

Call for Proposals from UK Universities

Online MA Scholarships for English language teachers in Vietnam

Background

The British Council's work in English Programmes aims for transformational change in English language policy and practice. We believe that better teaching and learning of English increases academic and career opportunities and enables people to participate actively in a global society. We support language teaching and learning in a multilingual world, helping to ensure inclusive and equitable quality language education in line with UN Sustainable Development Goal 4.

In Vietnam, English language teaching (ELT) development in support of the National Foreign Languages Project's (NFLP) 2025 Strategy has always been a priority area for the British Council. NFLP and the British Council in Vietnam continually seek ways to develop cooperation in the areas of English language teaching, learning and assessment and this is evident in the activities proposed in the Collaboration Plan 2021-2022 with a vision for cooperation until 2024-2025, including (i) research and insight, (ii) engaging with stakeholders in both Vietnam and the UK, (iii) capacity building and continuing professional development, and (iv) curriculum, resources and assessment.

Building the capacity of practitioners is a core part of our work and through this 'Scholarships for English language teachers' programme, we aim to identify and support a selected group of

high-performing English language teachers and/or teacher educators to further their skills and knowledge. In 2023 we also mark the occasion of 50 years of UK-Vietnam diplomatic relations, and 30 years of the British Council's presence in Vietnam, with a programme of activities under our Arts, Education and English portfolios: **UK/Vietnam Season 2023**. (More information about UK/Vietnam Season 2023 can be found at:

<https://www.britishcouncil.vn/en/programmes/uk-vietnam-season-2023>). The proposed scholarships programme will be a flagship element of the English Programmes component in the **UK/Vietnam Season**. As such, we propose that the '**Online MA Scholarships for English language teachers**' programme is co-branded using the 30 years British Council logo which will be developed and launched soon, alongside the selected university's branding. This will help us profile the scholarships and awardees through the **UK/Vietnam Season 2023** activities, bringing more focus and publicity to the opportunity and the stories that will emerge from it.

Objectives

The intention of this scholarships programme is to offer fully funded placements for applicants from Vietnam to study **online MA courses in English language teaching** offered by UK universities. The main study activity will be coupled with a programme of wrap around activities provided by the hosting UK university as well as post-study alumni activities (facilitated by the British Council) to increase the chances of longer-term engagement and wider impact.

While the programme will immediately impact on the lives of only a small number of individuals, there is clear evidence that with careful selection and support, recipients of scholarships can make important contributions to the future of the English language teaching sector in Vietnam.

The anticipated outcomes of this scholarship programme are therefore:

- Scholars from Vietnam have increased knowledge and understanding in the field of English language teaching, learning and assessment.
- These individuals act as ambassadors for UK postgraduate education in this field, sharing positive experiences within their professional community. Equally, they bring their knowledge and experience from Vietnam and share this within the student community at the host university.
- Longer term, these individuals support the development and improvement of English language teaching in their respective communities and ideally within the wider sector.

In particular this project aims to:

- Offer MA study opportunities through online mode in order to support individuals who are unable to travel to the UK for the duration of a face-to-face MA programme.
- Ensure scholar selection will be based on:
 - an individual's academic profile
 - their professional capacity as an English language teaching practitioner in

Vietnam, preferably within the government sector, and

- their demonstrated commitment to apply the knowledge and skills gained through the online MA programme.
- Enable individuals to promote and enhance the field of English language teaching and learning in Vietnam through their exposure to the UK's expertise in this area.
- Ensure scholars create strong and lasting connections with the UK through active engagement in the alumni network.
- Provide a platform for the English language teaching professionals from Vietnam to contribute to the global body of knowledge and expertise and communities of practice.

Budget and opportunity for UK universities

This programme consists of up to **eight (8)** fully funded places on online Masters' programmes in English language teaching offered by UK universities, preferably with a short face-to-face component in the UK (e.g. 1-2 weeks), with all expenses paid for by a bursary, beginning in Sept/Oct 2023. We will require that all selected scholars to complete the online Master's programs in a maximum of two years.

The total grant for this programme is **£120,000**, with an average scholarship value of **£15,000** per scholar. UK universities will have two following options to bid for:

- Hosting a group of all 8 scholars. For this case, there will be just one UK university to be granted with the total amount of £120,000.
- Hosting a group of 4 scholars. For this case, there will be two UK universities to be granted, each with £60,000.

UK universities are required to indicate clearly in your application form which option, or the preference order of options, that you want to bid for.

The face-to-face activity will need to be costed in and fully funded for the awarded scholars.

The Grant is not transferable, and any underspend will need to be returned to the British Council.

Expected deliverables

The grant given to the universities should cover full fees and be administered as a bursary to cover all costs (up to agreed limits for each element) associated with the programme of study including:

- Tuition fees
- IELTS exam fee (for scholars without a valid Test of English)

As for the short face-to-face element in the UK:

- Up to 2 weeks stipend at the rate of £1,516 p/month (pro rata) for London metropolitan area or £1,236 p/month (pro rata) for elsewhere to cover costs of living, including accommodation
- Return economy-class travel from home country to UK

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- Visa and insurance / NHS surcharge costs.

The costs of any dependents will not be covered by this scholarship.

Host universities, through their international student support structures, would be expected to provide support in the lead up to and throughout the face-to-face component. This should include:

- Orientation activity before the course starts
- Communications prior to arrival – including support for visa application, arrival to the UK, arranging accommodation or housing for the scholars for their short study in the UK, etc.
- Support for the international student experience, including mentoring and welfare support
- A nominated point of contact for any issues or concerns.

Desirable deliverables:

- Special consideration will be given to UK Universities that can contribute with cash or in-kind to the overall Scholarship programme (beyond making up any projected shortfall) potentially increasing the number of scholarships available, and/or that can demonstrate added value to the overall student study and welfare experience.
- We expect the added value for the group of Vietnamese scholars can be a programme of wrap-around activities, either via online or face-to-face, while they are studying the online MA courses in Vietnam or are in the short study period in the UK. The wrap-around activities should be the opportunity for the group of Vietnamese scholars to learn how to apply what they have learnt to the local context of Vietnam ELT, exchange knowledge with UK ELT experts and/or network for relationships building. UK universities should demonstrate how they factor the wrap-around activities in their application forms and the budget plans.

UK University participation criteria

- All participating institutions must be listed on the UK Home Office Register of Student Route Sponsors (approved Education Providers) **and** QAA/OfS/SFC/HEFCW/DfE inspected and approved
- UK Universities should propose which online Master's programmes they offer that fit with the programme's objectives and the [spirit of ODA funding](#), with the potential to focus on outcomes that promote the long-term sustainable growth of countries on the OECD DAC list (N.B. Vietnam is on the DAC list).

How will the programme be managed?

The British Council will pay the grant amount to the selected UK universities in February 2023, which will then be administered as a bursary to the selected scholars by the UK universities in the academic year 2023/24.

- The selected UK universities will advertise the scholarships and encourage applications to their selected programmes.
- The British Council will support with the wide promotion of the Scholarship programme in Vietnam, including linking the scholarships to the **UK/Vietnam Season** as described

above and post-award press and media.

- The selected UK universities will manage the application process, involving the British Council at the stage of making the selection of the scholars. It is important to note that it will be a requirement that the selected UK universities share all scholarship applicant data with the British Council – this is likely to involve the sharing of agreed privacy notices with the applicants.
- A coordinated selection panel between the selected UK universities and the British Council will determine which applicants will be awarded the bursaries. Details of the scholar selection process will be agreed at contracting stage.
- Once successful applicants have been confirmed, the selected UK universities will administer the bursary to each scholar, covering all academic and living expenses.

The UK Universities selected to receive scholars will go through a screening process and shall then sign a Grant Agreement with the British Council. This Grant Agreement will detail all items to be funded, payment methods, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting requirements. A Draft Grant Agreement can be found in the Annexes of this Call. Please be advised that this Draft Grant Agreement is not final. A contract will be drafted and formalised with the selected UK universities

The selected UK universities will also be responsible for reporting proof of enrollment in the online Master's programme(s) by the end of October 2023.

Eligibility and selection of scholars

A Steering Committee, composed of academic reviewers from the selected UK universities and Programme Leads from the British Council will select the candidates through a points-based system, encompassing the programme's criteria.

The following guidelines should be considered for the selection of scholars. Scholars must:

- be a passport holder and permanent resident of Vietnam
- have an undergraduate degree that will enable them to gain entry onto one of the pre-selected postgraduate programmes at a UK university
- demonstrate the case for financial support / socio-economic need
- not be in receipt of financial support or funding towards their study programme in the UK from any other source
- have not previously studied at degree level or higher in the UK or lived recently in the UK
- meet the English language requirement of the UK HEI
- be motivated and academically able to follow and benefit from a UK postgraduate taught course
- be working in or directly with the government education sector in Vietnam, with a focus on English language teaching
- be willing to demonstrate future contribution to the field of English language teaching, learning and assessment in Vietnam through the benefits achieved after graduating

from UK higher education

- agree to be a part of British Council's global alumni network, maintain contact with the British Council and act as an ambassador for the UK and engage with activities as part of a Scholarships for English language teachers alumnus during and after their studies with the UK course.
- demonstrate a plan and a passion to engage with the wider community working in English language teaching from their home country.
- agree to their personal data being shared with the British Council as a condition of applying for the bursary.

Scholars are not eligible for a British Council Scholarship for English language teachers if they:

- Hold dual British citizenship
- Are an employee, a former employee, or relative (*) of an employee of Her Majesty's Government (including British Embassies/High Commissions; the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy; Department for International Trade; the Ministry of Defence; and the Home Office)
- Are an employee, a former employee, or relative (*) of an employee of the British Council

(*): Relatives are defined as parents or step-parents, siblings or step-siblings, children or step-children, spouse, civil partner or unmarried partner (where the couple have been in a relationship akin to marriage or civil partnership for at least two years).

- Are currently in receipt of financial support or funding towards their study programme in the UK from any other source
- Have previously studied in the UK with funding from a UK Government-funded scholarship or a UK institutional scholarship/financial bursary.

Terms and conditions for participating HE Institutions

- After confirmation of award, and payment transfer to the selected UK universities, if the scholar decides to withdraw from the scholarship, the selected UK university can nominate a new candidate after confirmation from British Council on who will be the candidate with the same eligibility criteria within 10 working days from the date of withdrawal of the scholar. If the new scholar nomination is accepted, no extra funds will be transferred to meet higher costs of tuition.
- After confirmation of award, and payment transfer to the selected UK universities, if the scholar decides to withdraw from the award, and the selected UK universities are unable to nominate a new candidate, the full paid amount will be refunded to the British Council before September 30, 2023.
- Once the selected UK universities and the scholars have confirmed the programme and course details, no change in course area will be permitted without prior approval from the British Council. In exceptional conditions, if a request for course change is made, this must be considered and agreed by the British Council along with the selected UK

universities. No additional payments will be made towards higher tuition costs.

- Selected scholars cannot accept any additional funding towards tuition that will be covered by the British Council English language teaching scholarships.

Timeline

DATE	ACTION
16 December 2022	Call for proposals published
6 January 2023	Deadline for clarification questions (please submit all clarification questions here: https://forms.office.com/e/7QQpZBMppW)
10 January 2023	Briefing session: Responses to clarifications questions published and shared via a briefing session held for interested universities (10.00 – 11.00am UK time – please register here to receive joining instructions: https://forms.office.com/e/7QQpZBMppW)
27 January 2023	Deadline for submission of bids
10 February 2023	The British Council to inform bidding universities of results
Mid February 2023	Universities to provide confirmed scholarship details and any other promotional content
End of February 2023	A Grant agreement to be signed between the British Council Vietnam and the selected UK university/ies. Then funding allocation to be issued to the selected UK university/ies on receipt of relevant financial documents (including bank details)
Early March 2023	Launch of the marketing campaign of the Scholarships in Vietnam. The marketing campaign will run for one month until end of March 2023
31 March 2023	Deadline for scholars to apply
Mid April 2023	The selected UK university/ies present shortlisted candidates to the British Council Vietnam
End of April 2023	British Council Vietnam confirms selected scholars with the selected UK university/ies
May 2023	Bursaries confirmed and finalised. IELTS tests taken.
June 2023	Promotion / case-studies of selected candidates

September/October 2023	Course starts
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Proposals and selection criteria

In order to participate in this call, UK institutions are requested to send the required supporting documents listed below to the email address: season2023English@britishcouncil.org.vn, with the subject line “Scholarships for EL teachers - Eol” by **27 January 2023 (12.00 GMT)**, and complete the online [Expression of Interest form](#) at <https://forms.office.com/e/dsvbQr7YZh>.

The supporting documents include:

- Application to scholarships
- Track record (plus folder of evidence)
- Budget calculator

UK Universities participating in the call must submit the online Eol form and all three supporting documents. Submissions which are incomplete or have been made in a format other than the templates provided will be dismissed.

The following selection criteria will be used:

CRITERIA	%
Selection and suitability of Master’s programme(s)	40%
Bespoke wrap-around value added activities for the scholars	20%
Holistic support offered to Scholars and university’s commitment to EDI values	20%
Cash or in-kind contributions to the programme	10%
Track record in administering similar scholarship/bursary schemes	10%

All participating institutions will be informed of the results of the bid, and written feedback will be provided upon request.

Annexes

Annex 1: Draft Grant Agreement

Annex 2: British Council policy statements