

# International Science Partnerships Fund

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# Expression of Interest

## *Research Collaboration and Mobility: Green Industrial Revolution Programme*

## International Symposium on Resilient Planet

### **Call in India, Japan, and the United Kingdom**

Please be aware that each country operates on its own unique schedule, and this specific application guidance is exclusively intended for **UK-based applicants**. If you are from India or Japan, we kindly request that you visit the relevant British Council country websites for information on opportunities available in your respective locations.

November 2023

## 1. Background

This research collaboration and mobility programme of the International Science Partnerships Fund (ISPF) delivered by the British Council on behalf of the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) is designed as a multinational funding programme between the United Kingdom (UK) and international partners to create and strengthen collaborative networks in interdisciplinary research in Resilient Planet that can lead the green industrial revolution to protect the planet and address major environmental challenges.

The multinational research collaboration programme, with a specific emphasis on a resilient planet, serves as a platform to unite researchers, policymakers, and representatives from international organisations. This programme will have the following overarching objectives:

- **Knowledge exchange:** provides a platform for researchers from different countries to share their research findings, methodologies, and best practices related to building a resilient planet.
- **Networking and collaboration:** brings together early career researchers from diverse academic and cultural backgrounds. It offers an opportunity for networking, fostering collaborations, and building professional relationships that can lead to joint research projects and future partnerships.
- **Promote interdisciplinary research:** A resilient planet requires a holistic approach that involves multiple disciplines such as environmental science, sustainability, social sciences, and engineering. The forum can encourage interdisciplinary research by facilitating discussions and interactions between researchers from different fields.
- **Capacity building:** By engaging with experienced researchers, mentors, and invited speakers, early career researchers can enhance their research skills, gain new perspectives, and learn about funding opportunities or career development strategies.
- **Policy impact:** offers a platform for early career researchers to present their work to policymakers, government officials, and representatives from international organisations. This can influence policy debates, decision-making processes, and lead to evidence-based policies that promote a more resilient planet.

## 2. Overview of the event

The multinational research collaboration programme, with a specific emphasis on a resilient planet, serves as a platform to unite researchers, policymakers, and representatives from international organisations. The programme's main event spans three days and encompasses various activities.

- An **academic symposium** is organised, primarily targeted towards early career researchers. This symposium provides an opportunity for researchers to showcase their work, discuss emerging trends, and engage in productive dialogue. It aims to foster a supportive environment that empowers young researchers and encourages their contributions to the field.
- A day of **site visits** is arranged for participants to explore universities and research centres. This enables them to gain insights into ongoing research projects, witness state-of-the-art facilities, and potentially discover areas for collaboration.
- A **facilitated discussion** is organised to scope the needs, priorities and recommendations for Year 2 funded activities including sub-themes and target audience.

For more details, please see **Annex: draft programmes for reference**.

## 3. Time and location

The event will take place in **Delhi, India, 04-06 March 2024**.

The costs of international travel and accommodation for participants will be covered following agreements in advance with international partner organisations.

## 4. The symposium

The symposium will bring together around 45 early career researchers and 15 senior researchers based in the UK and from international partners to discuss key questions around the theme of 'Resilient Planet'. The symposium is designed specifically to encourage collaboration and networking between early career researchers. In advance of the symposium, participants will be able to discuss their research and exchange ideas among themselves; begin to discuss the session themes; and make connections for possible future activities.

## 5. Thematic focus of the symposium

The symposium will focus on interdisciplinary research to address major environmental challenges and to lead the green industrial revolution to protect the planet. Priority research themes include (not exhaustive):

- Clean Energy
- Extreme Weather and Climate
- Agri-Tech
- Environmental Resilience

## 6. Who is this opportunity for?

The current call only opens to **early career researchers**. Senior/Leading researchers will be invited by the British Council in collaboration with partner organisations.

We expect that early career researchers to:

- Present their research findings through oral or poster presentations.
- Participate actively in conference sessions and workshops.
- Participate in panel discussions related to their research area.
- Engage in discussions, receiving feedback, and networking with other attendees.

We expect senior researchers to:

- Present a keynote or invited talk based on their expertise and research experience.
- Moderate conference sessions, ensuring smooth transitions and adherence to the schedule.
- Share experiences, tips, and strategies for successful research and career progression.

### **We use a fairly loose definition of Early career researchers (ECRs) as**

- having completed or are close to completion of their PhD, potentially waiting for their final viva voce examination, which must be passed prior to taking up the award. ECRs will not have held a permanent academic post or a post with a research-related element, or one which allowed them to supervise PhD students or submit research grants as a principal investigator. Time spent in

teaching-only roles or academic related roles does not affect ECR status, provided no research element was part of the role.

- 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.
- As we move toward greater inclusivity for ECRs from a wide range of backgrounds, we are no longer counting years spent in a specific career stage. Career breaks and alternative trajectories to an early academic career are all considered outside the definition of career stage.

## 7. Eligibility

All participants must meet following criteria:

- Participants must be based at an eligible higher education institution or a research organisation in the following countries, regardless of their own nationalities:
  - India
  - Japan
  - United Kingdom
- Eligible institutions and organisations:
  - Participants from the UK must be based at not-for-profit higher education institutions or publicly funded research organisations.
  - Participants from India and Japan must be based at recognised higher education institutions or research organisations in these countries.
- Participants must receive signoffs from their institutions or organisations in acknowledging their applications. A letter of support issued by the Research Office, Head of Department, or equivalents will suffice (please see the Letter of Support Template attached).
- Participants must be able to travel on flights or other means of transportation chosen by the British Council.
- Participants must be able to stay at hotels chosen by the British Council.
- Participants must be able to participate in the entire event over three days.

## 8. Language

The event will be held in English. However, consideration will be given to non-native speakers and translation/interpretation can be provided for the event.

## 9. Ethics and research governance

It is essential that all legal and professional codes of practice are followed in conducting work supported under this Programme. Applicants must ensure the proposed activity will be carried out to the highest standards of ethics and research integrity. Specifically, applications that involve research on animals, human participants, human tissue or patient/participant data must be accompanied by necessary permission certificates from the relevant local ethical review committees/authorities in the UK and the partner country, or an undertaking to obtain this permission in advance of the activity commencing. Failure to do so will result in applications being rendered ineligible and any funding already committed through this Programme being rescinded.

Please refer to:

- The Research Councils UK 'Policy and Guidelines on Governance of Good Research Conduct':
  - <https://www.ukri.org/?s=Policy+and+Guidelines+on+Governance+of+Good+Research+Conduct>
- The InterAcademy Partnership report 'Doing Global Science: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in the Global Research: Enterprise':<http://www.interacademycouncil.net/24026/29429.aspx>.

## 10. Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

Equality, diversity, and inclusion are at the heart of the British Council's cultural relations ambitions. We are committed to ensuring that there is no unjustified discrimination in the selection of participants on the basis of age, disability, gender, race/ethnicity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, or on any other grounds which are irrelevant to decision making.

We partner with organisations and individuals who value diversity, promote dignity and inclusion and a culturally sensitive approach.

## 11. Application process

Applicants must submit their applications via the portal:

[https://britishcouncil2.formstack.com/forms/ispf\\_lb4\\_expression\\_of\\_interest](https://britishcouncil2.formstack.com/forms/ispf_lb4_expression_of_interest)

## 12. Selection process and criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria by the evaluation panel organised by the British Council in collaboration with international partner organisations:

- **Academic excellence and proven research interest and/or experience in the symposium’s theme (20%):** Applicants should demonstrate academic excellence and a strong passion for and previous involvement in research related to the symposium theme.
- **Commitment to international engagement and research collaboration (20%):** We value applicants who actively engage in international research collaborations and are dedicated to expanding their global network.
- **Value of symposium to applicant’s career development (20%):** The applicant should explain how their participation in the symposium will enhance their professional growth and contribute to their career aspirations.
- **Value of applicant’s contribution to the symposium and the impact of proposed research to society and the wider international community (20%):** We are looking for applicants whose research has the potential to make a significant impact on society and contribute to the global community. They should articulate the value of their research and how it aligns with the symposium's goals.
- **Diversity and inclusion (20%):** We value diversity and inclusivity in our conference. Applicants who can contribute to a diverse and inclusive environment by bringing different perspectives and experiences are encouraged to apply.

## 13. Timeline

Activity	Date / Time
Launch the Call	28 November 2023
Deadline for Application	08 January 2024 GMT 23:59 p.m.
Selection	January 2024

<b>Announcement of Results</b>	Late January 2024
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## 14. Data Protection

The British Council will use the information that you are providing in connection with processing your application under the International Science Partnerships Fund (ISPF) programme. The legal basis for processing your information is your agreement with our terms and conditions of application.

Your information will be used in making any consequential grant, grant payment, and for monitoring and reporting purposes.

We will need to share necessary data with application reviewers and panel members contracted by the British Council, international partners, the funder UK Department of Science, Innovation & Technology (DSIT) and contracted external evaluators (as required). Organisation details, where collected, are used for monitoring and evaluation and statistical purposes. Equality data and geographical information, where collected, is used solely in preparing statistical reports.

The British Council complies with data protection law in the UK and laws in other countries that meet internationally accepted standards. 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 have concerns about how we have used your personal information, you also have the right to complain to a privacy regulator. For further detailed information on how we process personal information, please refer to the privacy section of our website, [www.BritishCouncil.org/privacy-cookies/data-protection](http://www.BritishCouncil.org/privacy-cookies/data-protection) or contact your local British Council office (ISPF Team). We will keep your information for a period of 7 years from the date of your last activity under the ISPF programme.



<b>Annex: Draft Programmes for Reference</b>	
<b>Day 0 – Registration and Welcome Dinner</b>	<b>Registration</b>
	<b>Welcome Dinner</b>
<b>Day 1 – Early Career Researcher Symposium</b>	<b>Welcome Speech by British Council</b>
	<b>Keynote Speech/Presentation by Funder and Partner Organisations</b>
	<b>Lunch</b>
	<b>Afternoon Ice Breaking/Introduction Session</b>
	<b>Dinner</b>
<b>Day 2 – Early Career Researcher Symposium</b>	<b>Keynote Lectures/Speeches by Leading and Senior Researchers</b>
	<b>4 Academic Panels on Specific Topics of Interests</b>
	<b>Networking Activities and Dinner</b>
<b>Day 3 – Visits to Universities and Research Centres</b>	<b>Site Visits to Selected Universities or Research Centres</b>
	<b>Facilitated Roundtable Discussions</b>
	<b>Wrap-up Session and Closing Remarks</b>