

ISPF Research Collaboration Grant Applicant Guidelines

Update 24 Jan 2024

Countries/Territories included in this call are:

Egypt, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam

Call opens: 8 January 2024

Call closes: 12 March 2024, 12.00 noon UK time

Change	Page in 18 January update	Page in 24 January update
Philippine Partner Organisation Named	30	30

Change	Page in 12 January update	Page in 17 January update
Update to Egypt Local Guidance Budget Guidelines	24	25
Update to Egypt Local Guidance – Eligible Costs	N/A	25
Clarification Egypt Local Guidance - Submission Process	25	25
Update to Philippines Local Guidance	29-30	30
Clarity on ODA Assessment Criteria	35	35

Change	Page in 10 January update	Page in 12 January Update
Submission Requirements Indonesia	Page 27	Page 27
Extension to call close date	Page 1	Page 1
Correction to project costs Egypt	Page 1	Page 1
Update to Safeguarding section	Page 16	Page 17-18
Changes to Supporting Documents required	Page 18	Page 18-19
Philippines Local Guidance added	N/A	Page 29-30

Thailand Local Guidance added	N/A	Page 31-32
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Change	Page in Previous Version	Page in 10 January update
Additional eligibility requirements Indonesia	Page 1	Page 1-2
Detailed requirements Indonesia	Page 26	Page 26

How to apply: Online submission via:

https://britishcouncil2.formstack.com/forms/research_collaborations_global

We will allow one application per Project Leader from any country/territory

Country	Proposal costs at Full Economic Cost* This differs per funder in country/territory, please see Appendix 1	Additional Partner Eligibility requirements This is specific to each country, please check via the link	National Priorities This is specific to each country, please check Appendix 1
Egypt	UK: £100,000 Egypt: £100,000	The Egyptian (Project Leader must be affiliated to a research entity (university, research institution/centre...etc.), which has an Egyptian legal identity, and must be a Ph.D. holder	Resilient Planet Transformative Technologies Healthy People, Animals and Plants
Indonesia	UK: £100,000 Indonesia: Included in with UK costs	The Principal Investigator (PI) must be a permanent lecturer with a valid Nomor Induk Dosen Nasional (NIDN) or Nomor Induk Dosen Khusus (NIDK) and must have a registered ID in SINTA (Science and Technology Index).	Resilient Planet Transformative Technologies Healthy People, Animals and Plants
Kenya	UK: £100,000 Kenya: Included in with UK costs	None	Transformative Technologies Focus on translational

			research partnerships to support knowledge transfer and application of research including and beyond STEM
Malaysia	UK: £100,000 Malaysia: £80,000	Applied research or beyond (Technology Readiness Level 4 and/or above) Transdisciplinary research Collaboration with other institutions and industry or community	Resilient Planet Transformative Technologies Healthy People, Animals and Plants Tomorrow's Talent
Philippines	UK: £100,000 Philippines: Included in with UK costs	None	Resilient Planet Transformative Technologies Healthy People, Animals and Plants Tomorrow's Talent
Thailand	UK: £100,000 Thailand: Included in with UK costs	None	Resilient Planet Transformative Technologies Healthy People, Animals and Plants

			Tomorrow's Talent
Turkey	UK: £100,000 Turkey: Included in with UK costs	The Turkish Project Leader should be selected from public/foundation universities and research centres. All Turkish researchers who apply must be registered on TUBITAK ARBIS (Researcher Information system) through the following link: http://arbis.tubitak.gov.tr	Resilient Planet Transformative Technologies - Healthy People, Animals and Plants
Vietnam	UK: £100,000 Vietnam: Included in with UK costs	For work/services performed in Vietnam (including transfer for funds to Vietnamese partner), Vietnamese Value Added Tax (VAT) will be charged on the invoiced amount at the applicable rate at the time of issuing invoice. Standard VAT rate in Vietnam is 10%. This should be factored into your request for funding.	Resilient Planet Transformative Technologies Healthy People, Animals and Plants Tomorrow's Talent

Funding available: A total of £2.8 million in a total of 5 countries/territories for UK institutions. See [Appendix 1](#) for more information.

Collaborations should include one Project Leader from the UK and one Project Leader from the partner country/territory.

We will allow only one application per Project Leader, from either country.

Assessment Process:

- Eligibility Checking
- Review by external experts
- Thematic Panels (up to 5 panels grouped covering the following themes: Arts and Humanities, Biological and Medical Sciences; Engineering and Physical Sciences; Natural Environment and Social Sciences.
- Moderation Panel to determine final funding decisions.

Grant disbursement process: The British Council will disburse grants to UK Institutions. Please see Annex 1 for information on disbursement to institutions in partner countries/territories.

Indicative Timeline

Activity	Date
Call Opens	8 January 2024
Deadline for applications	12 March 2024, 12 noon UK time
Review panels	May 2024
Outcome of selection	June 2024
UK Project start dates: (See in-country guidance for partner dates)	1 August 2024
Project end dates:	See individual country/territory annex for project length

Contact: UK-NFIS@britishcouncil.org

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Background

1.1 Overview of the funding opportunity

ISPF Research Collaboration grants provide small scale seed funding for collaborations between the UK and the participating ISPF countries/territories in each call to:

- Initiate new research and innovation collaborations between academic groups, departments, and institutions in partner countries and the UK
- Develop existing collaborations at group, departmental, and institutional level
- Encourage these collaborations to work with non-academic organisations and individuals to support the exchange of research and innovation expertise and the translation of research knowledge into tangible benefits
- Establish local hubs for joint UK-country/territory activity in a particular area, enabling engagement from the wider research and innovation community.

It is not expected that proposals will address all of these areas but should consider at least one of the above.

Proposals will be accepted which under one or more of the ISPF themes. Partner countries may decide to focus on a specific theme or aspect of a theme, and you are encouraged to refer to Annex 1 when considering whether to apply.

The ISPF themes are:

- **Resilient Planet** - Leading the green industrial revolution to protect the planet
- **Transformative Technologies** - Developing responsible technologies to secure our place in tomorrow's world
- **Healthy People, Animals and Plants** – Researching and Innovating for secure and healthy populations
- **Tomorrow's Talent** – Nurturing talent to drive inclusion, research, and innovation.

The Research Collaboration Programme is designed to be flexible and responsive to in-country/territory needs, allowing applicants to establish collaborations on specific areas linked to country priorities and development needs, and to bring in relevant private and third sector partners, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs), nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), technology transfer offices, and other not-for-profit organisations.

Grants typically range from £100,000 up to £200,000 for up to two years, dependent on the country (see Appendix 1 for country/territory specific limits).

UK Project leaders should submit proposals with figures of 100 per cent Full Economic Costs (FEC). If successful, the British Council will meet 80 per cent of the FEC paid to the UK Research Organisations and that institution will be expected to support the remaining 20 per cent. Check Appendix 1 for information on partner funding models and additional information.

For best fit to the local context, priority areas, specific innovation challenges and additional application requirements have been set at a country/territory level through discussion with national stakeholders. **Please refer to Appendix 1 for country specific guidance before**

you prepare your proposal. Proposals which do not follow the country/territory specific guidance cannot be considered for funding.

1.2 The International Science Partnerships Fund

The International Science Partnerships Fund (ISPF) is designed to enable potential and foster prosperity. It puts research and innovation at the heart of our international relationships, supporting UK researchers and innovators to work with peers around the world on the major themes of our time. It is managed by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. Delivered by a consortium of the UK's leading research and innovation bodies including British Academy, British Council, Met Office, National Physical Laboratory, Royal Academy of Engineering, Royal Society, UK Research and Innovation, UK Atomic Energy Authority and Universities UK International. For more information:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-science-partnerships-fund-ispf/international-science-partnerships-fund-ispf>

Scope of the programme

Grants under the ISPF Fund Research Collaboration programme will fund bilateral research and innovation collaborations under the ISPF themes, with priorities set with partner countries and territories at call design. The call will fund Global Challenges Research Grants to support and facilitate research that tackles global challenges.

Wherever possible, Research Collaboration should demonstrate how they will benefit the wider research and innovation community in the partner country/territory. Collaborations may also be established as UK-partner country/territory centres of excellence, based in the partner country/territory, in a particular research area, acting as a resource hub for the wider research community in country and a focal point for other activities, (e.g. seminars, technical training workshops).

When designing your proposal, you should consider how best to involve early career researchers to promote their development and, more generally, to build researcher capacity, especially in the partner country/territory.

ISPF Fund Research Collaboration grants can cover costs which support research and innovation collaboration, including human resources costs; travel costs associated with exchange of researchers, students and staff from partners and other organisations; the costs of organising meetings, seminars, and training; and other activities to establish and strengthen collaborative links. Grants can also include a limited contribution to other research related costs (including equipment, consumables, and non-staff fieldwork costs). Please refer to Appendix 1 for details.

Applicants can request a grant contribution for tackling barriers to participation, diversity, and inclusion. Examples of costs that can be covered include but are not limited to additional childcare costs, measures to support the participation of researchers and team members with disabilities. Such requests should be clearly marked in the budget form under Exceptions and should be supported by justifications submitted separately by email to: uk-ispf@britishcouncil.org

Eligibility

Proposals must fulfil the following criteria to be eligible for funding under this Programme:

- Each proposal must have one Project Leader from the UK **and** one Project Leader from the specified Partner Country/Territory.
- Both Project Leaders must be Leading Researchers¹ or Established Researchers³
- UK Project Leaders must be permanent employees of one of the following (this means that Emeritus and Honorary Professors may not apply as lead):
 - A not-for-profit higher education institution with the capacity to undertake high-quality- research, unless specified otherwise in Appendix 1.
 - A UK higher education institution (all UK higher education institutions are eligible).
 - A not-for-profit research organisation with the capacity to undertake high-quality research. The list of eligible UK institutions is attached with the grant call documents on the website. A Catapult Centre² (in the case of the UK Project Leader).
- Both Project Leaders' institutions (the 'Lead Institutions') must have the capacity to administer the grant.
- Individual departments within a single institution can make multiple applications per call provided that the proposed activities are clearly different.
- Project Leaders may only submit one Research Collaboration application per call.

To support the translation of research and innovation into benefit, Project Leaders are encouraged to include in their proposals Associated Partners affiliated with:

- Other research or higher education institutions
- Technology transfer offices
- Not for-profit organisations (including NGOs)
- For-profit/commercial organisations (including SMEs)

Not for-profit higher education institutions or publicly funded research organisations **are eligible** to apply as Lead Institutions.

For-profit organisations and not-for-profit organisations can participate in but are usually **not** eligible to apply for Research Collaboration grants (unless specified otherwise in Appendix 1). Furthermore, **for-profit organisations are not eligible to receive any ISPF grant funds except to cover travel associated costs.**

Eligibility checks will be applied to all proposals on receipt. Proposals which are not led by a recognised not-for-profit higher education institution or a publicly funded research organisation (unless specified otherwise in Appendix 1) will be rejected during these checks. Please see Appendix 2 for a full list of eligibility criteria.

If you are unsure about your organisation's eligibility, for UK see the list of eligible UK institutions attached with the grant call documents on the website; for partner countries, please contact the local British Council office.

Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligibility

In order to be considered for funding under the research Collaborations Programme, **all proposals must clearly articulate a plausible route to positive impact on these populations within a short to medium term timeframe (within 10 years). Applications**

¹ For an indication of profiles for the two categories, we suggest applicants refer to the European Commission document 'Towards a European framework for research careers'
https://cdn5.euraxess.org/sites/default/files/policy_library/towards_a_european_framework_for_research_careers_final.pdf

² <https://www.innovateuk.org/-/catapult-centres>

which do not meet this criterion cannot receive support under the International Science Partnerships Fund.

In some disciplines, development relevance can be longer term and less direct than in other areas. In all cases, it is the responsibility of the applicant to articulate within the application how the proposed activities will meet these criteria.

For more on ODA, please see: <https://web-archive.oecd.org/2021-05-07/154009-What-is-ODA.pdf>

Applicants must complete the ODA compliance section of the application form and should not expect reviewers to make assumptions about development impact that is not clearly described within the proposal.

Failure to demonstrate ODA eligibility will render your application ineligible regardless of other success criteria. Please make sure you consider the ODA relevance of your application.

In order to show development relevance within the context of their proposed project, applicants are advised to include within their application reference to any local or national consultation, links to government policies, and existing links with government institutions and must clearly articulate the importance to relevant in-country challenges.

Agreements for ownership and exploitation of intellectual property generated through project activities must be consistent with the primary aim of addressing development issues.

ODA transparency and reporting

As part of the government's commitment to ODA transparency and in line with DfID ODA reporting requirements, there is a requirement to publish information about ODA grants including project titles and summaries via the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) registry and via DFID's national statistics.

The purpose of publishing information via the IATI registry is to make information about ODA easily accessible to governments, stakeholders, and other relevant groups in beneficiary countries. All funded projects from this programme will be published in this way. Please therefore write your project title and summary in such a way that they are meaningful and accessible to non-specialist audiences, following publication.

It is expected that the project title and summary are written in plain English and avoid the use of jargon, acronyms, puns and plays on words. **Please also make clear in your project title and summary how your project is ODA-compliant**, for example by identifying the development challenge(s) being addressed, the aims of the project and the beneficiary countries.

Gender Equality Statement

To encourage excellence in science and 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. Further details are in Section 14.

Any application which states that a Gender Equality Statement is not applicable, will be ineligible for funding.

Funding available

For non-profit organisations and Research Institutions, these are the eligible costs at 80% FEC:

- Staff costs (including directly incurred and directly allocated posts).
- Other research costs (including consumables). Please note that no single items over £10,000 may be included.
- Travel and subsistence for exchange/mobility activities (including cost of workshops, meetings etc).
- Estates and indirect costs.

A summary of costs to be covered by the grant must be included in the online application form and must contain justifications, (e.g. why consumables or equipment are needed, why travel is necessary).

Please also complete the budget summary on the online application form with the totals from your budget spreadsheet and a brief justification for the amounts applied for. Where you do not provide explanation for an item that requires justification, or include an ineligible cost, it may be cut from any grant made.

The level of grant funding available from the ISPF Fund depends on the country/territory: please see Appendix 1 for country specific guidance and funding limits.

Funds will be disbursed directly to the Lead Institution(s), (i.e., the Project Leaders' institutions) according to the approved final budget. Applicants may be asked to adjust their budget if their request does not fit within funding guidelines.

Unless stated otherwise, an advance payment of 80% of the ISPF Fund grant will be made on signature of the grant agreement, followed by two payments of 10% dependent upon approval of reports by the British Council.

Lead institutions will be expected to transfer funding to the Partner Institution where that has been indicated in the budget.

Lead Institutions may transfer funding to Associated Partners for activities which support the objectives of the collaboration and the overall Programme. Any costs of Associated Partner contributions should be included in the proposed budget for the respective country. As detailed above, for-profit organisations are not eligible to receive any grant funds except to cover travel associated costs.

The following sections detail the costs that can and cannot be included in your budget request.

6.1. Eligible costs

Research Collaboration grants are intended to contribute to the direct costs of establishing and operating your collaboration, (i.e., costs directly related to implementing activities contained in the proposal). Grants are awarded based on 80% of the Full Economic Costs of the research project.

Please contact UK-ISPF@britishcouncil.org if you are in doubt over which costs the Researcher Collaborations Programme can cover.

Unless specified in the country/territory specific guidance, Research Collaboration Programme grants can cover:

Directly Allocated costs: This includes the resources used by a project that are shared by other activities. They are charged to projects on the basis of estimates rather than actual costs and do not represent actual costs on a project-by-project basis.

Directly Incurred costs: These are explicitly identifiable as arising from the conduct of a project, are charged as the cash value actually spent and are supported by an audit record.

Indirect costs are ones which cover the costs of the Research Organisation's management and administrative services.

Staff costs

Directly Allocated staff are those who will be working directly on the project, but whose involvement on the grant can only be based on an estimate of the time the work will take (e.g., investigators). Directly Incurred staff are those whose time on the project is actual, auditable, and verifiable (e.g., researchers and technician's salaries, consultancy fees, superannuation, and national insurance payments).

Travel and Subsistence costs

To reduce the impact of the project on the climate and environment, all travel should be essential to creating the outcomes of the project and should be justified in the application form. Travel (economy class) and subsistence costs to the UK and partner countries.

Visa fees, vaccinations, and medical insurance for travel essential to the collaboration to the UK and partner countries are eligible. Costs of meetings, training events and seminars integral to the collaboration can also be included.

Other directly incurred costs

Other research costs directly relating to the project. Includes specified consumables, equipment costing less than £10,000, recruitment and advertising costs to be incurred by the UK Research Organisation.

Other directly allocated costs

Support staff salaries, a share of the costs of departmental support staff, and the costs of access to major research facilities.

Estates (non-staff direct costs)

Facility related costs of conducting the research including utilities, rates, rents, maintenance, insurance, infrastructure costs, facilities management, cleaning, security, and depreciation of equipment.

Indirect costs

A contribution towards the cost of all other overheads for central service departments such as Finance, Human Resources, Legal and Registry.

The following items are also covered by estates and indirect costs:

- Overheads
- Communication costs, mobile phone rental, purchase, and roaming charges
- Purchase or rental of standard office equipment (except specialist equipment essential to the research)
- IT hardware – laptops, personal computers, tablets, smart phones, Mac workstations, computer parts and peripherals.
- Office software.
- Desks, chairs, filing cabinets, photocopiers, printers, fax machines.

Estates and indirect costs are specific to each UK research organisation, and do not require justification. UK research organisations that have implemented the TRAC costing methodology and have passed the Quality Assurance process should apply their own estate and indirect costs. Non-research organisations that are not required to implement TRAC must have a robust costing methodology in place that has been validated to apply their own estates and indirect cost rates. The standard default rates should be used where research organisations have not yet developed their own rates.

Additional Funding for Inclusion (Exceptions)

The British Council is committed to equal opportunities and diversity and will consider, on a case-by-case basis, requests for support to encourage underrepresented groups to engage in ISPF activity, so long as sufficient justification is provided.

Applicants can request a grant contribution for tackling barriers to diversity and inclusion. Examples of costs that can be covered include but are not limited to additional childcare costs, measures to support the participation of researchers and team members with disabilities. Such requests should be clearly marked in the budget form under Exceptions and should be supported by justifications submitted separately by email to: uk-ispf@britishcouncil.org.

6.2 Ineligible costs include (but are not limited to):

Equipment costs

Individual items costing £10,000 or more including VAT (Value Added Tax)) are not eligible for ISPF funding under this call. Costs for standard office equipment, communication costs and other overheads should be covered by Estates and Indirect Costs.

Studentships

Costs associated with Masters and PhD studentships are not eligible under this call (including stipends).

Costs related to writing up, promoting, or disseminating previous research.

Patent costs.

Entertainment costs such as:

- Gifts.
- Alcohol.
- Restaurant bills or hospitality costs for personnel not directly participating in the project.
- Excessive restaurant costs.
- Excessive taxi fares.

How grants will be disbursed

As funding for the project can be disbursed via both the UK and the partner country funding agencies, in some countries there may be restrictions on partner country costs. Please refer to Appendix 1 for details.

The level of grant funding available from the Research Collaboration Programme depends on the country: please see Appendix 1 for country specific guidance and funding limits. Funds will be disbursed directly to the Lead Organisation (s), (i.e., the Project Leaders' organisations) according to the approved final budget.

For British Council disbursed grants, unless stated otherwise, an advance payment of 80% of the UK component of the Research Collaboration grant will be made on signature of the grant agreement, followed by two payments of 10% dependent on approval of reports by the British Council. Please note that payment ratios can vary for different countries.

Please note that Appendix 1 specifies further, country-specific information on eligible and ineligible costs.

Partnerships

1. Equitable Partnerships

Equitable Partnerships are a key pillar of the Research Collaboration Programme. UKRI (UK Research and Innovation) developed the following statement of expectation for research partnerships in consultation with researchers from East Africa:

“Partnerships should be transparent and based on mutual respect. Partnerships should aim to have clearly articulated equitable distribution of resources, responsibilities, efforts, and benefits. Partnerships should recognise different inputs, different interests and different desired outcomes and should ensure the ethical sharing and use of data which is responsive to the identified needs of society.”

Further guidance on how to develop and maintain equitable research partnerships is available in KFPE's [Guide for transboundary research partnerships '11 Principles and 7 questions](https://naturalsciences.ch/organisations/kfpe/11_principles_7_questions):

https://naturalsciences.ch/organisations/kfpe/11_principles_7_questions

2. Associated Partnerships

To support the realisation of impact, Project Leaders are encouraged to include in their proposals associated partners (known as 'project partners' on UKRI proposals) An associated partner is defined as a collaborating organisation that will have an integral role in the proposed research and from which you have secured a commitment (other than that from British Council/UKRI or the in-country funding partner) to provide additional resources for this project. This may include in-kind or cash contributions such as expertise, staff time, use of facilities, etc.

These can include:

- Other research or higher education institutions
- Technology transfer offices

- Not for-profit organisations (including NGOs)
- For-profit/commercial organisations (including SMEs)
- UK Catapults

A letter of support from each project partner/associated partner confirming the level of support specific to this proposal must be included as an attachment. This must be signed, dated within three months of submission and on headed paper.

Project duration

It is expected that all funded project activity will begin on or after 1 August 2024 and be completed according to the deadlines specified in individual country/territory guidance at Appendix 1. For UK Institutions, funding, if approved, will be transferred to the successful institution once the grant agreement is counter-signed by the British Council. Formal project start dates will be set in the grant agreement by the British Council. Expenses incurred by the institutions prior to the effective start date, including any costs incurred in the production of the proposal, cannot be charged to the grant.

Where funding is offered by participating country or territory partners, please refer to Appendix 1 for specific details on payment arrangements.

Ethics and research governance

It is essential that all legal and professional codes of practice are followed in conducting work supported by this Programme. Applicants must ensure the proposed activity will be carried out to the highest standards of ethics and research integrity.

Please refer to the Research Councils UK 'Policy and Guidelines on Governance of Good Research Conduct' (<https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/UKRI-310322-GRP-Policy2022.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 at UK-ISPF@britishcouncil.org.

It is the absolute responsibility of the Project Leaders and the Lead Institutions to ensure that appropriate ethical approval is granted and adhered to, and that no research requiring ethical approval is initiated until it has been granted.

In the online 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. 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.

Approval(s) for the research detailed in an International Science Partnerships Fund grant proposal must be granted by the appropriate bodies before any work can commence. Organisations, applicants, and grant holders have absolute responsibility for ensuring that the necessary approvals are granted for the research set out in their proposal.

The Project Leader/Lead Institution must be prepared to furnish the British Council with a copy of the ethical approval, and any correspondence with the committees, if requested by either funder. The Project Leader must notify the British Council if a regulator or a research ethics committee requires amendments that substantially affect the research question, methodology or costs to the extent that the project is no longer the same as that approved for funding by the British Council.

1. **Partner country ethics guidance**

The Lead Institution in the partner country is responsible for managing and monitoring the conduct of medical and health research in a manner consistent with the UK Policy Framework for Health and Social Care Research. There must be effective and verifiable systems in place for managing research quality, progress and the safety and well-being of patients and other research participants. These systems must promote and maintain the relevant codes of practice and all relevant statutory review, authorisation, and reporting requirements. Applicants are responsible to obtain ethical approval from relevant authorities before the start of activities that require such approval. Applicant must ensure that the work carried out adheres to the local guidelines for best practice.

Please refer to the Research Councils UK 'Policy and Guidelines on Governance of Good Research Conduct' (<https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/UKRI-310322-GRP-Policy2022.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 at UK-ISPf@britishcouncil.org e.

Diversity and Inclusion

British Council are committed to equality, diversity, and inclusion, and to continuing to attract and nurture talented people from the widest pool to remain internationally competitive in research and innovation. We believe that everyone has a right to be treated with dignity and respect, and to be provided with equal opportunities to flourish and succeed. This includes avoidance of bias due to disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, sex (gender), and age.

We also recognise, and will seek to maximise, the benefits achieved by diversity of thought and experience within inclusive groups, organisations, and the wider community. British Council are therefore committed to ensuring that the best potential researchers from a diverse population are attracted into research careers. Applicants are asked to consider encouraging participation from researchers from underrepresented groups in the teams implementing their proposed activities.

We are able to offer additional funding to support participation as Exceptions, upon request. Please refer to the [budget section](#) of this document for additional information. Such requests should be clearly marked in the budget form under Exceptions and should be supported by justifications submitted separately by email to: uk-ispf@britishcouncil.org.

For more on the British Council's approach, see our Equality Policy at: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/how-we-work/policies/equality-diversity-inclusion>

Trusted Research and Innovation

Trusted Research is a cross-research and innovation sector term for protecting intellectual property, sensitive research, people and infrastructure from potential theft, misuse, and

exploitation. In this context, there are established programmes of work on managing security and related risks in international higher education. The British Council work to ensure its partner institutions are aware of and understand the nature of risks posed by these issues, and that they are able to respond appropriately.

As your application involves international collaboration and will be funded through the International Science Partnership Fund (ISPF) you will need to demonstrate how your proposed project will identify potential risks and the relevant controls you will put in place to help proportionately reduce these risks. This will include describing what due diligence for ethical, legal, financial and security considerations has been undertaken in planning the project; confirming you have had open discussions with your partners around any conflicts of interest and how you will ensure both physical and on-line segregation of the data and outcomes from this project from other research you and the partner are undertaking separately.

Further information on managing risks in internationalism has been produced by Universities UK and UKRI.

- [Universities UK: Managing risks in internationalisation: security related issues](#)
- [Managing risks in international research and innovation](#)

Safeguarding

British Council condemns all forms of harm and abuse, including bullying and harassment. We take a zero-tolerance approach to harm and abuse to any individual employed through or associated with our programmes in all contexts; whether in humanitarian or fragile and conflict-affected settings, in other field contexts, or within the international or UK research and development community which we fund. We expect organisations to promote the highest standards in organisational culture and have in place the systems and procedures required to prevent and tackle all incidents of harm and abuse. Applications should detail how they will identify and manage safeguarding risks within their projects and submit a safeguarding risk assessment.

You will be expected to have in place the following robust policies and procedures:

- Safeguarding and Whistleblowing Policy
- Incident reporting procedure, which includes safe reporting.
- Code of Conduct on acceptable and unacceptable behaviours for staff, volunteers, students and placements.
- Safer recruitment policies and processes, which includes conducting relevant disclosure and/or criminal records checks for individuals directly working with children and/or vulnerable adults.

We require clients, customers, partners, and suppliers to operate within the British Council's Safeguarding Policy:

https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/safeguarding_policy.pdf

Partners, Suppliers & Contractors:

The terms 'partners, suppliers and contractors' relate to all those who we have a contract or agreement with to provide goods, services, or collaboration. There may be a financial or alternative benefit, but this is not essential. It includes implementing partners who carry out

work on our behalf and other stakeholders with whom the British Council may establish a working relationship, such as Ministries, and Donors and Funders.

Submission process

The deadline for submission of a completed application **including all supporting documentation** is **12 noon UK time, 12 March**. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered for funding.

The deadline applies to all parts of your application, including the uploading of fully completed supporting documentation. Any applications which are not submitted *in full* by the deadline, with all required supporting documents, will be considered *ineligible*.

Appeals against this decision will not be accepted.

Applicants for all calls must submit a completed online application form at the following link: https://britishcouncil2.formstack.com/forms/research_collaborations_global which includes the uploading of supporting information.

If you are unable to use the on-line application for reasons of accessibility, please contact us at uk-ispf@britishcouncil.org

Completing the application form:

To assist you in developing your application and sharing content with your partners, a Word version of the online application form will be available for download from the call website. This is solely to allow you to develop your responses in a convenient format. The final version of your application **must** be submitted using the online form.

Please give specific regard to the following sections of the application form:

Gender Equality Statement

Applicants are required to consider the impact their project will have on gender. Gender Equality is not the same as Gender Balance, although it does include Gender Balance it is mainly concerned with the impacts of the proposed project. This should be about the project specifically – the outputs and outcomes; the make-up of the project team; participants, stakeholders, and beneficiaries of the project; and the processes followed throughout the research programme. 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. The Gender Statement must **address the below criteria**, with an understanding that, depending on the nature of the research and innovation, not all questions will be applicable. **If a question is not applicable, you will need to articulate the reasons why.**

- 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 research and innovation.

- 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)?

The British Council has produced additional guidance on writing a gender statement.

[Link to: Gender Equality Statements - Guidance for Applicants](#)

Please also refer to Appendix 3.

The British Council reserves the right to reject the application if no consideration has been given to gender equality or if the proposal is assessed to result in a negative impact for gender equality.

Official Development Assistance

Please outline a plausible route between the outcomes of the proposed project to a positive tangible impact to the economic development and social welfare of the partner country, benefitting low-income and/or vulnerable populations within a short- to medium time frame (10 years). Please address the following questions:

1. How is your proposal directly and primarily relevant to the development challenges of the partner country/territory? Please provide evidence of the development need and articulate how the proposed activity is appropriate to address this need.
2. How do you expect that the outcome of your proposed activities will promote the economic development and welfare of the partner country/territory?
3. Please identify relevant stakeholders and potential users of the research and describe any existing engagement with them.
4. What approach(es) will you use to deliver development impact within the lifetime of the project and in the longer-term? Please consider the potential outcomes, the key beneficiary and stakeholder groups in the DAC list country/ countries and how they will be engaged to ensure opportunities for them to benefit and to enable development impact to be achieved.

Supporting Documents

In addition to filling in the online form, applicants are required to upload the following documents, as described, by the deadline. **Late submission of supporting documents or submission of documents which do not comply with these requirements, will render the application *ineligible*.** The documents are:

- **Project Leaders' Narrative CVs** (up to two sides of A4 each)
- **Budget sheet**
A detailed project budget (template available on the British Council call webpage)
- **Letters of support**

All Letters of support must be in English on headed paper, dated within 3 months of the submission.

Institutional Support Letter

From the UK and partner country Project Leaders' organisations, signed by the Head of Institution, Head of Department, or other person with appropriate delegated authority, expressing specific commitment to the proposed project, willingness to receive funding, a description of any in-kind support to be given and describing why the experience and capability of the Project Leader is particularly suited to the project content. Please note that supporting letters must not be signed by the Project Leaders.

Associated Partners Letter

If the proposal includes project partners/associated partners, a pdf file **combining together signed letters from each partner containing a maximum of 300 words on their contribution to the project - this could be financial or in-kind, e.g., expertise.** There is only one slot for uploading project partners/associated partners letter, so all supporting letters **must** be submitted as a **combined** document. Links to partner websites should be included if applicable. Letters from every project partner/associated partner listed in the application **must** be provided.

- **Weblink to Institution Safeguarding and Whistleblowing Policies**
- **Weblink to Institution Codes of Conduct on Acceptable Behaviours for staff and project participants**
- **Risk Assessment for travel (if applicable)**
- **GANTT Chart**
Showing timelines for the project with reference to the start and end dates indicated.

Any other documents uploaded with your application or sent late or separately will not be considered unless these are specified in Appendix 1.

Applications must be in English.

A Word version of the application form is available on the call website. This is solely to allow you to develop your responses in a convenient format. **The last version of your application must be submitted using the online form.**

If you experience problems with the online submission system, please contact uk-ispf@britishcouncil.org **before** the submission deadline. If you alert us to technical issues after the deadline, we will not be able to take them into consideration when assessing the eligibility of your application.

if you require an alternative format of the on-line submission form for reasons of accessibility, please contact us at: UK-ISPF@british.council.org.

Finalising submission

Before the completed online application form can be submitted to the system, applicants will be asked to confirm on the form that they have:

- obtained permission to submit the proposal on behalf of the UK institution(s) **and** of the partner country institution(s). This must be confirmed by attaching Letters of Support or formal emails from the respective institutions signed by the Head of Institution, Head of Department, or other person with appropriate delegated authority.

- confirmed the Project Leaders' Institutions, (i.e., the Lead Institutions') willingness to receive the funds and to sign a grant agreement with the British Council or the national partner, also confirmed in the Letters of Support.
- complied with British Council policies on prevention of fraud, bribery, money laundering and addressed any other financial and reputational risk that may affect a transparent and fair grant award process. See: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/transparency/policies/anti-fraud-and-corruption>

Once the online application is submitted, the system will generate a unique application ID number. Applicants should note this number and use it in all communications with the British Council. Applicants who have not received this ID number should contact the British Council at uk-ispf@britishcouncil.org

Applicant screening

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 is 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 grant call. The applicant must provide the British Council with all information 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.

Selection process

Selection begins with an eligibility check by the British Council against the eligibility criteria given in these Guidelines, including Appendix 1 (Country/Territory specific guidance), Appendix 2 (Eligibility Checklist) and Appendix 4 (Gender Equality Statement)

Eligible proposals then undergo independent external quality review based on quality, fit to development needs and country priorities, capacity building potential and sustainability of the collaboration, as follows:

- Assessment and scoring in the UK by independent experts (see Appendix 3 for assessment form). In country assessment by project partners may happen in parallel, see Appendix 1 for details.

- Review by a UK Review Panel of experts, which determines a UK panel score, ranks applications, and makes recommendations for funding. The Review Panel considers whether proposals are of high quality (being intellectually innovative, well focused, and methodologically sound), and whether the activity has the potential to have a real impact on economic development and social welfare in the partner country.
- Final decision making in collaboration with UK ISPF Fund partners, international stakeholders, and national co-funding organisations.

In the UK, eligible proposals are reviewed by one of five Review Panels:

- **Arts and Humanities**
- **Biological and Medical Sciences**
- **Engineering and Physical Sciences**
- **Natural Environment**
- **Social Sciences**

Please indicate in the application which Review Panel should assess the proposal and select up to three subject areas in priority order. We reserve the right to allocate your proposal to a different Review Panel.

Proposals are quality assessed against the criteria at Appendix 3, resulting in a total score between 0 and 60. Those receiving a final score from the Panel meeting of less than 30 will not be considered fundable. However, achieving a score equal to or above the threshold does not guarantee that the proposal will be selected for funding.

Country/territory specific priorities and challenge areas will be considered in the final decision, in addition to the general assessment criteria, see Appendix 1 for priorities by country/territory.

Successful applicants are currently expected to be notified in late June 2024.

Data protection

How we use your information

The British Council will use the information that you provide for the purposes of processing your application, making any awards, monitoring, and review of any grants.

We will need to share necessary data with application reviewers and panel members contracted by the British Council, the funder UK Department of Science, Innovation & Technology (DSIT), international funding partners (where named in Appendix 1) and contracted external evaluators (as required).

The British Council comply with the General Data Protection Regulations 2016/679 (EU) GDPR). We process and handle personal information according to these regulations. The personal information that you provide on this form will only be used for the processing of your application. The information will be viewed by British Council, and those who are part of the decision-making process. Your information will not be used/shared beyond the partners listed above for any other purpose without your specific consent. British Council reserve the right to publish and share anonymized 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>.

Contractual Requirements

- The contracting authority for UK Institutions 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).
- The successful applicants will be expected to undertake activities in the UK and in the ISPF Fund countries listed in section 3 of these guidelines (Scope of the Programme).
- 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.
- The British Council’s contractual approach in respect of the grant is set out at:

[Link to: ISPF Grant Base Template](#)

(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.

- If you have any concerns or queries in relation to the Grant Agreement, you should submit a clarification request to uk-ispf@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.

Contact details

All queries or comments about this call should be addressed to the ISPF email address: uk-ispf@britishcouncil.org

Appendix 1: Country/Territory Specific Guidance

To ensure optimal fit to the local context and development needs, priority areas, specific innovation challenges and additional application requirements – such as maximum grant sizes and durations – have been set at a country/territory level through discussion with /national stakeholders.

This appendix provides the specific guidance which applicants should consider in conjunction with the main body text of this document **before** preparing their proposals. Proposals which do not take into account the country specific guidance **cannot be considered for funding**

1. Egypt	
Partner:	STDF
Duration of grants:	12 to 24 Months
Size of grant:	UK institutions will be funded at 80% FEC up to a project cost of £100,000 (£80,000 grant funding) Egypt institutions will be funded by STDF at 100% FEC up to a project cost of £100,000 GBP
Thematic priority areas:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient Planet: Clean Energy, Extreme weather and climate, Agri-tech, Environmental resilience • Transformative Technologies: Artificial Intelligence, Quantum, Engineering biology, Semi-conductors, Future telecommunications • Healthy People, Animals and Plants: Biosecurity and Pathogen detection, Global Health and Pandemics, Genomics and digital health, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), Social determinants of health
Contractual arrangements:	
<p>UK Applicant</p> <p>Grant Agreements will be signed with the Lead Institution in the UK</p> <p>Egyptian Applicant</p> <p>When a project is approved (i.e., successfully completed all the contracting requirements by STDF), a contract agreement will be signed between STDF, the principal investigator (PI), and the host institute.</p>	
Additional eligibility criteria:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Egyptian Principal Investigator (PI) (Project Leader) must be affiliated to a research entity (university, research institution/centre...etc.), which has an Egyptian legal identity, and must be a Ph.D. holder • The Egyptian PI, should read carefully and adhere to STDF general conditions and guidelines, IPR rules, code of ethics, etc .(www.stdf.eg), • The Egyptian PI and Co-PI cannot charge less than 40% of their time in the project. In addition, all Egyptian team members (including those who are not the PI or Co-PI) cannot charge more than 80% of their time to all of their submitted/pending STDF proposals and ongoing STDF-funded projects. 	

Additional guidelines for the Egyptian Applicant budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total travel expenses should not exceed 25% of the total budget of the Egyptian side. • Salaries (not to exceed 25% of the total budget of the project for the Egyptian side and capped at 600,000 LE of the total budget). In all cases the proposed salaries will be subjected to STDF administrative check to ensure its consistency with the salary scale provided by STDF. • Indirect cost should not exceed 5% of the modified direct cost (up to 150,000 LE) • Total travel expenses should not exceed 25% of the total budget of the Egyptian side (Up to 400,000 LE) • Note: No adjustments to the budget will be accepted after submission
Eligible costs:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentives for the project's team/Personnel cost: Incentives are allowed for members of the project team and must not exceed 25% or 600,000 LE, whichever is less of the Egyptian Total Project Budget. Also, STDF abides by its approved scheme for incentives which takes into consideration each team member's academic credentials and the percentage of time spent on performing the project's activities. • Equipment, spare parts, expendable supplies and material: Funds required for the purchase of equipment, spare parts, expendable supplies and material required to fulfil the objectives of the project are allowed. • Services: Services necessary for fulfilling the objectives of the project are allowed. These include manufacturing of specimens & prototypes, registration and protection of the IP and publication, acquiring access to specialized reference source databases or computer software, fees for use of facilities in other national institutions, etc. • Events: In general, all costs directly related to the preparation, implementation and/or attendance of events like workshops, conferences, training courses etc. are eligible. • Travel should not exceed 25% or up to 400,000 LE: The most economical means of transport consistent with effective pursuit of the project should be used. Upgrades to business class are to be done at one's own expense. • Daily subsistence (per diem) allowance: Calculated according to the current governing rules of the Mission Directorate - Ministry of Higher Education - and depending on the visited country. Sometimes it's limited by the internal regulations of the PI's institution. • Indirect cost: Costs incurred by the PI's institution in order to facilitate performing project activities, support financial administration, manage the facilities, etc. (overheads)
Grant Payment structure:
<p>British Council pays UK institution and STDF pays Egyptian institution</p> <p>UK Applicant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80% of the UK grant will be paid on signature of the Grant Agreement; 10% upon receipt of an interim report, with a final payment of actual costs up to the total of the grant awarded, as indicated in the ISPF Grant: Base Template <p>Egyptian Applicant</p>

- The budget will be disbursed as installments. The number of installments depends on the duration of the project as illustrated in the grant guidelines. The first installment will be disbursed at the beginning of the project. The other installments will be paid after the receipt and approval of the progress reports.
- The disbursement of the final installment of the project is conditioned upon the delivery of the outputs specified in the proposal in the scheduled time (such as high-impact publications, submission of articles to international journal, student theses based on the work specified in the proposal, presentations in renowned international conferences, organizing meetings...etc.) which should be highlighted in the final report. The payment of the final installment is subject to the internal rules and regulations of STDF and can cover only the indirect costs as well as the remaining incentives.

Other considerations:

In tandem with the UK Assessment and Review process, and according to similar criteria, applications are reviewed by Egyptian technical experts. Only the applications that are deemed eligible by both UK and country criteria will undergo the review process.

Submission process:

One application should be submitted to UK system

Identical application form should be submitted to STDF website in addition to the required documents.

All proposals must be uploaded by the Egyptian Principal Investigator to the STDF website (www.stdf.eg). Proposals submitted by e-mail or sent as hard copies will not be considered.

Only one application per Egyptian Project Leader can be considered.

Specific Reporting Requirements

Lead applicants should submit, together with interim and final reports a financial report and supporting documents for expenditure items incurred

Other considerations for Egyptian Applicants

Egyptian Research Institution (PI) must submit a copy of the joint application submitted to the British Council, with other supporting documents (described below) to the Science, Technology and Innovation Funding Authority STDF portal: www.stdf.eg before the call closing date.

The following are the required documents which the Egyptian applicant will need to upload to the STDF portal (templates will be available on STDF website or the British Council website)

- Egyptian Endorsement Letter should be submitted by PI's institution (scanned copy of the letter signed and stamped by the legal representative – President - of the PI's institution). The letter will state the project title, the name, position and affiliation of the PI in charge of the proposal, that the project idea was not funded or submitted to another funding agency (national or international), or otherwise declare, and that the institution approves the project.
- Summary Budget for the duration of the project, with detailed annual budgets.
- Budget justification
- Egyptian Research Team information table

- Acknowledgement form
- Requested Documents (to be signed, dated, and stamped by the legal representative – President - of the PI's institution).
- Gantt chart

Please note that the joint application will not be considered eligible until these documents are successfully uploaded to the STDF portal.

- It is necessary to submit budget table for the Egyptian side. However, it is crucial to bear in mind that the total budget must not exceed £100,000. It is important to strictly adhere to this requirement to ensure compliance.
- Egyptian PIs are required to use the STDF documents template and upload into the portal
 - STDF may contact the Egyptian applicant to submit a copy of the application and support documents on their portal. In such case, the proposal will not be considered eligible until these documents are successfully uploaded to the PI's account on account on the on Science, Technology and Innovation Funding Authority STDF portal: www.stdf.eg.
 - A plagiarism check will be applied by STDF to all proposals submitted to this grant. Accordingly, the proposal must be submitted in a readable PDF format (i.e. not scanned), to facilitate plagiarism checks.
 - Based on the evaluation process; the PIs will be notified with STDF final decision. The final decision will be published to the PI account on the on Science, Technology and Innovation Funding Authority STDF portal: www.stdf.eg.

Contact details for queries about the Egyptian requirements:

Should be addressed to the STDF email address: Amal.gomaa@stdf.eg

2. Indonesia	
Partner:	THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION CULTURE RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY
Duration of grants:	24 months
Size of grant:	UK institutions will be funded at 80% FEC up to a project cost of £100,000 (£80,000 grant funding)
Thematic priority areas:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient Planet • Transformative Technologies • Healthy People, Animals and Plants
Contractual arrangements:	
<p>Grant Agreements will be signed with the Lead Institution in the UK.</p> <p>The awarded UK institutions will be responsible for disbursing the relevant budget to Indonesia institutions based on grant agreements.</p>	
Additional eligibility criteria:	

Additional Eligibility Criteria for Principal Investigators in Indonesia:

a. The Principal Investigator (PI) must be a permanent lecturer with a valid Nomor Induk Dosen Nasional (NIDN) or Nomor Induk Dosen Khusus (NIDK) and must have a registered ID in SINTA (Science and Technology Index).

b. For Basic Research:

- i. The PI must hold a Ph.D. degree and be at least at the post of an expert assistant (asisten ahli) or beyond.
- ii. The PI should have authored at least two (2) articles published in reputable indexed databases and/or accredited national journals as the first author or corresponding author.
- iii. The research team should consist of 1 – 2 persons, comprised of at least one early career researcher and/or doctoral student and must have a registered ID in SINTA (Science and Technology Index).

c. For Applied Research:

- i. The PI must hold a Ph.D. degree and be at least at the post of an expert assistant (asisten ahli) or beyond.
- ii. The PI should have authored at least two (2) articles published in reputable indexed databases and/or accredited national journals as the first author or corresponding author, or have a minimum of 1 registered relevant Intellectual Property Right (IPR).
- iii. The research team should consist of 1 – 2 persons, comprised of at least one early career researcher and/or doctoral student and must have a registered ID in SINTA (Science and Technology Index).

Other considerations:

Successful projects start dates for the will be 1 August 2024
Projects will expect to have completed all fundable activities by: 1 February 2026

Submission process:

One application via UK system
Upon submission of application, we require applicant to submit a document that expresses 2 parties-agreement to complete the research collaboration. This can be in the format of Letter of Intent or MoU should there be any.

2. Kenya

Partner:	N/A
Duration of grants:	24 months
Size of grant:	UK institutions will be funded at 80% FEC up to a project cost of £100,000 (£80,000 grant funding)

Thematic priority areas:	Transformative Technologies Focus on translational research partnerships to support knowledge transfer and application of research including and beyond STEM
Contractual arrangements:	
Grant Agreements will be signed with the Lead Institution in the UK.	
The awarded UK institutions will be responsible for disbursing the relevant budget to Kenyan institutions.	
UK Project leaders should submit proposals with figures of 100 per cent Full Economic Costs (FEC).	
If successful, the British Council will meet 80 per cent of the FEC paid to the UK Research Organisation.	
Additional eligibility criteria:	
Not applicable	
Other considerations:	
Successful projects start dates will be 1 August 2024 Projects will expect to have completed all fundable activities by: 31 July 2026	
Submission process:	
One application via UK system	

3. Malaysia

Partner:	Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM)
Duration of grants:	24 months
Size of grant:	UK institutions will be funded at 80% FEC up to a project cost of £100,000 (£80,000 grant funding) Malaysia institutions will be funded at 100% FEC up to a project cost of £80,000 GBP
Thematic priority areas:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient Planet - Leading the green industrial revolution to protect the planet • Transformative Technologies - Developing responsible technologies to secure our place in tomorrow's world • Healthy People, Animals and Plants – Researching and Innovating for secure and healthy populations • Tomorrow's Talent – Nurturing talent to drive inclusion, research and innovation •
Contractual arrangements:	

Grant Agreements will be signed between both Lead Institutions in the UK and Malaysia
Additional eligibility criteria:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied research or beyond (Technology Readiness Level 4 and/or above) • Transdisciplinary research (There will be a certain weightage for the number of disciplines involved) • Collaboration with other institutions and industry or community (There will be a certain weightage for the number of collaborations involved) • Malaysian non-public (for profit) institutions are eligible to apply as a partner in the project, however they will not be eligible for the transfer of any ISPF grant funds from the UK Institutions
Other considerations:
<p>Successful projects start dates will be Q3 2024 Projects will expect to have completed all fundable activities by: Q3 2027</p>
Submission process:
One application via UK system

4. Philippines	
Partner:	Department of Science and Technology
Duration of grants:	24 months
Size of grant:	Funding to UK Institutions: £80,000 (£100,000 FEC)
Thematic priority areas:	Resilient Planet: Clean Energy, Risk reduction from extreme weather and climate, Agri-tech and Health (food systems and supply chain), Environmental resilience
Contractual arrangements:	
<p>Grant Agreements will be signed with the Lead Institution in the UK. The awarded UK institutions will be responsible for disbursing the relevant budget to Philippines institutions based on grant agreements. UK Project leaders should submit proposals with figures of 100 per cent Full Economic Costs (FEC). If successful, the British Council will meet 80 per cent of the FEC paid to the UK Research Organisations and that institution will be expected to support the remaining 20 per cent.</p>	
Additional eligibility criteria:	
<p>It is highly recommended to place priority on the commercialisation and entrepreneurship aspects for the applications. This approach shall facilitate development of innovative solutions that tackle global challenges and promote economic growth and sustainability.</p>	
Other considerations:	
<p>Successful projects start dates for the will be 1 August 2024 Projects will expect to have completed all fundable activities by: 1 February 2026</p>	
Submission process:	

One application via UK system

5. Thailand

Partner:	N/A
Duration of grants:	24 months
Size of grant:	UK institutions will be funded at 80% FEC up to a project cost of £100,000 (£80,000 grant funding)
Thematic priority areas:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient Planet: Clean Energy, Extreme weather and climate, Agri-tech, Environmental resilience • Transformative Technologies: Artificial Intelligence, Quantum, Engineering biology, Semi-conductors, Future telecommunications • Healthy People, Animals and Plants: Biosecurity and Pathogen detection, Global Health and Pandemics, Genomics and digital health, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), Social determinants of health • Tomorrows Talent: Research Capacity, Research Systems, Research Pipeline

Contractual arrangements:

Grant Agreements will be signed with the Lead Institution in the UK.
 The awarded UK institutions will be responsible for disbursing the relevant budget to Thailand institutions based on grant agreements.
 UK Project leaders should submit proposals with figures of 100 per cent Full Economic Costs (FEC).
 If successful, the British Council will meet 80 per cent of the FEC paid to the UK Research Organisations and that institution will be expected to support the remaining 20 per cent.

Additional eligibility criteria:

Not applicable

Other considerations:

Successful projects start dates will be 1 August 2024
 Projects will expect to have completed all fundable activities by: 1 August 2026

Submission process:

One application via UK system

6. Turkey

Partner:	TUBİTAK
Duration of grants:	2 years
Size of grant:	UK institutions will be funded at 80% FEC up to a project cost of £100,000 (£80,000 grant funding)
Thematic priority areas:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient Planet: Clean Energy, Extreme weather and climate, Agri-tech, Environmental resilience

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transformative Technologies: Artificial Intelligence, Quantum, Semi-conductors, Future telecommunications • Healthy People, Animals and Plants: Biosecurity and Pathogen detection, Global Health and Pandemics, Genomics and digital health, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)
Contractual arrangements:	
<p>Grant Agreements will be signed with the Lead Institution in the UK.</p> <p>The awarded UK institutions will be responsible for disbursing the relevant budget to Turkish institutions based on grant agreements.</p> <p>UK Project leaders should submit proposals with figures of 100 per cent Full Economic Costs (FEC).</p> <p>If successful, the British Council will meet 80 per cent of the FEC paid to the UK Research Organisations and that institution will be expected to support the remaining 20 per cent.</p>	
Additional eligibility criteria:	
<p>Candidates should be selected from public/foundation universities and research centres;</p> <p>All Turkish researchers who apply must be registered on TUBITAK ARBIS (Researcher Information system) through the following link: http://arbis.tubitak.gov.tr.</p>	
Other considerations:	
<p>Successful projects start dates will be 1 August 2024.</p> <p>Projects will expect to have completed all fundable activities by: 1 August 2026.</p>	
Submission process:	
<p>One application via UK system.</p>	

7. Vietnam	
Partner:	N/A
Duration of grants:	24 months
Size of grant:	UK institutions will be funded at 80% FEC up to a project cost of £100,000 (£80,000 grant funding)
Thematic priority areas:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient Planet: Clean Energy, Extreme weather and climate, Agri-tech, Environmental resilience • Transformative Technologies: Artificial Intelligence, Quantum, Engineering biology, Semi-conductors, Future telecommunications • Healthy People, Animals and Plants: Biosecurity and Pathogen detection, Global Health and Pandemics, Genomics and digital health, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), Social determinants of health • Tomorrows Talent: Research Capacity, Research Systems, Research Pipeline
Contractual arrangements:	
<p>Grant Agreements will be signed with the Lead Institution in the UK.</p>	

The awarded UK institutions will be responsible for disbursing the relevant budget to Vietnam institutions based on grant agreements.

Please note: For work/services performed in Vietnam (including transfer for funds to Vietnamese partner), Vietnamese Value Added Tax (VAT) will be charged on the invoiced amount at the applicable rate at the time of issuing invoice. Standard VAT rate in Vietnam is 10%. This should be factored into your request for funding.

UK Project leaders should submit proposals with figures of 100 per cent Full Economic Costs (FEC).

If successful, the British Council will meet 80 per cent of the FEC paid to the UK Research Organisations and that institution will be expected to support the remaining 20 per cent.

Additional eligibility criteria:

Not applicable

Other considerations:

Successful projects start dates for the will be 1 August 2024
Projects will expect to have completed all fundable activities by: 1 February 2026

Submission process:

One application via UK system

APPENDIX 2: ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA CHECKLIST

Eligibility criteria checklist	
The application	
The application has been submitted by the published deadline.	
The application has been submitted by a Project Leader in the UK and a Project Leader based in one of the partner countries listed in Appendix 1.	
<p>Project Leaders are based at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a not-for-profit higher education institution with the capacity to undertake high-quality research • a research institution with the capacity to undertake high-quality research • a Catapult Centre³ (in the case of the UK Project Leader) • an alternative institution as detailed in Appendix 1 <p>For the UK, if the lead institution is not an HEI (Higher Education Institution), the list of eligible UK research organisations is available as a pdf with the call documents on our funding call page. If unsure, please contact (uk-ispf@britishcouncil.org)</p>	
The application includes two (2) supporting letters, one from each of the two Lead Institutions, on headed paper, signed by the Head of the Institution, Head of Department, or other person with appropriate delegated authority, giving specific commitment to the project as described in Section 10 of these Guidelines. Supporting letters are not signed by the Project Leaders.	
The application includes a detailed budget request using the appropriate budget spreadsheet provided.	
If there are associated partners, a letter from each partner has been unloaded as required within a single pdf.	
Each section of the application form has been completed in full and complies with instructions given.	
The application form and supporting documents have been completed in English.	
The Project Leaders have submitted only one (1) application under this Research Collaboration call.	
Additional criteria required by partner country has been reviewed and adhered to.	

³ <https://www.innovateuk.org/-/catapult-centres>

Appendix 3: Assessment criteria and scoring system

Assessment of the quality and development relevance of the proposals will be performed by expert reviewers, and the final funding decisions will be made in discussion with British Council country office and in country partners. Only proposals with an average score of 30 points or more for Sections 2 to 4 and which have taken gender inclusion into consideration will be eligible for funding.

Section 1: Relevance to economic development and social welfare	Score	Range
		YES/NO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear evidence is provided demonstrating that the suggested impacts assessed are relevant to the lives of vulnerable people/low income populations in a DAC country. • Clear evidence is provided demonstrating that the project will contribute to the economic development and social welfare of the partner country and within a reasonable timeframe (within 10 years). • Development-relevant stakeholders and beneficiaries are defined, and the project plan includes an engagement plan. 		

Section 2: Relevance to gender equality	Score	Range
		Sufficient /Insufficient
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures are 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 research and innovation. • The project will have a positive impact on people of different genders, both throughout the project and beyond. • The potential impact on the relations between people of different genders and people of the same gender is clearly described. For example, changing roles and responsibilities in households, society, economy, politics, power, etc. 		<p>Not addressed: The proposal does not include any specific measure to reduce gender inequality or for people of different genders to be involved in the project. (Insufficient)</p> <p>.</p> <p>Good: Proposals address due diligence, risks, basic needs, and vulnerabilities of persons of different genders. (Sufficient)</p> <p>Excellent: Programmes/projects build assets, capabilities, and</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality will be monitored, avoided, or mitigated against. • Relevant outcomes and outputs will be measured with disaggregated data by age and gender (where disclosed). 	<p>opportunities for persons of different genders.</p> <p>(Sufficient)</p> <p>Transformative: Programmes/projects address unequal power relations and seek systemic institutional, legal, and societal changes.</p> <p>(Sufficient)</p>
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Section 3: Research/innovation quality and background	Score	Range
		0–20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The academic importance and timeliness of the research/innovation topic is clearly demonstrated. • The Project Leaders have sufficient relevant experience to undertake the proposed research collaboration and achieve the stated objectives. • The value added – to institutions and/or the wider research and innovation community – by the collaboration between the partnering institutions is clearly described. • The collaborating institutions are of appropriate academic standing. • The benefits and relevance of the research to the UK and partner country institution is clearly described. 	<p>20 points: Meets all criteria to an exceptional level</p> <p>16 to 19 points: Meets most of the criteria to a very high level</p> <p>11 to 15 points: Meets most of the criteria to a high level</p> <p>6 to 10 points: Meets most of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p>1 to 5 points: Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p>0 points: Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.</p>	

Section 4: Proposal	Score	Range
		0–20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The description of the proposed collaboration includes clear, feasible and realistic objectives as well as potential for long term impact. • Applicants clearly articulate specific outputs anticipated from the collaboration and objectives likely to be achieved • The proposal explains the benefits to both the UK and partner country researchers/innovation practitioners, institutions, and end -users of the research or the products and services that will 	<p>20 points: Meets all criteria to an exceptional level</p> <p>16 to 19 points: Meets most of the criteria to a very high level</p> <p>11 to 15 points: Meets most of the criteria to a high level</p> <p>6 to 10 points: Meets most of the criteria to an adequate level</p>	

<p>result from the project activity, considering who might benefit and how they might benefit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is strong evidence of support from the applicants' institutions and Associated Partners (where applicable). • The proposed collaboration supports new links or significantly extends and develops existing links. • If the applicants' institutions are collaborating already, there is clear evidence that the grant would add significant value to the collaboration. • The proposal includes a clear and feasible description of the arrangements for project managing the collaboration and communication between partners. • The proposal represents value for money; all costs are fully justified. 	<p>1 to 5 points: Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p>0 points: Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.</p>
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Section 5: Sustainability and capacity strengthening	Score	Range
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential in terms of professional development and capacity building for researchers, innovation practitioners and other individuals participating in the collaboration is clearly described. • The collaboration supports the institutional capacity to translate research into economic or societal benefit, for example through establishing new relationships with non-academic partners, or setting up new processes for technology transfer. • The proposal includes a clear and feasible description of how the participating institutions/organisations intend to sustain their collaboration over the longer-term. • The participating institutions demonstrate a commitment to the collaboration through provision of in-kind funding (note that matched funding is an essential requirement for proposals from a subset of countries). 		<p>0–20</p> <p>20 points: Meets all criteria to an exceptional level</p> <p>16 to 19 points: Meets most of the criteria to a very high level</p> <p>11 to 15 points: Meets most of the criteria to a high level</p> <p>6 to 10 points: Meets most of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p>1 to 5 points: Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p>0 points: Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.</p>
Total score for quality assessment (Section 3 + Section 4 + Section 5)	Score	Range
		0–60

APPENDIX 4. GENDER EQUALITY STATEMENTS

This annex provides additional guidance for applicants on what to include in a Gender Equality Statement

Guidance for applicants

All applicants to DSIT R&I (Research & Innovation) funds are asked to submit a Gender Equality Statement with their application. It is expected that some projects will have less impact on gender and gender relations and professional judgement of the applicants should be exercised to ensure appropriate consideration of the context and intended aims of the project. Applicants can reference other parts of their application within this statement, if relevant.

Applicants are required to address the below criteria, with an understanding that, depending on the nature of their research and innovation, not all questions will be applicable.

Criteria to address while considering gender impact:

- 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 research and innovation.
- 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)?

In addition, applicants must provide, **or** provide evidence that they have considered the following key inception actions:

- Gender Analysis – to understand gender equality issues in relation to the sector/context/country.
- Gender Impact Assessment – to understand impact of interventions (benefits & losses) on persons of different gender
- Consideration of Risk
- Risk Matrix: to identify Gender risks & unintended negative consequences to avoid, mitigate & monitor.
- Risk mitigation: including implementation of social & environmental sustainability performance standards; social safeguards.
- Implementing partners are confident interventions will do no harm and not worsen discrimination/gender inequality.
- Addresses basic needs of persons of different gender.
- Minimal institutional change to support sustained gender equality, empowerment of persons of different gender, and wider social inclusion.
- Gender disaggregated data & KPI (Key Performance Indicator) indicators where possible for programme/projects/projects & logframes.

- Information Sharing: Accurate, timely information shared with stakeholders through range of communication methods appropriate for context and target audience.
- Codes of Conduct: Staff and partners have signed and been trained on the organisation's code of conduct with respect to gender discrimination and have general safeguarding policies in place.
- Stakeholder and Community engagement Plan: Consultation with persons of different gender, poor and gender-discriminated groups, Civil Society Organisations (including Disabled People's Organisations and Persons of different gender's Rights organisations), SMEs.

Things to consider: Incorporating gender equality into Research and Innovation activities

Understanding gender and gender equality

- Have you understood that your concepts of gender norms, roles and values may vary across members of your project team, research and innovation participants and beneficiaries?
- Have you understood the different norms and values of gender depending on the context of your research and/or innovation?
- Equal opportunities and meaningful contributions
- Is there (or is there a plan to work towards) a gender balance in the project team at all levels? If not, why?
- Are there equal opportunities for persons of different gender in the recruitment of the project team?
- Are all members of the project team involved in the design and delivery of the research and/or innovation in a way that is providing equality of opportunity for people of different genders and across intersecting axes of difference?

Research and innovation content

- If the research and/or innovation involves humans or human physiology, has the relevance of gender to the research question and/or innovation topic been analysed?
- Have you considered the impact on the relations between people of different genders, and of the same gender? For example, changing roles and responsibilities in households, society, economy, politics, etc.?
- If the research and/or innovation involves human participants or human physiology, is there a gender balance? If not, why?
- Have you reviewed literature and other sources (such as expertise/networks within the local context) relating to gender differences in the research and/or innovation field?
- Have you considered how to disaggregate any data you collect by gender?

Dissemination and impact of your research

- Have different outcomes, outputs and impacts of the research and/or innovation been identified based on gender and gender differences?
- Have you considered how you will disseminate your research and/or innovation in a way that is gender responsive? For example, the use of gender-impartial language.

“Mainstreaming” gender considerations: Including Gender in your Project Proposal

Consider discussing gender throughout your proposal, rather than just in the Gender Equality Statement.

- Gender sensitive language is an easy way to show you have thought about gender throughout your application. If you are using general, inclusive phrases such as ‘local communities,’ ‘beneficiaries’ ‘research participants,’ make it clear what the composition of these groups are. For example, ‘the men, women and children in the local community will benefit from the outputs of the project.’
- Showcasing equality of opportunities for all members of the project team is also an effective way to illustrate how you have considered gender equality in your proposal.
- Explaining why, for example, you have chosen to use female organs or tissue in your research and innovation, is a good way to illustrate how you have considered gender and differences between genders whilst developing your research and innovation questions and activities.
- Consider the possible gendered outcomes: where and to whom the benefits will be experienced.

Including gender in your project is a great way to illustrate Interdisciplinarity

- By reflecting on gender issues within the content and context of your research, there is a great opportunity to foster collaboration between scientists and gender experts. For some research and innovation projects, it can also be beneficial to illustrate how you are incorporating elements of social science in your project.
- Consider whether the effectiveness and the successful implementation of your research and innovation may benefit from including gender expertise throughout the duration of the project.

Some research and innovation will be more gender-impartial

- Not all research and innovation will have equal impact on people of different genders. Some research and innovation are specifically targeted at people of a specific gender or includes studies on physiology of a certain gender –and that is ok! Considering gender does not mean you cannot do gender specific studies!
- Being gender sensitive in your research and innovation is intended to minimise potential barriers throughout the project cycle and to prevent any unforeseen negative consequences for people of different genders. It will allow you to examine how you can be more inclusive and maximise the impacts of your research and innovation.

The University of Edinburgh has also produced some guidance on gender relevant research:

<https://www.gender.ed.ac.uk/gender-sensitive-research/improving-research/>