

RESEARCHER LINKS

WORKSHOP GUIDELINES

Overview

This element of Researcher Links is designed to provide financial support to bring together a UK/partner country bilateral cohort of early career researchers to take part in a workshop focusing on building links for future collaboration and enhancing the researchers' career opportunities. Workshops will be coordinated by two leading researchers¹, one from each country, and will focus on either a specific research area or an interdisciplinary theme (for example 'Sustainable Cities'). The workshop coordinators can identify up to four other leading or well-established researchers to be involved in the workshop, to act as mentors, but the remaining participants must be researchers at an earlier stage in their career. Proposals will be accepted in any discipline/multidisciplinary area including from the natural sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities, but some countries may have specified areas which will be prioritized in the final selection process (see Annex 1). The British Council will co-fund the workshops with partner country funders.

Guidelines

1. Who should propose a workshop?

Leading Researchers¹ should apply to be workshop coordinators and propose a theme for the workshop using the application form. It must be a joint application, with one coordinator based at a UK institution and one based in the partner country. The applicants can be of any nationality.

2. Location of the workshop

The workshops will take place outside the UK, in the partner country. The current list of countries inviting proposals for workshops is:

Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam.

Subsequent calls may have different partner countries involved.

3. Timing of the workshop

Workshops should take place before the end of March 2014.

4. Who will take part in the workshops?

¹ For an indication of profiles for the different types of participants we suggest applicants refer to the document 'Towards a European framework for research careers' (http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/pdf/research_policies/Towards_a_European_Framework_for_Research_Careers_final.pdf). According to the categories in this document we would suggest that the coordinators and mentors should be at 'R4 – Leading Researcher' level or 'R3 – Established Researcher' level, and the early career participants at 'R2 – Recognized Researcher' or at the beginning of R3 level.

Up to 20 researchers from each country can take part in each workshop. The workshop will be led by the two coordinators, one from the UK and one from the partner country. In addition the coordinators can propose up to two additional leading/established researchers from each country to act as mentors. The remaining – and majority – of workshop places will be for early career researchers, who will only be selected once the proposal is successful. We would expect early career researchers to have been awarded their PhD not more than 10 years prior to the workshop, but allowances can be made for career breaks.

Role of the Workshop Coordinators: These submit the application form and will determine the theme and shape the content of the workshop. They can propose up to four other leading/established researchers to be involved in the workshop as mentors. Workshop coordinators will also be responsible for selecting early career researchers to participate in the workshop if the proposal is successful.

Role of the Mentors: These can give keynote lectures but should also act as mentors to the early career researchers during the workshop, sharing their experience and knowledge. Ideally they would also remain in contact with the early career researchers after the workshop has finished, in order to share networks and contacts.

5. Language

Workshops will be held in English. Although it is expected that all participants will have a high enough standard of English to engage fully in discussion, consideration should be given to the non-native speakers and allowances made where necessary to ensure equal opportunity of participation. In some cases this could include having translators at the workshop.

6. Theme of the workshop

The workshops may be specific to a particular field of research or interdisciplinary in nature. If the workshop is interdisciplinary, please indicate this on the application form by ticking more than one assessment panel as instructed. All fields of research are covered, except where partner countries have indicated priority areas, as specified in Annex 1.

7. Content of the workshop

The workshop coordinators will be expected to lead on the research content of the workshops. However, as workshops are intended to be a career development opportunity with a focus on promoting international collaboration, there will be an expectation that the workshops follow set guidelines to facilitate this. In most cases the workshops will be organised by the British Council offices in country, with input from the coordinator on the content, but in some circumstances we can consider disbursing the funds to a host institution. If this is the case, the workshop guidelines will still need to be adhered to, and a budget will be agreed after a proposal has been successfully selected.

Brief workshop guidelines (more detailed support will be available to successful applicants)

Sessions should be designed to be as interactive as possible with participants encouraged to share knowledge, experience and ideas. Workshop coordinators and mentors should share their expertise. A professional facilitator may be used during the workshop if it is felt that this will support optimal interaction.

Suggested sessions

- Formal keynote lectures by the workshop coordinators and mentors
- Research sessions, where the early career researchers are able to share their current research (could be in poster format, or oral presentations)
- Networking sessions, where researchers are able to interact and explore opportunities for collaboration (e.g. speed-networking sessions)

- Overview of the research base and funding opportunities: a brief introduction to the research base in the UK and partner country – how it is funded, size, strengths, international collaborative activity, links with industry. The British Council and national partners will provide summary slides on funding sources which can be supplemented by the workshop coordinators if required.
- Career development in the UK and partner country (This could be an informal discussion amongst the researchers or a more structured look at career development)
- How to form international collaborations (intercultural skills, challenges, opportunities, best practice etc). British Council will provide materials for this session.

Optional content within workshops (where appropriate these sessions would be welcomed but applications will not be disadvantaged if they do not include them)

- Depending on the research field or theme of the workshop, co-ordinators may wish to include a session which invites industrial or other non-academic partners to talk about cross-sectoral collaboration.
- Public engagement activity
- Cultural activity
- Visit to a relevant research facility

8. Organisation of the workshop

In the majority of cases the British Council will organise the workshops, but in some instances the funding may be given directly to the host institution. The budget will be negotiated separately in these cases but for your information the grant will support the following costs:

- International (economy return) airfares for up to 20 researchers (including workshop coordinators and mentors) from the UK to travel to the partner country and back
- Local travel costs for attendees
- Accommodation for all external attendees for up to 5 nights
- Organisational support, including venue hire/meeting rooms and audio visual equipment and meals
- A trained facilitator if required
- Translation costs if necessary and approved
- Dissemination costs (e.g. workshop report)
- Other expenses may be negotiated

9. Recruitment of participants

After the selection process, successful workshop coordinators will be responsible for recruiting participants to the workshops. Early career researchers recruited to participate in the workshop must have a PhD or equivalent research experience. No more than a third of the early career researchers from each country may be recruited from the institutions of the coordinators and mentors. There must be an open call for participants, and this must be disseminated through various defined channels² (British Council will support the dissemination) and coordinators are

² Examples of dissemination channels

- Euraxess: www.euraxess.org.uk
- UK Research Staff Association: <http://www.vitae.ac.uk/researchers/205761/UK-Research-Staff-Association.html>
- British Institute at Ankara website: <http://www.biaa.ac.uk/home/>
- British Academy Africa Desk: <http://www.africadesk.ac.uk/pages/home/>

encouraged to identify and employ additional avenues of communication so that the workshops are advertised as widely as possible. The selection of early career researchers to participate in the workshop will be undertaken by the coordinators and must be fair and transparent. The British Council will provide a template application form which co-ordinators can adapt as appropriate, and British Council in-country teams will be available to offer advice where necessary.

Partner country participants will need to demonstrate a sufficient standard of English to participate in the workshops, unless translation is provided.

Equal opportunities and diversity are at the heart of the British Council's cultural relations ambitions. While recognising that some research fields are dominated by one particular gender, co-ordinators are encouraged to work towards as equal a gender balance as is possible, promote diversity, and ensure that no applicants are excluded from participation on the basis of ethnicity, gender, religious belief, sexual orientation, or disability.

10. Sustainability

The aim of the workshops is to stimulate longer term links between the UK and partner countries, as well as to contribute to the personal and professional development of the participants. Workshop coordinators should indicate how they envisage this occurring, including any plans for long term mentoring of early career researchers (either within each country, or cross-nationally).

11. Outputs and longer term benefit

Coordinators should outline the specific outputs planned from the workshop. They should also explore any potential longer-term benefit that might arise, thinking about who might benefit and how they might benefit, describing the actions that will be taken to ensure that potential impact is realised.

12. Selection Process

There will be a two-step selection process, with independent UK selection panels giving recommendations to the British Council office in the partner country, who will make the final decision in discussion with the national funding partner. For some countries this may be based on national research priorities, which can be found in Annex 1

Applicants should indicate which selection panel their proposal should be assessed by; in the case of interdisciplinary research, more than one panel can be selected.

Successful applicants will be notified approximately eight weeks after the call deadline.

13. Call Deadline: 14th July 2013

Annex 1 Country list

Azerbaijan

All research areas covered

Enquiries to: akbar.dashdamirov@britishcouncil.az

Bangladesh

All research areas covered

Enquiries to: robin.davies@bd.britishcouncil.org

Brazil

Only researchers in Sao Paulo State are eligible co-applicants.

Priority areas : *To be confirmed before Wed 19th June*

Enquiries to: Aliandra.barlete@britishcouncil.org.br

Colombia

In partnership with **Colciencias**.

Priority areas: Climate Change, Nanoproduction, Biotechnology (pharmaceutical), Renewable Energy Sources, Agriculture, Tropical Botany, Environmental Sanitation, Technology Management and Innovation, Ecology, Transportation and logistics, Humanities and Social Sciences

Enquiries to: Aida.Salamanca@britishcouncil.org.co

Egypt

Priority areas: renewable energy, with an emphasis on solar and wind; water, including desalination; irrigation and groundwater management; food and agriculture; health, including hepatitis C, cancer and obesity; information technology; space; socioeconomic goals such as increasing science in the classroom.

Enquiries to: sahar.khamis@britishcouncil.org.eg

Indonesia

All research areas covered

Enquiries to: steve.buckle@britishcouncil.or.id

Kazakhstan

In partnership with the **Science Committee of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan** and the **National Centre for State Scientific Technical Expertise**.

Priority areas: Energy; Extraction and Processing of Raw Materials; Information and Communication Technologies; Biochemistry, biotechnology and medical sciences; Fundamental research in natural sciences, politics, economics, and humanities.

Enquiries to: Assel.Mussagaliyeva@kz.britishcouncil.org

Mexico

In partnership with **CONACyT**.

Priority areas: Nanosciences and nanotechnology for advanced manufacturing (automotive / aeronautics); Biotechnology for agriculture, food industry and health; Health Care Sciences and Technology; Assessment of Research (Assessment of projects, programmes and processes in Science, Social Sciences and Technology)

Secondary areas: It is also possible to propose workshops in the following areas, but these are lower priority (except where there is some overlap or connection to priority areas): Water; Bar Code of Life; Complexity Science and Society; Physics of High Energies; Energy Sources; Environment and Sustainability; Nanosciences and Nanotechnology; New Trends in Medicine; Foods, Agriculture and Biotechnology; Information Technologies; Mathematical and Computational Models; Ecosystems; Poverty and Urban Development; Mexican Network on Soft Condensed Matter; Ageing, Health and Social Development; Robotics and Mechatronics; Hydrometeorology and Climate Disasters; Ethnoecology and Biocultural Heritage; Scientific Research and Space Technology; Civil Society and Quality of Democracy

Additional guidelines for Mexico:

Early career researchers should have a approximately 5 years' experience after their PhD.

Workshops must include some interaction with industry and a visit to a relevant research facility

Workshops will have maximum of 15 participants per country

Enquiries to: MX_ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org

Morocco

In partnership with **CNRST**.

All research areas covered

Enquiries to: Ibtissame.Berrado@britishcouncil.org

Nigeria

All research areas covered.

Enquiries to: Brian.Wilson@britishcouncil.org

Qatar

All research areas covered

Enquiries to Yasemin.Koc@britishcouncil.org

Pakistan

In partnership with **Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC)**, **Pakistan Council for Science & Technology (PCST)**, and **Pakistan Science Foundation, (PSF)**.

All research areas covered.

Enquiries to: Sarah.Parvez@britishcouncil.org.pk

Russia

All research areas covered

Enquiries to: Igor.Isakov@britishcouncil.org

South Africa

All research areas covered

Enquiries to: Remo.Chipatiso@britishcouncil.org

South Korea

All research areas covered

Enquiries to: hyesun.kim@britishcouncil.or.kr

Thailand

In partnership with **Thailand Research Fund (TRF)**.

Priority areas: Environmental and biological sciences; Humanities and Social Sciences; Technology transfer

Enquiries to: Uraiwan.Samolee@britishcouncil.or.th

Turkey

Priority areas: *To be confirmed before Wed 19th June*

Enquiries to: Yavuz.Yilmazoglu@britishcouncil.org.tr

Vietnam

In partnership with **HCMC University of Medicine and Pharmacy**, and **Nam Duoc Company**

Priority areas: Biosciences and Pharmacy

Enquiries to: Giang.Nguyen@britishcouncil.org.vn