

**Going Global Partnerships**

# **Guidance Notes**

**Researcher Challenges**

July 2024

Call launch date: 5 July 2024

Deadline for submitting proposals: 30 August 2024

# Grant call for Researcher Challenges

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# Countries: Iraq, Mexico, Morocco, Peru

## Going Global Partnerships

[Going Global Partnerships](#) supports universities, colleges and wider education stakeholders around the world to work together towards stronger, equitable, more inclusive and internationally connected higher education, science and TVET.

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](#).

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

# Call Name: Researcher Challenges

Maximum value of grant	£ 30,000
Number of grants expected to be funded in this call	At least one per country
Deadline for applications	30 August 2024 23:59 UK time
Contact for further information	goingglobalpartnerships-RCG@britishcouncil.org

## About the Grant call

### Researcher Challenges Grant Supporting Women's Resilience to Climate Change

#### Context

Climate change is the biggest intergenerational, human rights and equity issue of our time. It is exacerbating existing inequalities, creating new risks to humanity and undermining progress on gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Risks to marginalised populations, particularly women and girls, are amplified as they face multiple barriers that limit their ability to cope with the consequences of climate change impacts. According to the UN, about 80 percent of people displaced by climate change are women.

Despite facing the brunt of the impact of climate change, women are contributing to both climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts around the world by leading localised, innovative solutions and implementing initiatives to strengthen community resilience.<sup>1</sup>

The differential impact of climate change on women and men is further exacerbated in contexts affected by economic strife, political instability, and conflict, which leads to widening gender inequalities.

The critical link between climate change, gender equality and sustainable development needs to be recognised as well as women's crucial role in climate change adaptation and mitigation. Efforts are needed to ensure that women from different backgrounds can lead in policy discussions related to climate action and to participate equally in the design and implementation of initiatives.

#### The UK policy context

In 2023, the UK government released two important policy documents that are relevant:

- [The International women and girls strategy \(2023-2030\)](#) prioritises three 'Es' (1) Educating girls (2) Empowering women and girls (3) Ending violence. Specific references to climate change in the policy paper include:

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<sup>1</sup> Understanding Poverty: World Bank Overview: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/overview>

- Part 2, guiding principle 4 notes, *“We will act for and with women and girls impacted by crises and shocks, including conflict, global health, climate change, violence, food insecurity and malnutrition, and the resulting humanitarian crises. We will ensure that our support locks in safeguarding people and the environment to avoid unintentional harm.”*
- Goal 2: Lead by example. Women and girls at the centre of FCDO’s operations, and investment states, *“Commit to at least 80% of FCDO’s bilateral aid programmes having a focus on gender equality by 2030 (using OECD DAC markers). We will also increase the proportion of our International Climate Finance (ICF) that will be gender marked. We will strengthen our monitoring, collection, and use of disaggregated data in support of these commitments”* and *“Integrate gender and social inclusion objectives into our climate finance, programmes and strategies, enabling women and girls to be drivers of locally led adaptation and supporting their leadership in a just transition to a green, inclusive economy.”*
- White Paper on [‘International development in a contested world: ending extreme poverty and tackling climate change’](#), November 2023. This white paper sets out the UK’s plan to accelerate progress to eliminate extreme poverty, and address climate change and biodiversity loss. On gender equality, the policy notes:
  - Gender equality as a key priority: *(1) ensuring opportunities for all, putting women and girls centre stage and investing in education and health systems that societies want (2) standing up for our values, for open inclusive societies, for women and girls, and preventing roll-back of rights*
  - Chapter 5, point 5.13 *“Effective action on climate change and nature requires the inclusion of indigenous communities, as well as women and girls. These groups are vital to driving locally-led adaptation and internationally a just transition <sup>2</sup> to a green, inclusive economy”*

## Background

Researcher Links Climate Challenges (RLCC) Grant was one of many activities we delivered in the run up to COP26, which took place in Glasgow in November 2021. The overall aim was to harness the power of people all over the world to connect and collaborate through culture and education to combat climate change, with a particular focus on young people and those most vulnerable to these effects.

Complex problems such as climate change cannot be addressed from the perspective of one discipline alone. The RLCC grants supported research workshops for participants from the UK and partner countries, to develop innovative solutions to development challenges related to climate change. This call builds on our experience of combining workshops with early career prizes to encourage longer term, sustainable collaborations toward shared research and engagement activities.

## Themes

In recognition of the urgent need for gender transformative climate action and to support the agenda by strengthening pathways for inclusion of women and girls in climate action and policy initiatives, the theme of the current Researcher Challenges grant is ‘Supporting Women’s Resilience to Climate Change’. Some focus areas for grants are suggested below, though the list is not exhaustive:

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- Solutions that benefit women
- Role of women in climate change planning/decision making
- Empowering/upskilling women for climate change adaptation
- Women and the green net zero economy

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<sup>2</sup> A Just Transition means greening the economy in a way that is as fair and inclusive as possible to everyone concerned, creating decent work opportunities and leaving no one behind. (ILO FAQs accessed 27 Nov. 23)

## Objectives

- Establishing of new networks and collaborations bringing together various backgrounds and disciplines.
- Strengthening the voices of early-career researchers in the climate change community.
- Developing relevant research around women's resilience to climate change.
- Generating innovative ideas for businesses to support women's resilience to climate change.
- Enhancing capacity of early career researchers, with a specific focus on women and climate change.

## Project model

We will support the delivery of one virtual workshop of 3-5 days total duration, organised jointly by the UK and overseas partner institution (in each participating country) bringing together up to 46 participants of early career researchers, principal researchers and mentors to work on challenges caused by climate change for women. Researchers from the UK and partner country from a wide range of disciplines will come together in these workshops, to discuss issues of particular importance for the partner country. The transdisciplinary nature of the workshops make for a unique opportunity to build a richer, fuller picture of the topics.

Each workshop will be co-ordinated by two Leading or Established Researchers (Principal Applicants), one from each country. Principal Applicants can identify up to four additional Leading or Established Researchers (two from each country) to be involved in the workshop and act as mentors, but the remaining participants must be researchers at an earlier stage in their career (either recognised or early-stage established researchers). It is highly recommended that at least one Leading or Established Researcher involved should come from a social science, arts or humanities field and at least one from a science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) field, to encourage interdisciplinary dialogue. Principal Applicants should also identify a digital workshop facilitator and technical support for the workshop.

See table below for the composition of workshop participants:

<b>Participants</b>	<b>UK</b>	<b>Partner country</b>
<b>Principal Applicants</b>	1	1
<b>Leading/Established Researchers or mentors</b>	Maximum 2	Maximum 2
<b>Participants</b>	Maximum 20	Maximum 20

Workshop places must be allocated to early career researchers through an open call once the British Council has notified the applicants that their proposal has been successful. Early career researchers must not hold or have yet held a permanent academic post with a research related element to the role since the completion of their PhD. Career breaks or time spent outside academic or research settings will not affect consideration of career stage. If a researcher does not hold a PhD but has research experience equivalent to a PhD holder and works in a field where a PhD is not a prerequisite for established research activity, they can still be considered eligible. Participants from for-profit organisations cannot be funded.

During the workshops, early career researchers will form teams and submit proposals to secure small enabling grants. They will together work on projects that will contribute to the development of solutions to challenges posed for women by climate change.

**Role of the Principal Applicants:** Principal Applicants submit the online application form along with a budget request, determine the workshop theme, shape the content/agenda of the workshop and the challenge prizes. Principal Applicants will also be responsible for selecting early career researchers to participate in the workshop and disbursing and overseeing the challenge prizes from the overall grant.

Principal Applicants will be responsible for all organisational aspects of the virtual workshop. Principal Applicants are encouraged to recruit online facilitators to support the delivery of the workshop.

The grant agreement will be signed by the UK Principal Applicant's home institution which will be responsible for the management of the grant (including financial reporting).

**Role of the Mentors:** Established Researchers can give a limited number of keynote lectures but must also act as mentors to the early career researchers during the workshop and for the Challenge Prizes. Ideally, they would also remain in contact with the early career researchers after the workshop has finished and mentor the early career researchers who have been awarded the Challenge Prizes.

## Workshop Content

Principal Applicants are expected to lead on developing the research content of the workshops. Workshops are intended to be a career development opportunity for early career researchers with a focus on promoting international collaboration.

Sessions should be as interactive as possible given the consideration and restriction of online platforms, and all participants encouraged to share knowledge, experience and ideas. Principal Applicants and mentors should share their expertise.

Suggested sessions:

- Formal keynote lectures by the Principal Applicants and mentors. These must take up no more than a half day in total (ideally spread over the workshop).
- Research sessions where the early career researchers are able to share their current research.
- Networking sessions where researchers are able to interact and explore opportunities for collaboration (e.g. speed networking sessions, breakout groups).
- Involvement of non academic stakeholders: Principal Applicants should include a session with non-academic stakeholders such as NGOs, underrepresented groups (e.g. indigenous communities), industry representatives, policy makers, community leaders, women's organisations, activists or other individuals or groups who might be able to provide new perspectives or additional input into the research.
- Overview of the research base and funding opportunities: a brief introduction to the research base in the UK and partner country – how research is funded, size, strengths, international collaborative activity and links with industry.
- Career development opportunities in the UK and partner country. This could be an informal discussion amongst the researchers or a more structured look at career development.

## Recruitment of participants

Following the selection process, successful Principal Applicants will be responsible for recruiting participants to the workshops. Participants must be based in the UK and in the partner country.

Early career researchers recruited to participate in the workshop must have a PhD or equivalent research experience. There must be an open call for participants which must be disseminated through various defined channels<sup>3</sup> (so that workshops are advertised as widely as possible). No more than a third of early career researchers from each country may be recruited from within the institutions of the Principal Applicants and mentors.

The selection of early career researchers to participate in the workshop must be fair and transparent. To ensure interdisciplinarity, we highly encourage the recruitment of participants from different disciplines including the arts, social sciences and humanities.

The maximum number of participants per workshop is 46 (including Principal Applicants, mentors and ECRs).

Equality diversity and inclusion are at the heart of the British Council's cultural relations work. Principal Applicants are encouraged to work towards as equal a gender balance as possible, promote diversity, and ensure that no applicants are excluded from participation on the basis of ethnicity, gender, religious belief, sexual orientation or disability.

## **Challenge Prizes**

Principal Applicants are expected to plan and design the Challenge Prizes including selection process and monitoring and evaluation for the prizes with advice from the British Council, if appropriate. Applicants and mentors cannot apply for the Challenge Prizes and/or use the prizes for their own research activities. Principal Applicants are responsible for managing the grant overall including the Challenge Prizes and communicating with the prize winners on the reporting requirements once the grants are disbursed. The Challenge Prizes must be awarded within 30 days after the workshop and the prize winners must complete all activities by 31 December 2025.

The selection process must include the following criteria:

- Project must be ODA-eligible (support economic development or welfare in partner country).
- The proposed work should tackle an existing problem caused by climate change for women.
- Demonstrate how the project will generate positive development-related impact in the next 10 years.
- Establish collaboration between ECRs from the UK and from the partner country.

## **Communication, promotion and publicity**

Principal Applicants are expected to plan the communication and promotion of the activities and share the results and outcomes of the project with external stakeholders where appropriate. Branding guidelines will be shared along with the grant agreement.

Additionally, they should keep the British Council local office updated regarding all programme activities and changes, this could be through periodic meetings. This will be agreed at the start of the project.

## **Project duration**

12 months

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<sup>3</sup> Examples of dissemination channels: Euraxess: <https://www.euraxess.org.uk/>; UK Research Staff Association: <https://www.vitae.ac.uk/doing-research/research-staff/uk-research-staff-association>; British Academy Africa Desk: <http://www.africadesk.ac.uk/pages/home/>



## **Showcase event**

A virtual dissemination event may be organised at the end of the project by the British Council, to provide a platform to project teams to present their work to a wider audience including other project teams. This would further increase their visibility and opportunities to collaborate with others. British Council will discuss the possibility of such an event with the grantees in the last quarter of the project's term.

Grantees may also be invited to present their work plan at British Council events during the project duration, to support their visibility and engagement with the network.

# Eligibility criteria for Institutions

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

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	Y/N
<p>Each proposal must have both:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least one Lead institution from ONE of these countries - Iraq, Mexico, Morocco, Peru</li> <li>• One Lead institution from the UK</li> <li>• The proposal must be prepared jointly by leads from both institutions but submitted by the Lead from the UK Institution,</li> </ul>	
<p>UK Lead institution must be one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher Education provider with <a href="#">degree awarding powers</a>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ England - Check the 'awarding degrees' drop down section on the specific provider's entry on the <a href="#">OFS register</a>. The OFS register lists all institutions which offer UK degrees, not all of which have degree awarding powers.</li> <li>○ Northern Ireland – <a href="https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/universities-and-colleges-northern-ireland">https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/universities-and-colleges-northern-ireland</a></li> <li>○ Scotland – <a href="https://www.gov.scot/policies/universities/">https://www.gov.scot/policies/universities/</a></li> <li>○ Wales – <a href="https://www.gov.uk/check-university-award-degree/recognised-bodies-wales">https://www.gov.uk/check-university-award-degree/recognised-bodies-wales</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Not-for-profit research institutions, establishment and organisations. (See <b>Annex 1</b> for a complete list of these).</li> </ul>	
<p>Overseas lead institution must be one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher Education provider, as locally defined</li> <li>• Not-for-profit research institutions, establishment and organisations, as locally defined</li> </ul>	
<p>The Lead institution in the overseas country must have the capacity to administer the grant. They need to submit a support letter to confirm their capacity and capacity must be confirmed in the support letter.</p>	
<p>The partnership can include in their proposals Associated Partners (from both the overseas county and the UK) affiliated with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher Education providers</li> <li>• Not-for-profit research institutions, establishment and organisations</li> <li>• TVET/FE providers</li> <li>• Other education organisations/charities/foundations/membership bodies</li> <li>• Not-for-profit organisations, including Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)</li> <li>• For-profit/commercial organisations, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs)</li> <li>• Branch and satellite campuses of UK Higher Education providers</li> <li>• Government organisations</li> <li>• Employer organisations and industry bodies</li> <li>• Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Social Enterprise organisations</li> </ul>	
<p>For-profit non-education organisations are not eligible to receive any grant funds, except to cover travel-associated costs. The proposal must clearly define their contribution to achieving call objectives.</p>	

Please send an enquiry to 'goingglobalpartnerships-RCG@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.

## Funding

Researcher Challenges Grant expects to support at least one project per country, up to £ 30,000 in value each, for a 12-month period, starting from January 2025.

Funds will be disbursed directly to the Contracting Institution from the UK according to the approved final budget. Applicants may be asked to adjust their budget if their request does not fit within funding guidelines or if this is considered not appropriate by the application reviewers.

For an equitable partnership, the Contracting Institution should be able to timely transfer funding to the partnering institution(s) from overseas for activities which support the objectives of the collaboration and the overall project, allowing activities implementation to be implemented without delay.

Principal Applicants are expected to add a contribution in-kind towards the overall cost of the workshop by dedicating their time to the planning and delivery of the workshops.

## 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>

## 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). 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-RCG@britishcouncil.org](mailto:goingglobalpartnerships-RCG@britishcouncil.org)), if you have any queries about the environmental impact section.

## 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 partners in the UK and overseas countries, in order to assist with evaluation and management of the application process. We may share selected non personal data with agencies responsible for monitoring and evaluation of the Researcher Challenges 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.

# Application Process and Documentation

All applications should be sent to : [goingglobalpartnerships-RCG@britishcouncil.org](mailto:goingglobalpartnerships-RCG@britishcouncil.org)

The deadline for applications is 23:59 UK time on 30 August 2024 – we recommend that you application early on to avoid any last-minute technical glitches.

Due to the volume of applications, we receive, any application received after this deadline will be considered **ineligible**.

Ensure you have included all of the documentation listed in the Pre-submission Checklist as applications will be immediately ineligible if incomplete.

Applicants must ensure that applications and supporting documents are sent as attachments. Links to Google Drive or shared folder will not be accepted.

## Application Form

Applications must only be submitted using the application form supplied within the Grant Call Documentation. Word limits must be followed, and text over the word limits will not be read.

## Gender and EDI Statements

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.

- Budget
- Risk
- Measures taken to facilitate the participation of people from different genders

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)?
- At what stage of the gender journey will the project start, and where you aim to be at the end of it.

#### Guidance - Gender Assessment classification:

Gender Assessment	Descriptors
<b>Gender blind / unaware</b>	The specific issues affecting women are not identified at project design stage. They may only refer to issues affecting 'people,' 'communities,' 'youth,' 'audiences' etc., rather than breaking these groups down by sex. There is <i>no gender analysis</i> of the wider context and it is not clear how women, girls, men and boys are differently affected by a particular issue.
<b>Gender neutral</b>	The differential needs of women and men are identified in the project documents or by stakeholders but are <i>not addressed</i> in the project activities.
<b>Gender sensitive</b>	A robust gender analysis has been undertaken to understand the different barriers facing women, girls, men and boys using sex-disaggregated data. Specific solutions to address the needs and concerns of women and girls are included in the project activities and outcomes. Activities focus on women's practical needs to improve their <i>condition</i> in their everyday lives.
<b>Gender transformative</b>	There is an attempt to challenge the root causes of gender discrimination by, for example, addressing discriminatory gender norms, stereotypes and unequal power relationships between the sexes. Activities might focus on more strategic needs that improve the <i>position</i> of women and girls in society.

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

Applicants are encouraged to check the [“Guide to addressing gender equality”](#) document.

British Council reserve the right to reject the application if inadequate consideration has been given to gender equality or if the proposal is assessed to result in a negative impact for gender equality.

## Budget Sheet

Budgets must only be submitted using the Budget Sheet supplied within the Grant Call Documentation

A list of Eligible and Ineligible costs can be found in Annex 2.

### Section 1 – Human Resource/Staff Costs

- There is a cap set at 30% of the total grant staff costs. .
- List all Contracting and Partnering institution staff working on the project
  - “Permanent” Staff is defined as staff in full time academic posts, that may be contributing time either budgeted or in-kind to the implementation of the project.
  - “Project” Staff is defined as staff employed directly on or by the project, who may be in part time or fixed term roles, such as technical staff or postdoctoral research assistants.
- The number of units multiplied by the unit rate will populate Column H. In Column I confirm how much of this total is it intended be covered by the grant. Be clear how any residual costs will be covered if not entirely by the grant.
- If the entire cost is not being covered by the Grant, a residual amount will populate in Column J, and you will explain how this amount is being covered in Column K.
- In Column M you confirm how staff costs are monitored/controlled for Audit purposes.

### Section 2 – Expertise Costs

Sometimes Grant applicants wish to budget for non-institutional Staff costs (e.g. Consultants, Industry experts, advisors, Associate partners etc.). These costs included in Section 2.

- There is a cap set at 20% of the total grant being applied for
- The number of units multiplied by the unit rate will populate Column H. In Column I confirm how much of this total is it intended be covered by the grant. Be clear how any residual costs will be covered if not entirely by the grant.
- If the entire cost is not being covered by the Grant, a residual amount will populate in Column J, and you will explain how this amount is being covered in Column K
- In Column M you confirm how staff costs are monitored/controlled for Audit purposes

### Section 3 – International Travel and Subsistence

- There is a cap set at 20% of the total grant being applied for
- Supply details of approximate costs/allocation for your travel and subsistence costs. Be clear how any residual costs will be covered if not entirely by the grant.
- Read Annex 2 for guidance on permitted costs
- As per sections 1 and 2 – clarify what portion of these costs is it intended be covered by the grant and how any residual costs are to be funded

## Section 4 – Operational and Activity Costs

- In section 4 you can give the approximate costs/allocation you intend to use for specific activities such as virtual workshop and Challenges Prizes. Be clear how any residual costs will be covered if not entirely by the grant.
- Read Annex 2 for guidance on permitted costs
- Domestic travel associated with the activities should be accounted for in this section
- As per sections 1, 2 and 3– clarify what portion of these costs is it intended be covered by the grant and how any residual costs are to be funded

## Section 5 – Marketing and Communication Costs

- In section 5 you can give the approximate costs/allocation you intend to use for any Marketing and Communications aspects of your proposal. Be clear how any residual costs will be covered if not entirely by the grant.
- Read Annex 2 for guidance on permitted costs
- As per the previous sections– clarify what portion of these costs is it intended be covered by the grant and how any residual costs are to be funded

## Section 6 – Miscellaneous and Additional Costs

- In section 6 you can give the approximate costs/allocation you intend to use for any elements not covered in sections 1-5. Be clear how any residual costs will be covered if not entirely by the grant.
- Read Annex 2 for guidance on permitted costs
- Typically applicants use this section to show administrative costs e.g. international bank transfer costs associated with grant disbursements to partners etc

## Budget Summary

After Section 6 a summary of the sections above will self-populate.

Column I shows a section by section summary of the costs you have indicated will be covered by your grant if you application is successful.

Column J will flag any issues. If for sections 1-3 the box turns **green** and displays “This is within the funding rules” then no action is required.

If however, the box turns **red** it will give a message to highlight what the issue is e.g. “This is outside the 30% funding rules” or “This is outside the 20% funding rules” and you must return to the appropriate section and revisit your proposed budget.

Any budget sheet submitted that contains red warnings will be returned and may jeopardise your application.

The last row of the Budget Sheet will show in Column G, the grant amount you are applying for and in Column I the total budget you are intending to submit.



- If your planned budget exceeds the grant you are applying for you will see a warning message stating, “Your budget exceeds the grant you have requested – please review your budget before submitting”
  - You cannot budget for more than the value of the grant and if your budget sheet is submitted with this warning it will be returned and may jeopardise your application
- If your planned budget is lower than the grant you are applying for you will see a warning message stating, “Your planned budget is less than the grant you have requested – do you need to review your budget to ensure everything has been included”
  - If this is the case you could either revisit the grant you are claiming and reduce it to your planned budget; or revisit your budget to ensure you haven’t miscalculated
  - If you submit your application with this message your application will still be considered – but on the basis of your proposed budget and not the grant figure so please ensure you are happy that you have not missed anything.

## Selection Process

- All applications received by the deadline will be logged and acknowledged – if you have not received an acknowledgement within seven days please check your spam folder for messages from ‘goingglobalpartnerships-RCG@britishcouncil.org’. If you have not received any acknowledgement of receipt of application please contact us with details.
- Applications will be reviewed for completeness – if we do not have everything requested in the Pre-submission Checklist your application will be declared ineligible and not proceed to next stage. We receive large volume of applications so will not be able to notify you at this stage.
- Applications will be assessed on the basis of the assessment criteria specified below
- Top ranked applications will be selected and will be notified about their selection for contracting and disbursement of grants
- Unsuccessful applications will be notified at a later stage. You can ask for a feedback to your application by writing to goingglobalpartnerships-RCG@britishcouncil.org

## Assessment Criteria

<b>Project team</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Scoring Guide</b>
The Lead Applicants have knowledge and understanding of gender based climate change issues, and sufficient relevant experience to lead the proposed project and achieve the stated objectives	10	Meets all criteria to an exceptional level: 10 points Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level: 7 points Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level: 5 points Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level: 3 points Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level: 0 points
<b>Quality, relevance and budget</b>		
The proposed activities clearly meet the overseas country’s priorities as listed in national policy documents and/or based on relevant research.	30	Meets all criteria to an exceptional level: 30 points Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level: 22 points

<p>The academic importance and timeliness of the proposed project is clearly demonstrated.</p> <p>The budget requested is in line with the guidance provided in the call document and the cost amounts are necessary and reasonable.</p>		<p>Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level: 16 points Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level: 8 points Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level: 0 points</p>
<b>Workshop design</b>		
<p>The description of the workshop includes clear, feasible and realistic objectives and outputs.</p> <p>There is clear evidence that the proposed workshop supports new links or significantly extends and develops existing links.</p> <p>The benefits and relevance of the collaboration to the UK and partner country institution, and to the research itself, are clearly described.</p> <p>The workshop is justified as a standalone activity, or as part of a larger programme.</p> <p>The agenda of the workshop is well structured with interactive sessions.</p> <p>The workshop proposals takes interdisciplinary collaboration into account.</p> <p>Non-academic stakeholders will be integrated in the workshop.</p>	30	<p>Meets all criteria to an exceptional level: 30 points Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level: 22 points Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level: 16 points Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level: 8 points Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level: 0 points</p>
<b>Project delivery and management</b>		
<p>The description of the project includes clear, feasible and realistic objectives and outputs.</p> <p>The timelines are realistic and there is an effective monitoring, evaluation and learning framework in place.</p> <p>Risks and any mitigation strategies have been clearly defined.</p> <p>The proposal includes a plan for stakeholder engagement and dissemination plan for the findings/outcomes of the proposed activities.</p>	20	<p>Meets all criteria to an exceptional level: 20 points Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level: 15 points Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level: 10 points Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level: 5 points Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level: 0 points</p>
<b>Sustainability and long term impact</b>		
<p>The potential of professional development and capacity building of early career researchers is clearly described.</p> <p>The proposal includes a clear and feasible description of how the Principal Applicants' institutions intend to sustain their collaboration over the longer term. The proposal contains potential for long term impact with a clear sustainability plan.</p>	10	<p>Meets all criteria to an exceptional level: 10 points Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level: 7 points Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level: 5 points Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level: 3 points Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level: 0 points</p>

# Key Milestones

Expected key timelines are given below:

Activities	Dates
Call for applications opens	5 July 2024
Deadline to ask clarification questions	5 August 2024
Deadline for submitting proposals	30 August 2024
Selection decision	By end October 2024
Announcement of results	End October/ Early November 2024
Contract agreement signing (subject to due diligence procedures) and grant disbursement	November-December 2024
Recruitment of participants/ECRs for the workshops	Upon the announcement of results
Introductory meeting with British Council in-country staff, agreeing communication modes and frequency	After signing of the contract
Project delivery including virtual workshop, delivery of Challenges grant	Between January to December 2025
Interim report	Within 30 days after the workshop
Final report	Within 30 days after the prize winners complete all activities

Dates may change due to operational reasons.

# Pre-Submission Checklist

The application has been submitted by the applicant by the published deadline.	
The application is completed in full.	
The application form and supporting documents have been completed in English.	
Contracting institution is eligible (see Eligibility section).	
The applicants have included supporting letters from each of the Contracting and Partnering Institutions, on headed paper, signed by the Head of Department or other person with appropriate delegated authority, giving specific commitment to the project. Supporting letters must be in English, and not signed by Lead Applicant(s). As stated in these guidelines, soft copy of letters is acceptable.	

Lead applicants must have the capacity to administer the grant and satisfy British Council requirements to prevent bribery, fraud and professional misconduct. Applicants confirm that they comply with British Council requirements by responding to Pre-submission Confirmation in the application form.	
Applicants have submitted a detailed budget request using the budget spreadsheet provided with the grant call documents on our funding call page.	
Applicants have submitted a narrative bio outlining the relevant knowledge and experience of the Lead Applicants.	
Where relevant, Associated Partner letters have been included	
Human resource costs: Staff costs for personnel working directly on the grant funded project limited to 30% of the grant to be awarded.	
UK expertise costs: Limited to 20% of grant to be awarded.	
Travel costs: Limited to 20% of the grant.	

## 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 grantcall.

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.

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 Contracting Institution.
- The successful applicants will be expected to undertake activities in the UK and in the overseas countries 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 [goingglobalpartnerships-RCG@britishcouncil.org](mailto:goingglobalpartnerships-RCG@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.

## **Annex 1 – List of eligible not-for-profit research institutions, establishment, and organisations**

Please note that where organisations have both for-profit and not-for-profit arms, it must be clear that this grant is held and administered by the not-for-profit arm of the organisation

- Alan Turing Institute
- All NHS Trusts, hospitals, boards, primary care trusts and GP practices
- Animal and Plant Health Agency
- Anthony Nolan
- Armagh Observatory
- Babraham Institute
- BirdLife International
- British Film Institute
- British Institute of International and Comparative Law
- British Library
- British Museum
- British Trust for Ornithology
- Butterfly Conservation
- CABI (Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International)
- Cambridge Arctic Shelf Programme
- Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre
- Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult
- Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
- CERN
- Chatham House (Royal Institute of International Affairs)
- Culham Centre for Fusion Energy (part of UK Atomic Energy Authority)
- Defence Science and Technology Laboratory
- Diamond Light Source
- Earlham Institute
- Earthwatch Institute
- Environment Agency
- European Bioinformatics Institute
- European Synchrotron Radiation Facility
- Fera Ltd
- Forest Research
- Health and Safety Executive PSRE
- Health Data Research UK
- Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England
- Historic Environment Scotland
- Historic Royal Palaces
- HR Wallingford Group
- Imperial War Museum
- Institute for Fiscal Studies
- Institute of Development Studies
- Institute of Occupational Medicine
- International Institute for Environment and Development
- Isaac Newton Group

- John Innes Centre
- Joint Astronomy Centre
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
- London Institute for Mathematical Sciences
- Malaria Consortium (UK)
- Manufacturing Technology Centre
- Marine Biological Association
- Marine Scotland Science
- Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
- Moredun Research Institute
- MRC Harwell Institute
- MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology
- MRC London Institute of Medical Sciences
- Museum of London Archaeology
- National Archives
- National Centre for Social Research
- National Foundation for Educational Research
- National Gallery
- National Institute of Agricultural Botany
- National Institute of Economic and Social Research
- National Maritime Museum
- National Museum Wales
- National Museums Liverpool
- National Museums of Scotland
- National Nuclear Laboratory
- National Oceanography Centre
- National Physical Laboratory
- National Portrait Gallery
- Natural England
- Natural History Museum
- NERC British Antarctic Survey
- NERC British Geological Survey
- Nesta
- Office for National Statistics
- Overseas Development Institute
- Plymouth Marine Laboratory
- Public Health England
- Quadram Institute Bioscience
- RAND Europe Community Interest Company
- Rosalind Franklin Institute
- Rothamsted Research
- Royal Botanic Gardens – Edinburgh
- Royal Botanic Gardens – Kew
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies
- Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture.
- Science Museum Group
- Scottish Association for Marine Sciences

- Sightsavers
- STFC laboratories
- Tate
- Tavistock Institute of Human Relations
- The Faraday Institution
- The Francis Crick Institute
- The James Hutton Institute
- The Manufacturing Technology Centre Ltd
- The National Trust
- The Office of the Health Economics
- The Pirbright Institute
- The Resolution Foundation
- The Royal Shakespeare Company
- The Welding Institute
- Transport Research Laboratory
- UK Astronomy Technology Centre.
- UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
- Victoria and Albert Museum
- Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute
- World Conservation Monitoring Centre
- Young Foundation
- Zoological Society of London, Institute of Zoology.

If you believe your research organisation is eligible but is not on this list, please contact us via 'goingglobalpartnerships-RCG@britishcouncil.org' before submitting a proposal for this call.



## Annex 2 – Eligible and ineligible costs

### Eligible costs

The following costs are eligible for funding:

- Travel: Travel (economy class) and subsistence costs to the UK/partner country, visa fees, vaccinations, quarantine costs (not exceeding GBP800 per person for 14 days), medical insurance, and roaming charges during travel essential to the project, to the UK and partner country.
- 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 when visiting their partner organisation in the UK or overseas
- Reasonable hospitality costs (excluding self-entertaining costs).
- Reasonable production costs (such as for the development of materials but excluding time spent by staff in relation thereto).
- Consultancy fee (for external procurement and up to 30% of the total project costs).
- Essential equipment for use in the project including consumables, specialist software licences essential to the collaboration, access fees for facilities or library services. Equipment must be essential to project delivery and beyond the scope of institutional provision.
- Cost of meetings, training events, workshops, public engagement events, and seminars integral to the proposal. Translation and interpreter fees.
- Publication costs directly related to the collaboration, including web page development by external providers, if appropriate. Open access publication is encouraged.
- Online platform and relevant costs for digital delivery can be included.
- Attendance at conferences or other events in the UK, partner countries, or virtual events to present the outputs and outcomes of the project.
- Monitoring and evaluation costs.
- All the foregoing activities must be directly related to the development and delivery of the agreed project. Partners will be asked to provide the British Council with information on expenditure, supported by receipts for monitoring and auditing purposes.
- The cost of staff time for full-time personnel working directly on the project, plus the costs of temporary personnel and other temporary staff recruited to work solely on the project,

### Ineligible costs

The following costs are ineligible for funding:

- Full economic costs (FECs) (UK sector terminology).
- Promotional activities solely concerned with the recruitment of overseas students.
- Institutional overheads including administration fees and other indirect costs.
- Costs associated with Master's and PhD scholarships (including stipends).
- Purchase or rental of standard office equipment (except specialist equipment essential to the research). This includes IT hardware – laptops, personal computers, tablets, smartphones, Mac workstations, computer parts and peripherals, etc. Any standard hardware routinely used by researchers and academics will not be funded.
- Office software and office equipment including desks, chairs, filing cabinets, photocopiers, printers, and fax machines.
- Mobile phone costs including rental or purchase, and monthly phone bills.
- Exchange rate costs/losses and other banking-related costs.
- IP costs, patent, copyright, licensing, or other IP-related costs.

- 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. These can be detailed as an in-kind contribution in the budget breakdown.
- 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 must be charged to the grant.