Going Global Partnerships

# **Call for Proposal – Grant Guidelines**

# **UK – Egypt Trans-National Education (TNE) Grant**

**Call** opens **20th September 2022**

**Call** closes **12th November 2022**

**Introduction**

[Going Global Partnerships](https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/he-science/going-global-partnerships) builds stronger, more inclusive, internationally connected higher education and TVET systems which support economic and social growth.

Through this British Council programme, you can connect, collaborate, and innovate with universities, colleges, education policy makers and other partners in the UK and around the world.

The overall expected outcomes of the programme include:

* **Enabling research:** supporting research, knowledge, and innovation collaboration to address local and global challenges and promote inclusive growth
* **Internationalising higher education and TVET institutions:** creating an enabling environment while supporting institutions and individuals to benefit from internationalisation
* **Strengthening higher education and TVET systems:** improving the quality and efficiency of institutions and systems
* **Enhancing student outcomes:** improving the qualities of global graduates (e.g., soft skills, employability, community outcomes).

Opportunities

Going Global Partnerships offers you vital international opportunities - the chance to build relationships, to share ideas and good practice, to access grant funding for collaborative partnerships and more.

You can see current and upcoming Going Global Partnerships opportunities on our website: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/he-science/going-global-partnerships/connect-collaborate>. We have many opportunities being launched at this time, so please check this page regularly.

This document refers to the following opportunity: **UK – Egypt Trans-National Education (TNE) Grant**

**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(s) in Egypt in order to assist with management of the application process. We may share selected non personal data with agencies responsible for monitoring and evaluation of the UK – Egypt Trans-National Education (TNE) Grant.

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.

**UK – Egypt Trans-National Education (TNE) Grant**

**Call for Proposal**

British Council Egypt, with the approval of our partner, the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, is launching a call for a Going Global Programme Grant. UK institutions are invited to bid for funding to initiate teaching and learning collaborations.

1. **Context**

The demographic pressure on Egypt to transform its higher education system is intense. The population of Egypt has grown from 69m to 100m+ since the millennium with 37% of the population between the ages of 18-22. The population is projected to rise further to 150m by 2050. The expansion of higher education is necessary in order to cope, not only with this demographic growth, but also because the government is seeking to increase the higher education participation rate from the current level of 32% to 50% by 2030 in order to drive the country’s social and economic development. This will require the creation of another 2.4m places. The thinking behind this strategy is that Egypt.

The growth in provision of places to try to match this increase in demand has required a major investment by the government:

Egypt currently has some 85 Egyptian universities, including governmental, private, international, civil, and high-tech institutions, according to figures from the [Supreme Council of Universities](https://scu.eg/index). That’s 20 more institutions than we had in 2021, as the government worked to set up more higher education institutions and expand international partnerships. In 2021, 232 new faculties were set up — 100 of which are public and 132 in private institutions — bringing the total to 756 colleges across the country. Additionally, 271 new majors were offered in public universities — boosting the total to 789 — including nuclear engineering, biophysics, cybernetics, artificial intelligence, and nanotechnology

The numbers of students up from 2m in 2010 to 3m in 2021 with 430000 of these postgraduates

The government’s Egypt 2030 Vision document also makes clear that growth in the number of places available, though necessary, is not sufficient. The Ministry has determined that If Egypt is to be successful at local, regional and international levels, then the quality of its graduates and of the higher education system must be transformed. Aligning academia more closely with industry and commerce, and thereby improving the employability of graduates, is a major government priority.

Internationalisation is identified as one of the other key drivers of the sector not only in increasing numbers of places but, critically, in driving forward the reform of teaching, learning and research. In recent years major changes in legislation have sought to facilitate and encourage international collaboration and there have been a number of key developments involving the UK sector:

* International branch campuses of foreign universities established either as stand-alone institutions or in collaboration with local partners.
* State universities required to open international faculties on their local campuses.
* A new generation of 15 modern non -profit national universities in process of being established with international collaboration and employability of graduates’ major foci.
* Trans-National Education (TNE) programmes are already established, and Egypt currently stands as the fifth largest recipient of UK TNE degrees.

1. **Overview of Funding Opportunity**

The purpose of this call is to foster further collaboration between the UK and Egyptian higher education sectors. It is part of the work of the British Council in higher education and science which aims to extend, strengthen, and deepen connections between the UK education sector and the Egyptian sector. It is motivated by the belief that international collaboration produces more effective research for addressing global problems, while enhancing teaching and learning to produce graduates with the skills necessary for economic development.

Two grants of around £30,000 will be provided to UK university, or consortia of universities, to partner with universities or consortia of universities from Egypt for running a project that will support greater internationalisation of HE institutions and transnational education (TNE). There are three key target development areas:

* A teaching and collaboration model and a course or module that contributes towards UK and Egyptian bachelor’s, master’s, or professional association qualification
* A model and a course that contributes to student outcomes through significantly enhancing employability skills and prospects, e.g., an apprenticeship degree
* A development programme to improve the capacity of the institution/organisation for international working at institutional level

Each successful proposal will receive a maximum £30,000 grant which shall only be used to cover project activities which will contribute to the achievement of GGP short and long-term outcomes including:

* UK and Egyptian HEIs have improved relevant market understanding and access
* Increased scale and effectiveness of UK TNE and Joint Teaching Programme including digital delivery
* Students, graduates, researchers, staff, and policy makers develop a greater international outlook and capacity for internationalisation
* Increased mobility (including virtual) to and from the UK for staff, students, researchers, and policy makers
* Improved capacity for internationalisation at institutional level

It is expected that project activities will be delivered through a blend of digital and face to face methodologies and that the project activities might include one or more of the following (this list is meant to exemplify rather than restrict the options available

* Joint curriculum development
* Staff and student mobility programmes
* Enabling programmes (e.g., policy dialogue, information exchange webinar)
* Process development programmes (e.g., quality assurance, monitoring, and evaluation)
* Training and professional development programmes

All of the above should be part of wider TNE programme

1. **Eligibility criteria**

Proposals must fulfil the following criteria in order to be eligible for funding under this programme:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA | Y/N |
| Each proposal must have both:   * one Lead Applicant from Egypt * one Lead Applicant from the UK, submitting one joint application |  |
| UK lead partner must be one of the following:   * Higher Education provider with [degree awarding powers](https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/regulation/degree-awarding-powers/). Check the ‘awarding degrees’ drop down section on the specific provider’s entry on the [OFS register](https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/the-ofs-register/#/). The OFS register lists all institutions which offer UK degrees, not all of which have degree awarding powers. * Not-for-profit research institutions, establishment, and organizations. Appendix 3 for a complete list of these). |  |
| Egypt lead partner must be one of the following:   * Higher Education provider, as locally defined * Not-for-profit research institutions, establishment, and organisations, as locally defined |  |
| The Lead Applicant’s institution in Egypt (the ‘Lead Institution’) must have the capacity to administer the grant and capacity must be confirmed in the support letter. |  |
| Lead Applicants can include in their proposals Associated Partners (from both the Egyptian and the UK) affiliated with:   * Higher Education providers * Not-for-profit research institutions, establishment and organisations * 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) * Branch and satellite campuses of UK Higher Education providers * Government organisations * Employer organisations and industry bodies * Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Social Enterprise organisations |  |
| For-profit non-education organisations are not eligible to receive any grant funds, except to cover travel-associated costs. |  |

Please send an enquiry to [egyptggp@britishcouncil.org](mailto:egyptggp@britishcouncil.org) 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. Please see Appendix 1 for the eligibility criteria check list.

1. **Total Funding and Project Duration**

Funding of max £30,000 will be awarded for each project to UK lead applicant covering both Egypt and UK costs covering the whole project duration. Project in receipt of funding will be expected to start in January 2023 and can run for a maximum of one year from the fund transfer date. Terms and Conditions of this grant is set out in Appendix 4: Grant Agreement.

1. **Eligible Costs**

The budget requested in your proposal should cover only costs that are essential, appropriate, and relevant to the collaboration ensuring value for money. The proposal should specify any cost share through direct and indirect institutional contributions.

Please find the List of Eligible and Ineligible Costs in Appendix 5. Please contact the British Council if you are in doubt which costs the grants can and cannot cover.

1. **How to Apply**

Please complete Application Form (Appendix 8) along with all supporting documentations (Appendix 1, Appendix 6, and Letters of Support) and email documents to [egyptggp@britishcouncil.org](mailto:egyptggp@britishcouncil.org) at the latest by Saturday 12 November at 23:59 GMT.

1. **Assessment Criteria**

Considering the impacts and outcomes that TNE wants to achieve as outlined above, priority considerations will therefore be given to project proposals that demonstrate: Potential for growth for Egypt and the UK (e.g., creation of a new TNE or Joint Teaching programme)

* Creation of real value to the UK and Egypt (e.g., development of favourable policies and strategies)
* Access to other sources of funding, including in-kind contribution that support delivery of project activities and ensure sustainability (e.g., funding from Ministry of Higher Education and Research, staff costs, industry support).
* Creation of benefits that apply to wider HE sectors (e.g., publication sharing, international best practice)

All proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

* + Potential to deliver TNE’s impacts and outcomes (30 points)
  + Alignment with grant strategic objectives (30 points)
  + Principal Applicant and its Partner’s capacity to deliver on time and within budget (40 points)
  + Relevance t Gender Equality (Sufficient/Insufficient)

Appendix 2: Scoring Form for more detailed explanation on each criterion.

1. **Timeline**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Date** |
| Call for Proposal opening | 20th September 2022 |
| Call for Proposal submission | 12th November 2022 |
|  |  |
| Clarification questions submitted by applicants | 12th October 2022 |
| Notification of proposal’s outcome | 6th December 2022 |
| Agreement signing | 11th to15th December 2022 |
| Inception meeting (virtual) | January 2023 |
| Project implementation and launch | 2 weeks after funded allocation |
| Interim report | End of June 2023 |
| Project end and submission of final report | January 2024 |

1. **Payment of the Grant**

Following announcement of the results, the British Council will sign Grant Agreements with the successful applicants on the UK side. The UK institutions are expected to allocate funding to their Egyptian partners to co-deliver the project. Unless otherwise stated, the British Council will administer 100% of the funding within 60 days of receiving the signed Grant Agreement. All funded applicants must submit a declaration confirming they have received the funds.

The British Council reserves the right to recover payment in full if the final report and supporting documents are not satisfactory, or the activities have not been delivered as planned.

In cases where the project expenditure is less than the funding awarded, the underspend cannot be used for further activity unless agreed by the British Council. Requests to utilise the underspend should be sent to British Council prior to additional expenditure. Requests should be submitted 3 months prior to project closure.

1. **Implementation**

All funded projects must be implemented in accordance with the submitted proposal, Grant Agreement, and other formal / written communication by the British Council. Any changes to proposed project activities must be approved by the British Council before going ahead.

1. **Digital Platform**

The British Council strongly recommends using Microsoft Teams to deliver virtual activities and workshops.

Principal Applicants, who want to use other online tools or online platforms, must follow British Council’s safeguarding and security protocols. Please email British Council for the protocols or if you have any questions.

1. **Project Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation**

Principal Applicant is responsible to submit Midterm Reports to the British Council. This report shall consist of narrative, The Result and Evidence Framework and financial information that tracks progress against milestones / plan. In addition to this, the Principal Applicant will be required to submit a final narrative and financial report within 30 days upon completion of the project. Project report template will be provided prior to Inception Meeting.

The British Council will conduct regular Monitoring and Evaluation as well as might commission independent evaluations of selected projects that are of strategic importance to GGP.

Record of project including record of activities, contracts, important project document, evaluation reports, spending and supporting documentations related with financial transaction should be kept until seven (7) years after the closure of the project for audit purpose.

1. **Applicant Screening**

In order 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.
* 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.
* 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.

1. **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 (www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/structure/status).
* The successful applicants will be expected to undertake activities in the UK and in Egypt.
* 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.
* (Terms and Conditions of the Grant Agreement) (“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.
* In the event that you have any concerns or queries in relation to the Grant Agreement, you should submit a clarification request to [egyptggp@britishcouncil.org](mailto:egyptggp@britishcouncil.org) in accordance with the provisions of this call for applications by the application deadline. The British Council reserves the right not to make any changes to the Grant Agreement.
* The British Council is under no obligation to consider any clarifications / amendments to the Grant Agreement requested following the application deadline.

## **15.Selection Process**

* Selection begins with an eligibility check by the British Council against the criteria given in these Guidelines and Eligibility Checklist at Appendix 1. Only applications that meet the country priorities and requirements will be considered eligible.
* Applications undergo a quality review, considering development needs, country priorities, sustainability and capacity strengthening potential. The quality review will involve the following:

Assessment and scoring for each application will be carried out by a Panel from UK and Egypt (see point 2Overview of Funding Opportunityfor priority focus areas and Appendix 2 for assessment form)

Only eligible applications relevant to the Official Development Assistance (ODA) objectives and definitions established by the OECD will be considered for funding.

All proposals must clearly articulate a plausible route to positive impact on the lives of low-income populations and a contribution to the economic development and social welfare of the partner country within a reasonable timeframe (3-15 years) [Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligibility as defined in point 16]. If the proposal is deemed not to meet this essential criterion, it will be rejected for funding regardless of the quality of the proposed activities.

Proposals are quality assessed against the criteria at point 7page 8, resulting in a final score between 0 and 100. Those receiving a final average score from the reviewers of less than 50 will be considered not fundable. However, achieving an average score equal to or above the threshold does not mean that the proposal will be funded.

**16.Relevance to economic development and social welfare [Official**

**Development Assistance (ODA) eligibility]**

* For the purpose of this call, capacity strengthening activities with development relevance are defined as activities that have the potential to contribute to the economic development and social welfare of Egypt, benefitting low-income and vulnerable populations specifically.
* In order to be considered for funding under the programme, all proposals must clearly articulate a plausible route to positive impact on these populations within a short- to medium-term timeframe (3-15 years).
* Applications which do not meet the ODA criterion cannot receive funding. Applicants should therefore consider, within their proposals, how the proposed capacity strengthening activities will address issues related to development effectively and efficiently, working in areas of demonstrable relevance to local challenges and using the strengths of the UK to address them. Applicants are asked to highlight relevant SDGs that the programme will support (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>)
* In some disciplines, development relevance can be longer-term and less direct than in other areas and impact may be harder to measure. However, in all cases, it remains the responsibility of the applicant to articulate how the activity proposed will aim to meet the ODA criteria and has the potential for lasting impact. Applicants should not expect reviewers to make assumptions about development impact that is not clearly described within the proposal.
* For general information about ODA, please visit the OECD website at

<https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-financestandards/official-development-assistance.htm>

* Failure to demonstrate ODA eligibility will render your application ineligible regardless of other success criteria. Please make sure you consider the ODA relevance of your application.
* In order to show development relevance within the context of the proposed project, applicants are advised to include within the application reference to any local or national consultation, links to government policies, and existing links with government institutions.
* Agreements for ownership and exploitation of intellectual property generated through project activities must be consistent with the primary aim of addressing development issues in the country of the Lead Applicant.
  1. Ethics

It is essential that all legal and professional codes of practice are followed in conducting work supported by this Programme. 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’ (<https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/UKRI-050321-PolicyGuidelinesGovernanceOfGoodResearchConduct.pdf>) , the Inter Academy Partnership report ‘Doing Global Science: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in the Global Research Enterprise’ (http://www.interacademycouncil.net/24026/29429.aspx) or contact us for further guidance.

* 1. 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, 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: https://www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/how-we-work/policies/safeguarding

* 1. Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

Applicants are encouraged to ensure equal opportunities in the teams implementing their proposed activity. Applicants may apply for additional funding to cover any specific requirements necessary to ensure full participation.

Please make additional costs in the ‘human resources’ section of the budget request within your application. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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

* 1. 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 programme.

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.**

* 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.
* The impact on the relations between people of different genders and people of the same gender. 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)?

Not all questions will be applicable. If a question is not applicable, you will need to articulate the reasons why.

British Council reserve the right to reject the application if no consideration has been given to gender equality or if the proposal is assessed to result in a negative impact for gender equality.

Appendix 7 Gender and Inclusion Guidance Note.

* 1. Impact on the Environment

The British Council is committed to minimising its environmental impact. For this call, we have developed a set of questions which will enable us to understand the expected impact of a proposed project on the climate (and environment more broadly).

What is the expected impact of the proposed project on the climate and environment (both throughout the project and beyond)? When answering, please consider:

* How can any negative impact be reduced?
* Have you considered possible alternatives to national and/or international travel such as virtual delivery? If alternatives are not possible, please provide justification why travel is essential to ensure project outcomes and impact and what measures you will take to limit the carbon footprint of any travel used to deliver the project.

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. Please contact us via email [goingglobalpartnerships@britishcouncil.org](mailto:goingglobalpartnerships@britishcouncil.org) or insert the adequate contact email), if you have any queries about the environmental impact section.

22.Covid-19 guidance

Should COVID-19 continue to impact global travel into 2022 & 2023, we would advise that applicants consider, and put in place, contingency plans for remote working and digital collaboration where possible, for example utilising video conferencing in place of face-to-face meetings.

The British Council’s Global Information Security Policy has banned Zoom usage for the British Council and for contracted suppliers and grant award holders. The British Council recommends using Microsoft Teams to deliver virtual activities. Should you be successful in securing a grant, and if you require a Microsoft Teams license, you will need to discuss this with the British Council. Applicants who want to use other online tools or online platforms, must follow British Council safeguarding and security protocols. Online tools or platforms other than Microsoft Teams must be discussed with the British Council and requests to use a different platform or tool would need to be approved for successful grant recipients.

Please consider flexible and technological solutions to progress activity for planned work where feasible.

1. **Contact Details**

For all enquiries, please send email:   
British Council Egypt  
Email: [egyptggp@britishcouncil.org](mailto:egyptggp@britishcouncil.org)

**Appendices**

Appendix 1: Eligibility Criteria Check (must be completed).

Appendix 2: Scoring Form for more detailed explanation on each criterion.

Appendix 3: List of eligible not-for-profit research institutions, establishment, and organisations

Appendix 4: Grant Agreement, Terms and Conditions

Appendix 5: Eligible and Ineligible Costs

Appendix 6: Activity Based Budget (must be completed).

Appendix 7: Gender and Inclusion Guidance Note

Appendix 8: Application Form (must be completed).