out. Tangible milestones should be set, with an explanation as to how they will be measured. A risk management plan should also be included.

Successful partnership bids to be steered and monitored by the British Council to ensure that they are closely aligned with both government priorities regarding China's internationalisation aims and mobility of UK students to China. Partnerships must demonstrate connections to the wider UK – China relationship and long-term engagement with China, that are sustainable and deliver impact.

Desired Outcomes

Projects must lead to at least one of the following outcomes:

- A new wave of sustainable, well designed outward mobility programmes developed between UK and Chinese institutions, with clear and measurable learning outcomes and impact.

- Significant rise in the diversity of UK students gaining experience in China and boosted employability, including more first-generation scholars, students from low income backgrounds and other under-represented groups.
- A range of best practice models that can be profiled and rolled out for other Chinese HE institutions to follow and learn from.

Projects must be able to demonstrate all of the following impacts:

- Creation of measurable and tangible impacts in the short term (within 1 year), in the medium term (1 - 3 years), and in the long term (3 years and beyond);
- Creation of real value to the UK and China countries with evidence-based results, such as increased numbers of international students, greater international influence, etc.
- Creation of benefits that apply to the wider higher education sector, such as by sharing international best practice.

Priority considerations will also be given to projects that can demonstrate:

- access to other sources of funding, including in-kind contributions that support the delivery of project outputs, such as fixed assets and staff, industry support;
- sustainability beyond the project period

Assessment Process

Project proposals will be assessed based on the information provided in the application form. Shortlisted applicants may be contacted for further information about their proposals. A final decision will be made by British Council China.

Proposals will be assessed as follows:

- Alignment with strategic objectives (30 per cent)
 - Proposals must show a clear understanding of and fully address the strategic objectives.
 - Proposals must demonstrate the ability to generate outcomes that are of benefit to China's higher education internationalisation ambitions
 - Proposals must explain clearly what kind of opportunities they will create for individuals and how this will be achieved.
- Potential to deliver target outcomes and impacts (40 per cent)
 - Proposals must clearly explain what the project will achieve and how this will contribute to creating opportunities for individuals and/or increasing collaboration between the UK and China more widely in outward mobility and internationalisation.
 - Proposals must propose a realistic action plan to achieve the target outcomes, with defined impacts that can be monitored and evaluated.
 - Proposals must demonstrate measurable, tangible and long-term sustainable impacts to the UK and China, and the wider international education sector.
 - Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate significant growth potential for the UK and China, innovative services and/or products, access to other sources of funding, and partnerships with Chinese organisations.
- Capacity to deliver on time and within budget (30 per cent)
 - Projects must be led by a team with the skills and experience necessary to successfully deliver the proposed work.
 - Proposals must have a clear budget plan that can be realistically executed.
 - Proposals must fully address the operational requirements.

After the results are announced, the British Council will sign agreements with the successful applicants. Funding will be administered after the agreements are signed and all funded applicants must submit a declaration confirming they have received the funds.

How to Apply

The UK-China Outward Mobility Partnership Fund is open to partnerships of UK organisations involved in international higher education, including education authorities, research organisations, awarding bodies, universities and colleges.

Please complete the attached application form and email it along with all supporting documentation to gen.uk@britishcouncil.org.cn by **23:59 GMT on 1 March 2019**.

For all queries, contact the British Council via the submission email above.

Timetable

<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
January	Scoping and inception
February 2018:	Call for proposals; submission deadline 1 March
w/c 4 March 2019:	Assessment and shortlisting
w/c 18 March 2019:	Sign agreement with funded projects
w/c 25 March 2019:	Allocate grant funding
31 March 2019 – Feb 2021:	Project activity
March 2021:	Reporting and evaluation

Implementation

All funded projects must be implemented in accordance with the approved proposals and the agreement signed with the British Council. Any changes to the proposed activities must be approved by the British Council before going ahead. More detailed terms and conditions will be stipulated in each project agreement.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Funded projects will be expected to provide quarterly progress updates and annual achievement reports based on the milestones agreed at the time of approval. A project manager from the British Council will monitor all projects. A detailed record of activities, including important communications, documents and spending, should be kept in case an external audit is carried out.