
Open Call: A.R.C Challenge Malaysia Grant in response to climate change and COP26

Briefing Notes for Applicants

Overview

The British Council in Malaysia is inviting applications for the A.R.C. Malaysia Challenge Grant, which brings together stakeholders from the arts and creative industries, education, science and civil society sectors to collaborate on a common challenge in response to climate change and offer innovative and interdisciplinary solutions that create awareness and enhance resilience among youth. The A.R.C. Malaysia Challenge will be part of the cultural programme activities in the build up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), which the UK is hosting in November 2021.

About the British Council

The British Council builds connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language. We work in two ways – directly with individuals to transform their lives, and with governments and partners to make a bigger difference for the longer term, creating benefit for millions of people all over the world.

We help young people to gain the skills, confidence and connections they are looking for to realise their potential and to participate in strong and inclusive communities. We support them to learn English, to get a high-quality education and to gain internationally recognised qualifications. Our work in arts and culture stimulates creative expression and exchange and nurtures creative enterprise.

We connect the best of the UK with the world and the best of the world with the UK. These connections lead to an understanding of each other's strengths and of the challenges and values that we share. This builds trust between people in the UK and other nations which endures even when official relations may be strained.

We work on the ground in more than 100 countries. In 2019-20 we connected with 80 million people directly and with 791 million overall, including online and through our broadcasts and publications.

Climate Change and COP26

The UK will host the 26th [United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties](#) (COP26) in Glasgow on 1 – 12 November 2021. This will be the largest international climate change summit the UK has hosted, bringing together over 30,000 delegates - including heads of states, climate experts and campaigners - to agree coordinated action to tackle climate change. COP26 will be supported by a build-up of events and programme hosted by Italy, which will include a major Youth Event and the Pre-COP Summit in September 2021.

Ahead of and beyond COP26, the British Council is launching an innovative programme of activities and engagements to bring people – with a focus on young people - across the world together. We are working with partners in the UK and worldwide to support the success and legacy of COP26 by using our global network to create opportunities for cooperation, dialogue and action in arts, education and science which address the shared challenge of climate change. This A.R.C Challenge Malaysia Grant is one of the activities that the British Council in Malaysia is delivering locally in the run up to COP26.

About the A.R.C. Challenge Malaysia Grant

A.R.C stands for Awareness, Resilience and Collaboration in response to climate change. This project aligns with one of the 5 priority themes of COP26 which is “Adaptation and resilience” - Helping people, economies and the environment adapt and prepare for the impacts of climate change by creating awareness and developing resilience among young people on climate change impacts. By providing platforms for discussion, debate and action, the A.R.C Challenge Malaysia project aims to engage young people from diverse backgrounds and cultures including marginalised communities into dialogue and mutual exchange of ideas on the impact of climate change on their future.

The A.R.C. Challenge Malaysia Grant provides seed-funding for collaborations between UK and Malaysia stakeholders, which respond to a common challenge in the field of climate change through shared solutions that empower young people to take positive action which can cascade awareness and create greater resilience amongst others in their generation, as well as influence policy making.

We are offering 3 seed funding grants of up to £10,000 each to kick-start innovative, joint UK-Malaysia responses to a shared climate change challenge involving young people aged 18 – 35. We encourage cross-sectoral collaboration in our grant applications. Ideally, we would include projects which are from the arts and creative industries, education and science sectors in our final awards. The successful grants will be announced during the first A.R.C. Challenge Malaysia Forum on 4 February 2020. Awardees will then have the opportunity to pitch their projects during the second A.R.C. Challenge Malaysia Forum on 25 March 2020 to an audience of diverse stakeholders including potential funders, policy makers, research, academic and youth organisations, in the hope that their project will spark further interest that may lead to scaling-up and sustainability.

Successful applicants are expected to deliver their projects from 15 February 2021, complete all activities by 15 November 2021 and submit the project report to the British Council by 30 November 2021.

Eligibility for Application

- We are inviting **joint applications** from UK and Malaysian stakeholders across interdisciplinary sectors (arts and creative industries, education, science, civil society etc.) to respond to this open call. Applications must include **at least one partner from the UK and one partner from Malaysia**.
- Applicants can apply **for up to £10,000** to develop their **collaborative solution to a shared challenge in the field of climate change, with the aim of creating awareness and enhancing resilience among young people (aged 18 - 35) from diverse communities**. We are looking to support only 3 projects with a seed-funding of £10,000 each. Applicants with in-kind or matched support are welcome, although this is not essential.
- Applications should be **jointly submitted by one UK lead partner and one Malaysia lead partner**. Other named partners or collaborators should submit a letter of support which is attached to the application. The lead partner from Malaysia will be contracted and responsible for leading communications, managing and disseminating the grant to both/all collaborators.
- **Organisations, institutions and/or registered collectives/networks** from diverse sectors are all eligible to apply for this grant. Due diligence will be conducted prior to awarding the grant to the successful applicants.
- Applications which have **interdisciplinary collaborations involving more than one sector** – arts and creative industries, education, science and civil society – are greatly encouraged but not essential.
- Applicants must be able to **demonstrate clear benefits to both the UK and Malaysia**, which should be reflected through the project design, planning (including budget allocation), delivery and dissemination. This includes demonstrating how each partner or their audiences/communities may benefit from societal impact, opportunities, new networks and/or capacity building. **Mutuality** must be a central component to this UK-Malaysia collaboration.
- We expect applications to embed principles of **equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI)** through their core proposal and design (e.g. captioning videos, translating content, recruitment of interpreter, gender of the beneficiaries or project team etc). For more information on our EDI policy, please refer to this link <https://www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/our-values/equality-diversity-inclusion>
- The application must include a communication strategy to share knowledge and outputs with a wider audience.
- Applications which have considered **sustainability and can demonstrate opportunities to develop scale and future collaborations** are highly encouraged.

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- We are interested in **new and original ideas** in response to this brief. Projects and programmes that have received funding before will be ineligible. Exceptions apply for ideas or projects that have been piloted but have not received funding.
 - Successful applicants are expected to deliver their projects from **15 February 2021 and complete all activities, including reporting by 30 November 2021**. Successful applicants are expected to pitch their projects during the second A.R.C. Challenge Malaysia Forum on 25 March 2020. The pitching provides opportunities for the successful applicants to share their project concept, planned outcomes and potential impacts on young people, future and sustainability plans with stakeholders and potential funders.
 - Where appropriate, we are interested in **supporting low carbon solutions and environmentally friendly practice** in project planning and delivery, as well as your choice of partners and suppliers.
 - Successful applicants will **own the copyright of any work created** but must **grant the British Council, as the commissioning partner, free and unequivocal use of any arising outputs**, which may include promotion of works through our digital channels in the future.
 - Successful applicants may be **invited to take part in additional knowledge-sharing** opportunities and British Council alumni programmes in the future.
 - Successful applicants will be required to **keep in regular communication with the British Council**, offering project updates during the project delivery and support the project monitoring and evaluation beyond the project delivery; otherwise the British Council reserves the right to withdraw the grant.

Eligible Costs

This seed funding is to support the conceptualisation, development, trial and implementation of collaborative projects between UK and Malaysia stakeholders, which respond to a common challenge in the field of climate change through shared solutions that empower young people (aged 18 – 35) to take positive action which can cascade awareness and create greater resilience amongst others in their generation, as well as influence policy making.

These may include costs for travelling (subject to travel restrictions, grant sufficiency and justification), attachment at partner's organisation, training, production of collaterals, logistics costs related to the implementation of collaborative activity, procurement of essential services such as artists' fee, honorarium for speakers, virtual facilitators, translators and purchase of resources such as the means to enable a digital approach, as well as other costs which are essential for project delivery. Whilst we will not support the purchase of hardware, we will allow for the purchase of software or applications that support digital collaboration and delivery. The detailed cost breakdown needs to be provided in the application form. Please note that the British Council emphasises EDI - for costs related to providing assistance for participation, please write to us for discussion and approval.

The seed funding **will NOT** be approved for the following activities:

- Organisational running costs such as rental, utilities and staff cost
- Commercial development of any outputs or R&D product
- Development of commercial partnerships or joint programmes that have a commercial purpose
- Any other activities deemed to have a pre-dominantly commercial focus, as determined by the review pane

Digital Platform Policy

The British Council's Global Information Security Policy has banned Zoom usage in the British Council and for contracted suppliers and grant award holders. The British Council strongly recommends using Microsoft Teams to deliver virtual activities and workshops. Applicants who want to use other online tools or online platforms, must follow British Council's safeguarding and security protocols. If any other digital tool or platform is selected, the Applicants are responsible to ensure that the platform meets the following criteria:

- The Platform must have passwords and pre-registration to restrict who can connect to a meeting
- The Platform must have waiting rooms in which participants are expected to wait and be admitted by the host to the meeting
- The Platform must have the feature to limit the screen sharing to the host of the meeting.
- The link to the workshop should not be advertised on social media platforms.

Online tools or platforms other than Microsoft Teams must be discussed with the British Council. Requests to use a different platform or tool should be sent to the contact points stated in this document for approval.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by a diverse panel of representatives from the British Council, along with guest panellists, all of whom represent a range of sectors across arts, education, science and civil society.

Our assessment of successful applicants will be based on the following criteria:

- **Relevance** – the extent to which the project will engage and empower young people (aged 18 – 35) from diverse backgrounds and cultures including marginalised communities to take positive action which can cascade awareness and create greater resilience amongst others in their generation, and/or influence policy making (20%)
- **Impact** – the potential impact that the innovative solution will have on the partners and audiences involved, as well as potential for additional showcasing, scaling up or further development beyond the scope of this commission (20%)

- **Quality** – the experience of the applicants in delivering high quality work in their respective field(s) (15%)
- **Budget** – the extent to which costings are appropriately calculated, reflect good value for money, are relevant to the proposed approach and are distributed amongst partners (15%)
- **Collaboration** – the partners involved and the nature of the collaboration, with a particular emphasis on the level of mutuality within the partnership (10%)
- **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning** – the plan for monitoring and evaluating the project activities for outputs and deliverables, with key milestones, must be built into the project timeline, together with a clear communication plan for knowledge sharing (10%)

Applicants may be approached with clarification questions or to attend an interview with the panel. Applicants must be available to respond and/or attend an interview (conducted digitally) in line with the schedule below.

Key Dates

Milestone	Date
Application window opens	Friday 18 December 2020
Application deadline	Friday 22 January 2021
Clarification questions to applicants, interviews (as appropriate and if necessary) and evaluation	w/c 25 January 2021
Successful applicants announced	4 February 2021
Grant agreements issued and project commencement	15 February 2021
Project pitching to key stakeholders	25 March 2021
Project completion	15 November 2021
Reporting	30 November 2021

How to Apply

Eligible applicants are invited to complete and submit the accompanying application form via email by **Friday 22 January 2021 (5pm Malaysia Time/ 9am UK Time)**. Applications submitted after this date will not be considered by the reviewing panel.

For more information

The focal points for all enquiries related to this grant are as follows:

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