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Going Global Partnerships

Guidance Notes

International

Skills Partnership

January 2024

# **Grant call for international skills partnerships in Ghana and Mauritius**

Going Global Partnerships

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

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.

We help to strengthen higher education and TVET in five core areas:

* **Enabling research** – supporting research, knowledge and innovation collaborations to address local and global challenges and promote inclusive growth.
* **Internationalising higher education and TVET** – supporting systems, institutions and individuals to benefit from internationalisation, including enabling transnational education and system alignment.
* **Strengthening systems and institutions** – improving the quality and efficiency of higher education and TVET institutions and systems.
* **Enhancing learner outcomes** – addressing the qualities of the global graduate, including soft skills, employability and community outcomes.
* **Increasing equality, diversity and inclusion** – making higher education and TVET more accessible, equitable and accountable.

See open and upcoming Going Global Partnerships opportunities [on our portal](https://education-services.britishcouncil.org/opportunities?sort_by=created&field_programme_tid%5B%5D=404).

Opportunities are being launched continually, so please check this page regularly.

**International skills partnership opportunities in Ghana and Mauritius**

**Introduction**

The British Council international skills partnerships bring together organisations in the TVET sector from the UK and overseas to share their knowledge and expertise, and to collaborate on projects that focus on enhancing approaches to skills development internationally.

Since 2009, British Council, has delivered over 100 partnership projects linking UK further education colleges to over 40 countries. These partnerships have brought together experienced organisations in the UK skills sector and one or more counterparts in other countries to develop and deliver an agreed project plan that supports national level policy priorities related to skills development and employability, such as embedding soft skills development in curricula; improving employer engagement; quality assurance; development of joint curricula; and career guidance programmes.

Partnerships are supported financially by the British Council to deliver projects, typically funded for one year with a view to becoming self-sustaining thereafter. Participating organisations benefit in a number of ways, from improving their offer to learners and building staff capacity, to gaining exposure to new markets and raising their reputation.

**Overview of the partnership opportunities**

The British Council works in both Ghana and Mauritius to support international collaboration to develop better quality, more inclusive and globally connected education systems. In both countries, the development of green skills within the TVET sector is a core government priority, driven in part by increasing awareness of the challenges presented by climate change.

In Ghana, a second key priority is entrepreneurial skills development within the TVET sector, the fostering within graduates of enhanced entrepreneurial skills and attitudes to better prepare them for the world of work. Such skills, which can be deployed in a wide variety of job roles and industries, include good and effective communication skills, being able to sell both oneself and one’s ideas or product, eagerness to learn, flexibility, leadership, time management, creative thinking and problem-solving.

We are pleased to announce partnership opportunities for UK-based skills organisations to collaborate with institutes in Ghana and in Mauritius in the area of green skills; and additionally with institutes in Ghana in the area of entrepreneurial skills development.

UK-based skills organisations are welcome to apply for one or more of these opportunities.

**Green Skills Development partnerships**

The green skills development partnership in Ghana will be with two Ghanaian institutes:

* **Kumasi Technical University** - <https://kstu.edu.gh/>
* **Bolgatanga Technical University** - <https://www.bolgatu.edu.gh/>

The green skills development partnership in Mauritius will be with the following cluster of institutes:

* **Mauritius Qualifications Authority** - <https://mqa.govmu.org/mqa/>
* **Academy of Design and Innovation** -<https://www.adi.ac.mu/>
* **Mauritius Institute of Training and Development** - <https://www.mitd.mu/>
* **Marine Technical School** - <https://www.enl.mu/en/enlighten/impact/2022/marine-technical-school-la-formation-technique-debute>
* **College Technique St Gabriel** - <https://wp.saint-gabriel.be/>

Partners will share knowledge and expertise in the area of curriculum development and innovative teaching methodologies and technologies within the renewable energy sector and will collaborate to deliver an agreed action plan, developed within the first month of the project.

The successful UK institution will have demonstrable experience in curriculum development and innovation in renewables and energy efficiency sector.

The British Council teams in the UK and in the partner country will provide ongoing advice and guidance throughout the partnership to help facilitate communication and deliver maximum benefit. We will also share relevant British Council tools and materials to support the project activities.

In Ghana, successful applicants will be eligible for £32,000 of grant funding to support partnership activities. In Mauritius, the grant will be for £23,000. In both countries, the grant will cover reciprocal visits to the UK and the partner country, staff time (limited to 30% of the grant), and development of tools and resources. The partnership project will be funded for 12 months, starting from March 2024.

**Entrepreneurship Skills Development partnerships**

The two entrepreneurial skills development partnerships in Ghana will each be with one Ghanaian institute:

• Dr Hilla Limann Technical University - <https://dhltu.edu.gh/>

• Sunyani Technical University - <https://stu.edu.gh/>

Partners will share knowledge and expertise in the area of curriculum development and innovative teaching methodologies and technologies in entrepreneurial skills development and will collaborate to deliver an agreed action plan, developed within the first month of the project.

The successful UK institution will have demonstrable experience in curriculum development and innovation in the area of entrepreneurial skills.

As above, British Council teams in the UK and in Ghana will provide ongoing advice and guidance throughout the partnership to help facilitate communication and deliver maximum benefit. We will also share relevant British Council tools and materials to support the project activities.

Successful applicants will be eligible for £32,000 of grant funding to support partnership activities. The grant will cover reciprocal visits to the UK and Ghana, staff time (limited to 30% of the grant), and development of tools and resources. The partnership project will be funded for 12 months, starting from March 2024.

Eligibility criteria

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

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| **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA** |
| Each proposal must have one Lead institution from the UK |
| UK Lead institution must be one of the following:   * Further education college * Independent training provider * Membership organisation with a role in the Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET)/Further Education (FE) system * Sector skills organisation * Awarding body |

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| --- |
| The partnership can include in their proposals Associated Partners which can be one of the following:     * Employer organisations and industry bodies * Other education organisations/charities/foundations/membership bodies * Any other public or private organisations with a role in TVET/Further Education system * Not-for-profit organisations, including Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) * Government organisations * 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. |

If you are in doubt about the eligibility of your organisation, contact [skills@britishcouncil.org](mailto:skills@britishcouncil.org) .

Eligibility checks will be applied to all applications after the grant call closes and those which are not led by an eligible institution, rejected.

Funding

Funds will be transferred directly to the Lead Institution in the UK, who will be responsible for submitting a financial report upon completion of the project. The UK Lead Institution must be able to transfer funding to its partner institution in Morocco and/or to Associated Partners for activities which support the objectives of the collaboration allowing planned activities to be implemented without delay.

For-profit non-education Associated Partners are only eligible to receive funds to cover travel-associated costs.

Ethics 

It is essential that all legal and professional codes of practice are followed in conducting work supported by this call. Applicants must ensure the proposed activity will be carried out to the highest standards of ethics and research integrity.

In the application form, applicants must clearly articulate how any potential ethical and health and safety issues have been considered and how they will be addressed, ensuring that all necessary ethical approval is in place before the project commences and all risks are minimised.

Please refer to the Research Councils UK ‘Policy and Guidelines on Governance of Good Research’ (<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.

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

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>

Gender Equality

To comply with the International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014, applications must outline how they have taken meaningful yet proportionate consideration as to how the project will contribute to reducing gender inequalities in the Gender Equality Statement section of the application form.

**Gender Equality Statement**

Applicants are required to consider the impact their project will have on gender and provide a gender statement. It should not be a re-statement of your Institution’s policy; you may refer to the policy but should show how the policy will be implemented in terms of the project.

Below are the project aspects that can be taken into consideration for the gender statement but not limited to.

* Outputs
* Outcomes
* Make-up of the project team; participants, stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project
* Processes followed throughout the project.

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.

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.

Covid-19 guidance

Should COVID-19 impact global travel, 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 licence, 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.

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 (see: [www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/structure/status](http://www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/structure/status)).

* The Grant Agreement Holder for the partnership will be the UK Lead Institution.

* The successful applicants will be expected to undertake activities in the UK and in the         overseas country listed in these guidelines.

* The British Council is subject to the requirements of the UK Freedom of Information Act, (“FOIA”). Please indicate in your application whether FOIA also applies to your organisation, so that we can reflect this in the Grant Agreement should you be successful in your application.

* (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 skills@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.

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 and review of any grants. The legal basis for processing your information is agreement with our terms and conditions of application (contract).

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.

Eligible costs

Eligible costs include:

* Staff costs for personnel working directly on the grant-funded project limited to 30% of the grant to be awarded.
* Economy class flight travel for UK and overseas partner organisation’s staff to/from the country where each organisation is based. The maximum number of staff travelling on any visit covered by the grant is four, guided by the cost of travel when booking.
* Local travel in the UK and overseas (public transport to and from the airport

and for meetings/visits is encouraged where possible).

* Reasonable accommodation and subsistence costs for staff for visits to their partner organisation in the UK or overseas provided that they do not exceed those normally

borne by the British Council.

* Visa costs, vaccinations and health insurance for travel for the UK and overseas organisation’s staff to/from the country where each organisation is based.
* Reasonable hospitality costs (excluding self-entertaining costs).
* Costs of meetings, training events, seminars and conferences integral to the collaboration. This can include short-term room hire, hire of audio-visual equipment (projectors, etc.) and stationery supplies (flip charts, etc.), reasonable levels of refreshments.
* Translation/interpretation costs (where procured externally).
* Communications costs which can include use of telecommunications such as video /audio /web conferencing, digital tools to provide easier access for people with disabilities.
* Reasonable production costs (such as for the development of materials but excluding time spent by staff in relation thereto).
* Costs relating to resources of a specific nature to the project. This is by negotiation with the British Council and is not likely to include purchase of equipment. Software may be eligible but only when approved in advance by British Council and will depend on the rationale and clear written justification.
* All of the above activities must be directly related to the development and delivery of

the agreed project. Partners will be asked to complete expenditure information and

provide evidence with receipts to British Council for monitoring and auditing purposes.

The following items of expenditure will **not** be covered by the grant award:

* Participation in trade fairs, exhibitions or conferences.
* Promotional activities which are solely concerned with the recruitment of

overseas students.

* Costs relating to activities which have already taken place at the outset of

the project.

* Costs relating to capital spend (e.g. hardware, software – see note above re

possible software expenditure).

* 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.
* 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 to be charged during the period of this grant funding.

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Any expenses incurred by the institutions prior to the start date on the Grant Agreement cannot be charged to the grant. The British Council Grant Agreement will be signed with the Lead Applicant in the UK, who is then wholly responsible for the financial and logistical administration of the project (including the organisation of visits to / from the UK, and the disbursement of any funds required for participating institutions).