

UK-China Outward Mobility Internationalisation Partnership Fund

Introduction

This year, we will officially launch the UK-China Outward Mobility Internationalisation Partnership Fund, as part of the Generation UK campaign. The aim of the internationalisation partnership fund is to support Chinese higher education institutions to develop their wider internationalisation strategies through their partnerships with UK universities, in line with China's Education Modernisation 2035 plan.

China has ambitious goals to internationalise its higher education sector, including a target of hosting over 200,000 international students a year by 2020. By enabling UK institutions to share their experience and expertise of hosting international students with their Chinese university partners, we hope to build the capacity of Chinese institutions for greater, improved outward mobility from the UK in line with that ambition. In the long term this is anticipated to lead to an increased flow of UK students studying or taking up mobility programmes in China as well as to support China's wider economic and social development.

Boosting the number of UK students with international experience is also a key priority for HMG, as reflected in the UK's Strategy for Outward Mobility and in alignment with the devolved administrations' China strategies. The Generation UK campaign directly supports this strategy and its goals of improved employability and international awareness.

The UK-China Outward Mobility Internationalisation Partnership Fund will offer funding for UK institutions to design and deliver programmes with their Chinese counterparts that support their internationalisation strategy and create more favourable conditions in the long-term for UK students in China.

About Generation UK

Generation UK is a flagship campaign that was launched by the British Council in 2013, which supports and encourages the outward mobility of UK students to China. It directly advances the UK government commitment to a Global Britain and is supported by all four UK administrations. It is one of the UK's largest outward mobility campaigns, beyond Europe.

The campaign aims to ensure that the UK has a generation of young people that will be able to drive forward the bilateral relationship with China. It represents a strategic investment in the UK's competitiveness, as well as in the social mobility, employability and language ability of the participants.

There are three core areas of priority:

- To promote favourable conditions for these young people to intern or study in China by working with the Chinese government and partners to support their internationalisation
- To raise awareness among a young generation in the UK of the opportunities to build their understanding of China through study and internships
- To provide specific funded opportunities for UK young people to study and intern in China through Generation UK branded programmes

In 2013, the Prime Minister set a target for the campaign of boosting the number of young people from the UK gaining experience in China to 80,000 by 2020. Since the launch of the campaign more than 55,000 young people from the UK participated in study, internship and teaching programmes

across China through both British Council programmes and wider initiatives. In 2018, approximately 15,000 young British nationals gained experience in China.

Strategic Objectives

The key objectives of this fund are to support China in its goals to achieve the ambitious targets set out in its higher education internationalisation strategy. Projects supported by the fund must contribute towards these strategic objectives, which can be achieved through the following activities and must align to both categories:

Primary Objectives

- support capacity building of Chinese institutions through workshops, training and learning development delivered by UK university/academic staff in China on topics related to internationalisation such as:
 - international student recruitment
 - marketing/promotion activities
 - student experience
 - pastoral care and well-being services
- Chinese staff visits to UK partners for academic study missions and job-shadowing in areas relevant to internationalisation
- Staff from UK universities sharing best practices with Chinese partner institutions through:
 - convening dialogues
 - forums and training workshops
 - report sharing

Secondary Objectives

- boosting outward student mobility to China through development of practical mobility programmes e.g. summer school programmes, faculty exchanges etc.
- diversifying the range of students gaining international experience in China, including those from lower socio-economic households, first-generation, underrepresented ethnic groups etc.

Funding Amount

For each project, funding of up to £30,000 will be awarded per institution covering the whole project duration. Projects in receipt of funding will be expected to start in late 2019 and can run until March 2021.

Funding Requirements

Proposals must meet the following operational requirements:

- Value for money:
Projects must achieve the best possible outcomes with the funding and resources available, while ensuring funding and resources are used effectively, economically and without waste.
- Deliverability:
Proposals must incorporate a credible delivery plan with realistic milestones for progressing the different elements of the project to completion on time and within budget. This will require a team with relevant skills and experience.
- Affordability and sustainability:
Project proposals must be affordable in relation to the overall funding available and be financially sustainable with benefits that can endure beyond the funding period.

- **Partnership:**
All project proposals must partner with at least 1 Chinese institution and must involve components supporting the internationalisation of the partner institution(s) (e.g. through academic study missions, job shadowing, workshops, forums etc). Partnerships should also involve the outward student mobility of a minimum 30 UK students to China. In addition, the project proposal must have sign off from the most senior representative of the bidding UK institution. (e.g.: Vice Chancellor, College Principals, President)
- **Monitoring and evaluation plan:**
Projects must have a clear monitoring and evaluation plan. The plan should explain what the key performance indicators are and how monitoring will be carried out. Tangible milestones should be set, with an explanation as to how they will be measured. A risk management plan should also be included.

Successful partnership bids to be steered and monitored by the British Council to ensure that they are closely aligned with both government priorities regarding China's internationalisation aims and mobility of UK students to China. Partnerships must demonstrate connections to the wider UK – China relationship and long-term engagement with China, that are sustainable and deliver impact.

Desired Outcomes

Projects must demonstrate the following outcomes:

- A range of best practice models that can be profiled and rolled out for other Chinese HE institutions to follow and learn from.
- A new wave of sustainable, well designed outward mobility programmes developed between UK and Chinese institutions, with clear and measurable learning outcomes and impact.

Projects must be able to demonstrate all of the following impacts:

- Creation of measurable and tangible impacts in the short term (within 1 year), in the medium term (1 - 3 years), and in the long term (3 years and beyond);
- Creation of real value to the UK and China countries with evidence-based results, such as increased numbers of international students, greater international influence, etc.
- Creation of benefits that apply to the wider higher education sector, such as by sharing international best practice.

Priority considerations will also be given to projects that can demonstrate:

- access to other sources of funding, including in-kind contributions that support the delivery of project outputs, such as fixed assets and staff, industry support;
- sustainability beyond the project period

Assessment Process

Project proposals will be assessed based on the information provided in the application form by a panel of both internal and external experts. Shortlisted applicants may be contacted for further information about their proposals. A final decision will be made by British Council China.

Proposals will be assessed as follows:

- Alignment with strategic objectives (30 per cent)
 - Proposals must show a clear understanding of and fully address the strategic objectives.
 - Proposals must demonstrate the ability to generate outcomes that are of benefit to China's higher education internationalisation ambitions
 - Proposals must explain clearly what kind of opportunities they will create for individuals and how this will be achieved.

- Potential to deliver target outcomes and impacts (40 per cent)
 - Proposals must clearly explain what the project will achieve and how this will contribute to creating opportunities for individuals and/or increasing collaboration between the UK and China more widely in outward mobility and internationalisation.
 - Proposals must propose a realistic action plan to achieve the target outcomes, with defined impacts that can be monitored and evaluated.
 - Proposals must demonstrate measurable, tangible and long-term sustainable impacts to the UK and China, and the wider international education sector.
 - Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate significant growth potential for the UK and China, innovative services and/or products, access to other sources of funding, and partnerships with Chinese organisations.

- Capacity to deliver on time and within budget (30 per cent)
 - Projects must be led by a team with the skills and experience necessary to successfully deliver the proposed work.
 - Proposals must have a clear budget plan that can be realistically executed.
 - Proposals must fully address the operational requirements.

After the results are announced, the British Council will sign agreements with the successful applicants. Funding will be administered after the agreements are signed and all funded applicants must submit a declaration confirming they have received the funds.

How to Apply

The UK-China Outward Mobility Internationalisation Partnership Fund is open to partnerships of UK organisations involved in international higher education, including education authorities, research organisations, awarding bodies, universities and colleges. Please complete the attached application form and email it along with all supporting documentation to gen.uk@britishcouncil.org.cn by **23:59 GMT on 9 September 2019**. For all queries, contact the British Council via the submission email above.

Timetable

Time	Activity
28 June – 9 Sept 2019	Call for proposals; submission deadline 9 September 2019
16 - 27 September 2019:	Assessment and shortlisting
w/c 14 October 2019:	Sign agreement with funded projects
w/c 21 October 2019:	Allocate grant funding
31 March 2020 – Feb 2021:	Project activity
March 2021:	Reporting and evaluation

Implementation

All funded projects must be implemented in accordance with the approved proposals and the agreement signed with the British Council. Any changes to the proposed activities must be approved by the British Council before going ahead. More detailed terms and conditions will be stipulated in each project agreement.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Funded projects will be expected to provide quarterly progress updates and annual achievement reports based on the milestones agreed at the time of approval. A project manager from the British Council will monitor all projects. A detailed record of activities, including important communications, documents and spending, should be kept in case an external audit is carried out.