

**Fostering Linkages in Academic Innovation and Research (FLAIR)
A programme funded by the Government of Kerala, India**

Call for 'Expression of Interest' from UK Universities

British Council India invites expressions of interest from UK universities to host newly recruited faculty members from the universities and colleges of Kerala, a southern State of India. The programme "FLAIR", which is in its fourth year, is supported by the British Council through an agreement with the Government of Kerala.

FLAIR internship programme aims at infusing vigour into higher education and improve the quality of teaching, learning and research in the government colleges and university departments across the State of Kerala through international exposure. The main objective of the programme is to train young faculty members with five years or less experience from different disciplines to enhance their teaching and research abilities. As per the agreement, Government of Kerala will fund 20 faculty members from different disciplines as per listed below for a four week internship in the UK, starting from 4th week of June 2017. The UK programme of the internship should include an induction programme followed by academic placements at the chosen UK universities and an evaluation at the end of the training period.

Requirements of the Department of Higher Education, Government of Kerala

Training in innovative teaching, learning and assessment practice and opportunities to understand and document the best practices implemented at the host institution in these areas		Discipline-specific research training and opportunities to understand and document the best practices implemented at the host institution to promote research	
Discipline	Number of faculty	Discipline	Number of faculty
Political Science	1	Zoology	2
Mathematics	1	Commerce	1
Chemistry	2	Chemistry	1
Electronics	2	Fisheries and Aquaculture	1
History	1	Political Science	1
Physics	1	Physics	1
Biotechnology	1	Total	7
English	2		
Economics	1		
Commerce	1		
Total	13		

British Council would select the UK universities to support the programme. Please note that the selected universities may be requested to organise a one-day induction programme to the faculty which could include the following:

- Introduction to UK higher education system
- Innovations and good practice in teaching, learning, assessment and research
- Teaching excellence Framework
- Technology-enabled teaching and learning

Criteria for Evaluation

Selection of the UK universities will be jointly done by the Government of Kerala and the British Council on the basis of: a) strength of the proposed programme (maximum 40 marks) b) Plans to engage with the faculty to be placed at the UK university after the end of month-long internship (maximum 30 marks); and c) administrative and other support that will be provided (maximum 30 marks).

The selected universities may charge the Department of Higher Education, Government of Kerala a nominal training fee to organise the month-long programme, not exceeding 1000 GBP per faculty member.

British Council will charge the host UK University 125 GBP per faculty to cover administrative costs. Universities need to transfer the required fee to British Council within 30 days of the invoice date.

The Department of Higher Education, Government of Kerala would be responsible for the international travel, accommodation and food costs of the selected faculty.

It is expected that selected universities would host faculty and provide guidance and support for accommodation; provide visa support letters as per UKVI requirements; organise pre-departure briefing through video conferencing; arrange meet and greet services on arrival in the UK; and organise a one-day induction programme at the university on teaching and learning. After the enrolment of the faculty for internship, universities need to provide invoices (if applicable) directly to the Government of Kerala as per their requirements within a week. An agreement letter covering the terms discussed will be signed between the British Council and the host university after the selection of institutions. The British Council reserves the right to select the university as per the requirements of the Government of Kerala.

Timeline of the programme:

S No.	Activity	Timeline
1	Closing date for expression of interest	5 May 2017
2	Intimation to selected universities with faculty details	11 May 2017
3	Issuance of visa support letters to faculty by universities	18 May 2017
4	Submission of application for UK visa by faculty	22 May 2017
5	Pre-departure briefing by host universities over video conference mode	23 June 2017
6	Commencement of internship	29 June 2017
7	End of the internship	28 July 2017

Institutions interested in supporting the programme are requested to send their expressions of interest (EoI) in the attached format, latest by Friday, 5 May 2017 to s.kumaran@britishcouncil.org and eldho.mathews@britishcouncil.org . If you have any questions, please write to s.kumaran@britishcouncil.org