

**Going Global Partnerships  
Guidance for Applicants**

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# **Taiwan-UK University Alliance - Call for Membership**

Call opens 16 January 2023

Call closes 30 April 2023 at 11:59pm UK time

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# Guidelines for Applicants

## 1. Going Global Partnerships

Going Global Partnerships builds stronger, more inclusive, internationally connected higher education and TVET systems which support economic and social growth.

Through this British Council programme, you can connect, collaborate and innovate with universities, colleges, education policy makers and other partners in the UK and around the world.

The overall expected outcomes of Going Global Partnerships include:

- Enabling research: supporting research, knowledge and innovation collaborations to address local and global challenges and promote inclusive future growth.
- Internationalising HE institutions: creating the enabling environment and supporting institutions and individuals to benefit from internationalisation.
- Strengthening systems: improving the quality and efficiency of tertiary institutions and systems.
- Enhancing student outcomes: addressing the qualities of the global graduate (e.g. soft skills, employability, community outcomes).

Going Global Partnerships offers you vital international opportunities - the chance to build relationships, to share ideas and good practice, to access grant funding for collaborative partnerships and more.

You can see current and upcoming Going Global Partnerships opportunities on our website: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/he-science/going-global-partnerships/connect-collaborate>. We have many opportunities being launched at this time, so please check this page regularly.

This document refers to the following opportunity: **Taiwan-UK University Alliance (TUKUA) – Call for Membership.**

## 2. Taiwan-UK University Alliance - Background Information

### Higher Education in Taiwan<sup>1</sup>

Taiwan has excellent global competitiveness despite limited land and natural resources. The key reason is its quality human resources and higher education. Higher education institutions in Taiwan include two-year junior colleges, five-year junior colleges, and universities. The study period is four years for an undergraduate university degree, one to a maximum of four years for a master's degree, and two to a maximum of seven years for a doctoral degree. The popularisation of education has led to a rapid increase in the number of universities, colleges and students, although the figure has levelled off in recent decades. In 2020, there were 152

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<sup>1</sup> Source: [Education in Taiwan 2022-23](#)  
[www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org)

universities, colleges and junior colleges, totalling 203,460 students. Reforms in teacher training have played an important part in the popularisation of higher education. Significant improvements in teacher quality can be attributed to policy adaptations and the newly implemented evaluation system. Currently, PhD degree holders account for over 80% of faculty in universities.

To maintain competitiveness, Taiwan’s government has invested more than US\$700 million in higher education annually over the past five years to encourage universities to enhance the quality of research and teaching. The results have been remarkable. Sixteen of Taiwan’s universities were listed in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2021. In the past five years, there have been 25 universities in Taiwan listed among the top 500. Times Higher Education (THE) Ranking 2021 lists 40 universities in Taiwan, with seven universities ranking in the top 500 in the past five years. According to the Essential Science Indicators (ESI) rankings in 2020, 51 of the universities in Taiwan have entered the list of the world's top 1% of research institutions (accounting for 32% of the universities and colleges in Taiwan), spanning 20 research areas, which reveals that Taiwan has world-class higher education.

## UK Taiwan Joint Research

Table 1: Number of UK Taiwan joint research publications<sup>2</sup>

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	5 Year Total
1,234	1,319	1,334	1,471	1,752	7,110

- UK is ranked fourth for countries collaborating, in terms of publications, with Taiwan, with a total joint publication of 7,110 articles over the last five years.
- It is worth noting that the Field-Weight Citation Impact (FWCI) for Taiwan-UK joint publications is a lot higher than when Taiwan is collaborating with other countries, ranking first out of the 5 top collaborating countries.
- In 2021, A memorandum of understanding signed between the UK’s Economic and Social Research Council and Taiwan’s Ministry of Science and Technology resulted in £500,000 of seed funding for new social science joint research partnerships between UK and Taiwan higher education institutions. This led to ten projects being funded, which are ongoing.
- Also, in 2021 the UK and Taiwan both participated in a Eureka Globalstars programme with £860,000 of funding from Innovate UK, matched by Taiwan, with a focus on Digital Technologies for Manufacturing. Innovate UK are also working with the Department of Industrial Technology on future potential bilateral programmes. I2P continues to offer researchers funding for UK-Taiwan researcher networking opportunities with over 20 projects funded to date.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Scival  
[www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org)

## UK – Taiwan TNE Collaboration

Table 2: Number of students enrolled on UK Transnational Education in Taiwan (excluding Oxford Brookes University)<sup>3</sup>

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
In Person	15	5	5	5	5	5
Distance Learning	100	140	150	205	220	265
Total	115	145	155	210	225	270

## Student Mobility from Taiwan to the UK:

Table 3: Number of enrolments in Higher Education

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
4,240	4,085	4,205	4,415	4,555	3,530

## Taiwan's Bilingual Policy

Taiwan's [Bilingual 2030](#) policy, which was officially launched in September 2018 has the following two-fold vision:

- Helping Taiwan's workforce connect with the world.
- Attracting international enterprises to Taiwan enabling Taiwanese industries to connect to global markets and create high-quality jobs.

And the following goals:

- Accelerating the development of bilingual higher education.
- Balancing and optimising bilingual conditions for schools at the senior high school level and below.
- Developing digital learning.
- Expanding provision of affordable English proficiency tests.
- Raising civil servants' English proficiency.

## Bilingual Education for Students in College

In September 2021, Taiwan's Ministry of Education launched the Programme on [Bilingual Education for Students in College](#) (BEST). This NT\$17.6 billion (£470 million<sup>4</sup>) policy initiative aims to enhance English Medium Education in higher education in Taiwan over the ten-year period 2021–2030.

<sup>3</sup> Source: HESA

<sup>4</sup> NT\$1=£0.0266

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Through this initiative four universities are being funded to become 'Key Cultivation Universities' to increase the quality and quantity of English Medium Education across their institutions. The four Key Cultivation Universities are the founding Taiwanese members of the proposed Taiwan UK University Alliance:

- [National Taiwan University](#)
- [National Cheng Kung University](#)
- [National Taiwan Normal University](#)
- [National Sun Yat-sen University](#)

### **British Council activity to support Taiwan's Bilingual 2030 Policy**

Throughout 2021 and 2022, the British Council has delivered several projects to support the Ministry of Education in making evidenced based Bilingual 2030 policy decisions. These projects have included:

- A baseline study of English proficiency of students at grade 9 and grade 12 across Taiwan.
- An evaluation of the plans of 15 higher education institutions in Taiwan to cultivate the English proficiency of their students.
- The creation and implementation of a framework to support delivery of high quality English Medium Education at 29 higher education institutions. This project was delivered in partnership with Ecctis Ltd and Oxford EMI Ltd.

Throughout 2021 we delivered a series of five webinars to share [UK experience and expertise in support of Taiwan's Bilingual Policy](#). Experts from 16 UK institutions delivered presentations at these webinars to an audience of more than 1,400 Taiwanese policy makers and education professionals.

Following these webinars, the British Council met with the Ministry of Education and the Vice Presidents for International Affairs at the four Key Cultivation Universities to explore the potential for establishing a Taiwan UK University Alliance (TUKUA) to support greater collaboration between the UK HE sector in support of Taiwan's [Bilingual 2030](#) Policy.

The Ministry of Education and the four Key Cultivation Universities were very supportive of the proposal and have agreed to the draft terms of reference set out in Appendix 1.

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### 3. Taiwan UK University Alliance – Call for Membership

We are now inviting UK research intensive universities to submit applications to become one of the four founding UK members of the proposed Taiwan UK University Alliance (TUKUA).

Although Taiwan's [Bilingual 2030](#) policy and the subsequent Ministry of Education [Bilingual Education for Students in College](#) policy initiative are the catalysts for the proposed consortium, the focus of TUKUA would not be limited to Bilingual or English Medium Education. TUKUA members would be free to explore and engage in any mutually beneficial collaboration that aligns with wider priorities in both the UK and Taiwan, including but not limited to:

- English as the language of teaching and learning
- Green energy and Net Zero solutions
- Health tech and engineering biology
- Emerging technologies
- Cybersecurity and digital resilience
- Tomorrow's talent

Based on the British Council's experience of convening and administering HE consortia in East Asia, we have created draft terms of reference for the Taiwan UK University Alliance (see Appendix 1). However, the first activity for the four UK HEIs selected through the call for interest would be to discuss and agree upon the terms of reference with the other members of TUKUA.

#### **Eligibility Criteria**

Institutions must be UK research intensive universities that can engage senior as well as early-career researchers with TUKUA activities and contribute to world-class, bilateral research collaborations with member universities on the suggested priority themes.

#### **Membership Contribution**

As a condition of participation in TUKUA, each member university is expected to contribute £5,000 at the beginning of each financial year (April to March). One member of TUKUA would then be selected to act as the secretariat and hold and manage the contributions contributed by all TUKUA members. These contributions would be allocated to fund organisation of TUKUA activities, such as steering committee meetings, conferences, researcher workshops and the secretariat's operations. Member universities may be required to cover some additional costs to organise or participate in TUKUA activities.

#### **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

The British Council is committed to equal opportunities and diversity in all activities, including the avoidance of bias due to gender, disability, racial or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or religious belief. Applicants are encouraged to set out how their membership of TUKUA would contribute towards achieving an equal gender balance and promote diversity, ensuring no-one is excluded from participation in the activities of TUKUA on the basis of ethnicity, gender, religious belief, sexual orientation, or disability. Further information on the British Council's Equality Policy can be found at

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/transparency/policies/equality-diversity-inclusion>

## How to Apply

Please send your completed application form to [sandy.chi@britishcouncil.org.tw](mailto:sandy.chi@britishcouncil.org.tw) no later than at 11:59pm UK time on 30 April 2023.

A copy of the application form is provided in Appendix 3.

Applications will be assessed by a panel of evaluators from the British Council, The Ministry of Education in Taiwan, and the four Taiwanese university members of TUKUA.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	SCORE
What is your vision for membership of TUKUA?	30
Why is your institution well placed to contribute to research collaboration in the two priority themes that you have selected?	50
What challenges or barriers to engagement do you anticipate and how could these be mitigated?	10
How would you ensure no-one is excluded from participation in the activities of TUKUA on the basis of ethnicity, gender, religious belief, sexual orientation, or disability?	10
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	<b>100</b>

The successful applicants will be contacted by the British Council by 30 April 2023 and invited to attend a meeting of all the members of TUKUA to discuss and agree on the terms of reference by 31 May 2023.

Once the terms of reference are agreed, the British Council will then share a draft Memorandum of Understanding to be reviewed and signed off by all members of TUKUA by 31 July 2023.

TUKUA meetings and activities would then be able to commence from 1 August 2023 onwards.

## Timeline

	Jan '23	Feb '23	Mar '23	Apr '23	May '23	Jun '23	Jul '23
Call for applications	16 Jan			30 Apr			
Webinar briefing		8 Feb					
Assess applications				1 to 30 Apr			
Discuss and agree ToR					1 to 31 May		
Review and sign MoU						1 Jun to	31 Jul

### Webinar Briefing

There will be a webinar briefing session on Wednesday 8 Feb 2023 from 09:00 to 10:00. The four founding Taiwanese members of TUKUA will introduce their institutions, their current collaborations with the UK, as well as their aspirations for TUKUA. This will also be an opportunity for UK higher education institutions interested in applying for membership of the Taiwan UK University Alliance to ask them questions.

If you would like to join this webinar please email [Sandy.Chi@britishcouncil.org.tw](mailto:Sandy.Chi@britishcouncil.org.tw) who will then send you the calendar invite.

The webinar will be held using Microsoft Teams; however, you do not need a Microsoft account to participate.

### Key Contact

Any enquiries relating to TUKUA should also be sent to:

Sandy Chi, Cultural Engagement Programme Manager.

Tel: +886 (0) 2 8722 1033

E-mail [sandy.chi@britishcouncil.org.tw](mailto:sandy.chi@britishcouncil.org.tw)

## 4. Data Protection

The British Council will use the information that you provide for the purposes of processing your application.



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We will share all application data with the Ministry of Education in Taiwan and the four Taiwanese university members of the consortium to assist the management of the application process.

The British Council complies 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 the Taiwanese members of the consortium. Your information will not be used/shared beyond the partners listed above for any other purpose without your specific consent. British Council reserves the right to publish and share anonymised 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 the Data Protection Team [inforgovernance@britishcouncil.org](mailto:inforgovernance@britishcouncil.org) or see our website: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/privacy-cookies/data-protection>. We will keep your information for a period of seven years after the project.

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# Appendix 1: TUKUA Draft Terms of Reference

(To be discussed and signed off by all members of TUKUA once established)

## Purpose

- TUKUA will focus on showcasing bilateral research between members to wider external stakeholders and promoting new joint research through researcher networking, potentially leading to partnerships with the government, industry and civil society.
- TUKUA will deliver its objectives primarily through organising an annual conference and adjoining researcher networking workshop held in rotation in Taiwan and the UK.
- In addition to the annual conference and researcher networking workshops, members will also continue to enjoy opportunities for maintaining strong relationships between members through regular face-to-face steering committee meetings.
- As this innovative form of bilateral research collaboration develops, it will result in shared values, agendas and action points among the participating individuals and institutions.
- The long-term benefits of TUKUA will be a sustainable dialogue and strategic relationships that transcends academic disciplines, industrial/public sectors and cultures.

## Participation

- TUKUA will consist (initially) of eight universities – four from Taiwan and four from the UK.
- The four Taiwanese Universities will be:
  - National Taiwan University
  - National Taiwan Normal University
  - National Cheng Kung University
  - National Sun Yat-sen University
- The four UK universities will be selected through an open call for membership.
- In order to ensure the sustainability of TUKUA, each of the participating universities will be expected to contribute £5,000 (approx. NT\$190,000) on an annual basis.
- This annual contribution will be used to fund TUKUA activities, such as steering committee meetings, the annual conference, researcher workshops and the secretariat's operations.

## Activities

- One of the key objectives of TUKUA will be to create intercultural dialogue and exchange of ideas so that collaboration across cultures can take place.
- TUKUA will deliver activities that are primarily intended to create opportunities for joint research, and leverage funding for joint research through engagement with external stakeholders.
- TUKUA can also deliver activities that are intended to create opportunities for other forms of Taiwan-UK higher education collaboration including opportunities for transnational education, student mobility, and continuing professional development.

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- Activities will include annual showcasing and researcher networking events in Taiwan and the UK.
  - TUKUA will develop fresh and innovative engagement with third-party organisations from industry, government and the third sector to meet societal challenges.
  - It is suggested that the initial focus of TUKUA aligns with one or two of the UK and Taiwan government priority themes listed below:
    - English as the language of teaching and learning
    - Green energy and Net Zero solutions
    - Health tech and engineering biology
    - Emerging technologies
    - Cybersecurity and digital resilience
    - Tomorrow's talent
  - In order to allow sufficient focus and enough time for research themes to be properly developed it is recommended that TUKUA should focus on no more than two research themes at any one time and the themes should not be changed for at least two years.

### **Governance**

- TUKUA will be governed by a Steering Committee comprising senior representatives (e.g. Pro Vice Chancellor) from each participating institution.
- The British Council and Ministry of Education will also be active participants of TUKUA, and both will sit on the steering committee.
- TUKUA will be chaired by one of the representatives on the steering committee.
- Each representative will take it in turns to chair TUKUA for a period of one year.
- In addition to the steering committee responsible for strategy development and oversight, there will be an operations group responsible for delivery and which will report progress to the steering committee.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- TUKUA members will develop a robust monitoring and evaluation framework for the consortium which will monitor its future short, medium and long-term outcomes.
- The M&E framework should include measures for evaluating the increase in the following that are a direct or indirect result of, but which would not have happened without, the activities of TUKUA.
  - Joint Research: Joint funding proposals and increase in research papers between member institutions
  - Mobility: Students/academics/early careers exchanges
  - Transnational education
  - Continuing professional development

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## Appendix 2: Taiwanese Members of TUKUA

The four Taiwanese university members of TUKUA are all ranked in the top 10 in Taiwan and in the top 500 in the world and are all 'Key Cultivation Universities' in the Ministry of Education's 'Bilingual Education for Students in College' initiative.

### [National Taiwan University \(NTU\)](#)

**Ranking in QS World University Rankings 2023: No. 1 in Taiwan, No. 77 in the World**

Founded in 1928, National Taiwan University (NTU) is the most prominent and comprehensive research university in Taiwan, with a history tracing back to Taiwan Hospital established in 1895. The NTU campuses unveil the beautiful landscapes of the island, from its main campus in the modern and culturally rich capital of Taipei, to the vast experimental forests in central Taiwan. NTU has a faculty of 2,000, a student body of 32,000, and offers more than 280 degree programs, ranging from natural sciences to humanities and social sciences, underpinned by innovative research and academia-industry cooperation.

### [National Cheng Kung University \(NCKU\)](#)

**Ranking in QS World University Rankings 2023: No. 4 in Taiwan, No. 224 in the World**

National Cheng Kung University (NCKU), based in Tainan, is a university with a pragmatic academic climate, solid research strengths and an internationalised learning environment. NCKU has repeatedly received funding from the Ministry of Education under the 'Aim for the Top University Project' and is widely recognised as a leading university in Taiwan. Looking to the future, NCKU aims to become a world-class research university with emphasis on outstanding teaching quality. Their development strategy has three points of focus: human resource development, developing distinctive academic strengths and sustainable infrastructure. Their motto is 'Pursuit of truth through exhaustive reasoning'. The university features a down-to-earth academic climate conducive to the pursuit of knowledge.

### [National Taiwan Normal University \(NTNU\)](#)

**Ranking in QS World University Rankings 2023: No. 6 in Taiwan, No. 332 in the World**

National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) is a vibrant learning community that has long been recognized as one of Taiwan's elite institutions of higher education. Founded in 1922, NTNU was formerly an institute dedicated to teacher education, as suggested in the name "Normal", that later evolved into a comprehensive university. NTNU has expanded to 3 campuses, offering a wide spectrum of courses and degrees under its 9 colleges, including the arts and humanities, education, sociology, business management, athletics, to the sciences. NTNU not only boasts an active academic climate but also embraces cultural diversity. The internationally renowned Mandarin Training Centre at NTNU draws around 1,700 students from over 70 countries each quarter.

### [National Sun Yat-sen University](#)

**Ranking in QS World University Rankings 2023: No. 8 in Taiwan, No. 428 in the World**

Established in 1980 at Kaohsiung, the second largest city in Taiwan, NSYSU has emerged over the years as one of the best comprehensive universities in Taiwan. In 2002 NSYSU was named by the Ministry of Education as one of the country's seven major research-intensive universities and is the leading national university in Southern Taiwan. The curriculum is well balanced to cover most disciplines in liberal arts, management, social sciences, engineering, science, marine science, semiconductor, banking and finance, and medicine. The scenic campus by the Hsi-tze Bay overlooks the Taiwan Strait.

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# Appendix 3: Application Form

Please submit your application by sending your completed application form to [sandy.chi@britishcouncil.org.tw](mailto:sandy.chi@britishcouncil.org.tw) no later than at 11:59pm UK time on 30 April 2023.

We look forward to receiving your application.

## Privacy Notice

The British Council and UK partners comply with UK GDPR and the UK Data Protection Act 2018 and data protection laws in other countries that meet internationally accepted standards. The British Council will use the information that you provide for the purposes of processing your application

We will share all application data with the Ministry of Education in Taiwan and the four Taiwanese university members of the consortium to assist with management of the application process.

Your information will not be used/shared beyond the partners listed above for any other purpose without your specific consent. British Council and its partners reserve the right to publish and share anonymised 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>. We will keep your information for a period of seven years after project.

<b>I have read and understood the above</b> (Please put an X sign)	<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	
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## SECTION 1: APPLICANT DETAILS

The applicant should be at PVC level and would be the individual that represents your institution on the steering committee of TUKUA.

Institution name	
Institution address	
Applicant name	
Applicant position	
Email	
Tel	

## SECTION 2: VISION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF TUKUA

What is your vision for membership of TUKUA?

What do you hope to accomplish for you / your direct team? (Max 200 words)	
How will this benefit your wider department / institution? (Max 200 words)	
How do you plan to leverage the work of TUKUA to support both your institutional and wider UK engagement with Taiwan over the medium to long-term? (Max 200 words)	

## SECTION 3: PRIORITY THEMES

From the priority themes listed below please select the top **two** that you are most interested in engaging in UK-Taiwan joint research collaboration, by placing an X next to the relevant themes

English as the language of teaching and learning	
Green energy and Net Zero solutions	
Health tech and engineering biology	
Emerging technologies	
Cybersecurity and digital resilience	
Tomorrow's talent	

Using the headings provided, describe why your institution would be well placed to contribute to research collaboration in the two priority themes you have selected.

Institutional strategy. (Max 200 words)	
Ability to leverage additional funding / resources. (Max 200 words)	
Team expertise. (Max 200 words)	
Commercial/industry links. (Max 200 words)	
Wider UK network (formal and informal) to draw on. (Max 200 words)	

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## SECTION 4: RISK MITIGATION

What challenges or barriers to engagement do you anticipate and how could these be mitigated (200 words max)

## SECTION 5: SOURCES OF FUNDING

What sources of funding (government, institutional, commercial) would you seek to utilise in the pursuit of the aims of TUKUA? (200 words max)

## SECTION 6: EQAULTY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

How would you ensure no-one is excluded from participation in the activities of TUKUA on the basis of ethnicity, gender, religious belief, sexual orientation, or disability? (200 words max)

## SECTION 7: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



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Please use the space below to include any additional information that you feel is relevant to your application.  
(Max 200 words)

#### SECTION 4: SIGN-OFF

The proposal must be signed off by the applicant.

*I hereby declare that all information provided in this application (and any other required documents) is correct, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.*

Name:

Position:

Date: