

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

NEWTON INSTITUTIONAL LINKS GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

1. Background

Tackling global challenges – such as extreme weather conditions, urbanisation, access to affordable health care, food and energy security, and meeting the social and economic needs of a growing population – requires an integrated research and innovation approach, bringing together communities from different disciplines, sectors, and countries in high-quality collaborations. The Newton Fund aims to build UK-Partner country collaborations centred on these shared research and innovation challenges which have **direct** relevance to our partner countries' social welfare and economic development.

The Newton Institutional Links Programme is designed to establish links beyond the level of the individual researcher and innovation practitioner, opening up opportunities for more sustainable, solution-oriented research and innovation collaborations between academic groups as well as with the private and third sector.

2. Overview of the funding opportunity

Newton Institutional Links grants provide small-scale seed funding for collaborations between the UK and **one**¹ of the Newton Fund countries participating 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 UK-partner country activity in a particular area, enabling engagement from the wider research and innovation community

The Institutional Links Programme is designed to be flexible and responsive to in-country 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), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), technology transfer offices, and other not-for-profit organisations.

Grants range from £50,000 to £300,000 for up to two years, dependent on the country (see Annex 1 for country-specific limits).

For best fit to the local context and development needs, priority areas, specific innovation

¹ Within the ASEAN region, links with more than one Newton Fund country may be possible; please check Annex 1

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

challenges and additional application requirements have been set at a country level through discussion with national stakeholders. Please refer to Annex 1 for country-specific guidance **before** you prepare your proposal. Proposals which do not reflect the country-specific guidance **cannot be considered for funding**.

3. Scope of the Programme

Grants under the Newton Institutional Links Programme allow partners to collaborate internationally, and gain access to new research environments, facilities, knowledge, and expertise, in order to enhance the quality of their research and enable them to translate research and innovation into economic and societal benefit.

All research and innovation collaborations funded by this Programme will:

- **Establish new research and innovation links, or significantly develop existing links, between research groups, departments or institutions with the potential for longer term sustainability.** A key aim of the collaboration will be to support research and innovation capacity building in the partner institution, as well as to stimulate longer term links between the UK and partner countries for research and innovation. We would encourage applicants to use this as an opportunity also to engage with the commercial and not-for-profit sectors.
- **Focus on topics or themes which have relevance to the economic development and social welfare of the partner country.** Institutional Links grants are intended to support areas relevant to the economic development and social welfare of partner countries. **Before** preparing your proposal, please see section 4 for a definition of development-relevant research and Annex 1 for additional priority or challenge areas for individual countries.

Wherever possible, Institutional Links collaborations should demonstrate how they will benefit the wider research and innovation community in the partner country, and increase capacity to translate research into economic or societal benefit.

Collaborations may also be established as UK-Partner country centres of excellence – based in the partner country – 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).

Institutional Links 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, 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); however, this is capped at 30% of the total value of the grant.

Grants can support training of technical staff, or finance other activities necessary for the translation of the research into benefit, thereby laying the foundations for longer-term impact on the research and innovation landscape, and on economic development and social welfare. All expenditure must be detailed in the budget spreadsheet provided. A summary of costs to be covered by the grant must be included on the application form, with justifications (eg. periods of

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

research assistant time, why consumables or equipment are needed). Please see Section 6 and Annex 1 for more details of funding available.

4. Relevance to economic development and social welfare

For the purpose of the Newton Institutional Links Programme, we define research and innovation with development relevance as activities that have the potential to contribute to the economic development and social welfare of Newton Fund low- and middle-income countries², benefitting poor and vulnerable populations in these countries. In order to be considered for funding under this Programme, **all proposals must clearly articulate a plausible pathway to positive impact on these populations within a short- to medium-term timeframe (3-15 years). Applications which do not meet this criterion cannot receive UK Newton funding.**

Under this Programme, topics can fall into one or more of the following research and innovation challenge areas (unless specified further in Annex 1 for individual countries). Multidisciplinary proposals are welcome, and may include Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities; please see page 8 for a list of our review panels. The challenge areas are as follows:

- Agriculture (e.g. irrigation, crop yields)
- Climate and environment (e.g. climate change, green technology, sustainable development, ecosystem services, resource scarcity)
- Sustainable energy for all
- Education research and innovation for development
- Economic growth (e.g. equitable growth, financial sector development, private sector development)
- Health (e.g. HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, neglected tropical diseases, child mortality, maternal health)
- Water and sanitation
- Food and nutrition (including food security)
- Demographic change and migration
- Rural and urban development
- Infrastructure (including civil engineering, information and communication technologies, big data for social and economic development)
- Humanitarian disasters and emergencies, disaster risk reduction
- Resilient and connected communities
- Governance, society and conflict (e.g. transparency, accountability, effective institutions, land and natural resource rights, poverty alleviation, social development, structural

² As defined by the OECD DAC list of official development assistance (ODA) recipients
<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/documentupload/DAC%20List%20of%20ODA%20Recipients%202014%20final.pdf>

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

inequalities, violence and security, peace building, civil society)

- Development-relevant data collection, quality and access (including administrative data and macroeconomic statistics).

For more on our approach to ODA, please see <http://www.newtonfund.ac.uk/about/what-is-oda/>

In order to show development relevance within the context of their proposed project, applicants are encouraged to include reference to any local or national consultation, links to government policies, and any links with government institutions.

5. Eligibility

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

- Each proposal must have one Principal Applicant from the UK **and** one Principal Applicant from the partner country
- Both Principal Applicants must be Leading Researchers³ or Established Researchers³
- Principal Applicants must be based at one of the following:
 - A not-for-profit higher education institution with the capacity to undertake high-quality research, unless specified otherwise in Annex 1
 - A not-for-profit research organisation with the capacity to undertake high-quality research⁴
 - A Catapult Centre⁵ (in the case of the UK Principal Applicant)
- Both of the Principal Applicants' institutions (the 'Lead Institutions') must have the capacity to administer the grant.
- Organisations affiliated to UK higher education institutions (e.g. an overseas campus) may be the Lead Institution in the partner country provided that other eligible higher education institutions or research organisations not directly affiliated with UK higher education institutions in the country are involved as Associated Partners. However, organisations cannot apply as Lead Institutions in Links with their *own* affiliates in other countries.

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

- Other research or higher education establishments
- Technology transfer offices

³ 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*' http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/pdf/research_policies/Towards_a_European_Framework_for_Research_Careers_final.pdf.

⁴ Please see the list here http://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/britishcouncil.uk2/files/institutional_links_-_eligible_uk_research_organisations_-_version_1april_2015.pdf for a list of eligible UK research organisations.

⁵ <https://www.innovateuk.org/-/catapult-centres>

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

- Not-for-profit organisations (including non-governmental organisations (NGOs))
- For-profit/commercial organisations, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

For-profit organisations and not-for-profit organisations (other than not-for-profit higher education institutions or publicly-funded research organisations) are usually **not** eligible to apply as Lead Institutions. **Furthermore, for-profit organisations are not eligible to receive any grant funds except to cover travel-associated costs.**

Please contact us at UK-InstitutionalLinks@britishcouncil.org if you are in doubt about the eligibility of your organisation.

UK Principal Applicants may submit more than one application but only one per partner country. They would need to demonstrate in their proposal that they and their research groups have sufficient capacity to undertake the activities.

Principal Applicants may not apply for an Institutional Link with a country where they have already received a British Council Institutional Links grant.

Eligibility checks will be applied to all proposals on receipt. Please see Annex 2 for a full list of eligibility criteria. Proposals which are not led by a recognised not-for-profit higher education institution or a publicly-funded research organisation (unless specified otherwise in Annex 1) will be rejected during these checks. If you are unsure about your organisation's eligibility, for UK see the link at Footnote 4; for partner countries, please contact the local British Council office.

6. Funding available

The level of grant funding available from the Newton Fund depends on the country: please see Annex 1 for country-specific limits.

A condition for accessing funds from the Newton Institutional Links programme is that match funding is secured from partners in each country. For the 2015 calls, the British Council has secured match funding from national funding agencies or other partners in each participating country. Please see Annex 1 for more details for each country.

Funds will be disbursed directly to the Lead Institution(s) (i.e. the Principal Applicants' institutions) according to the approved budget breakdown. In some cases the whole grant will be awarded to the UK Lead Institution, which will then disburse the grant to the Lead Institution in the partner country; in other cases there is a separate grant agreement with each lead partner. Lead Institutions may transfer funding to Associated Partners for activities which support the objectives of the collaboration and the overall Programme⁶.

Institutional Links 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). The following section details the costs that can and cannot be included in your budget request.

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

⁶ Note that for-profit organisations are only eligible to receive funds to cover travel-associated costs.

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

Please complete the budget spreadsheet as provided on the call website:

www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/current-opportunities/institutional-links-newton-2015-july with details of all costs. Please also complete the budget summary on the online application form with the totals from your budget spreadsheet and a brief justification.

Institutional Links grants **can cover**:

- Human resources costs that are essential, appropriate and relevant to the collaboration (including costs of national insurance, pensions etc.), including but not limited to:
 - Temporary research personnel dedicated to the project (full- or part-time)
 - Research assistant salaries or fees
 - Research and data collection staff in the partner country

The costs of permanent staff cannot be covered.

- Other research-related costs:
 - Essential research equipment⁷. The purchase cost of individual pieces of equipment should be below £5,000. Purchase of equipment with an initial cost of £5,000 or above must be agreed in advance with the British Council.
 - Consumables⁵ (including scientific software licences dedicated to the collaboration)
 - Access fees to facilities or library services.

The maximum proportion of the total grant value that can be requested to cover these costs is 30%, unless defined otherwise for specific partner countries (see Annex 1). If you request more than allowed under this category, your project will be considered ineligible.

- Publication costs and associated publishing and communications costs (including web page development by external providers, if appropriate) directly related to the collaboration; we particularly encourage open access publishing
- Costs of meetings, training events, seminars and conferences integral to the collaboration (e.g. short-term room hire, projector, flip charts)
- Basic catering costs associated with events or meetings directly relating to the collaboration
- Travel (economy class) and subsistence costs in line with British Council policies and the criteria detailed in Annex 1
- Visa fees, vaccinations, medical insurance for travel essential to the collaboration, to the partner country or the UK
- Bank charges for transfer of funds from the Lead Institution to Associated Partners to cover their costs (only travel and expenses in the case of for-profit organisations).

⁷ Budget requests pertaining to these costs have to include any VAT costs, delivery and installation.

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

- The British Council is committed to equal opportunities and diversity and will consider, on a case by case basis, requests for additional support for individuals involved in Institutional Links activity, so long as sufficient justification is provided.

Institutional Links grants **cannot cover**:

- Staff time or replacement costs for permanent members of staff (please see Annex 1 for exceptions). It is expected that these costs are covered by participating institutions/organisations as an in-kind contribution.
- Tuition fees
- Bench fees
- Costs relating to the construction, procurement or rental of physical infrastructure (e.g. office buildings, laboratory facilities). It is expected that any rooms and facilities essential for the routine operation of collaboration are provided as an in-kind contribution by the participating institutions, and these can be detailed as an in-kind contribution in the budget breakdown.
- Purchase or rental of office equipment (e.g. IT hardware, office software, desks, chairs, filing cabinets, photocopiers, fax machines)
- Patents or related costs (see Annex 1 for exceptions)
- Costs related to writing up previous research
- Mobile phone rental or purchase
- Entertainment costs
- Other indirect costs not listed above or detailed in Annex 1.

Please contact UK-InstitutionalLinks@britishcouncil.org if you are in doubt which costs the Institutional Links Programme can and cannot cover.

The maximum duration of the proposed collaboration is 24 months (less for some participating countries – see Annex 1), typically with an effective start of Spring 2016. Funding, if approved, begins from signature of 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.

To ensure value for money, the budget requested in your proposal (including human resource costs) should cover only costs that are essential, appropriate and relevant to the collaboration. The proposal should maximise cost share through direct and indirect institutional contributions, other funding sources, and private sector support. Please indicate in the budget spreadsheet (and application form):

- funds which the participating institutions will contribute from their own funds (itemised as ‘in-kind contribution’), including staff time

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

- funds applied for from other sources to cover the collaboration; please clarify the status of the funding applications (i.e. successful; decision pending). Please indicate when you will know the outcome of any pending applications.

There is no minimum requirement for in-kind funding in the application, but these contributions will be looked upon favourably as a demonstration of long-lasting commitment to the programme.

7. 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. In the online application form, they 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.

Please refer to the Research Councils UK 'Policy and Guidelines on Governance of Good Research Conduct' (<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/Publications/researchers/grc/>) or contact us at UK-InstitutionalLinks@britishcouncil.org for further guidance.

8. Submission process

The submission deadline is **16:00 UK time on 28 September 2015**. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered for funding.

Applicants **must** submit a completed online application form (https://britishcouncil-cxobw.formstack.com/forms/application_form_il_2015_july). Submissions by email will **not** be accepted. The online form allows applicants to enter information and save it for a later date until final submission. There are strict character limits for each section which cannot be exceeded. In addition to filling in the online form, applicants are required to upload:

- A detailed budget template (available on the call website)
- Letters of support from the UK and partner country Principal Applicants' institutions, on headed paper, signed by the Head of Department expressing specific commitment to the proposed project. Please note that supporting letters must not be signed by the Principal Applicants.
- If the proposal includes Associated Partners, a pdf file of further information on Associated Partners, up to 500 words per partner, summarising the organisational and individual skills, knowledge and experience each partner will bring to the project and the role they will take.

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

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

To assist you in developing your application and sharing content with your partners, you can access a Word version of the online form here:

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/current-opportunities/institutional-links-newton-2015-july>

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.

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 from the respective institutions signed by the Head of institution or person with appropriate delegated authority.
- Solicited the Principal Applicants' Institution(s) (i.e. the 'Lead Institution(s)') 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.

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-InstitutionalLinks@britishcouncil.org.

9. Selection process

Selection begins with an eligibility check by the British Council against the eligibility criteria given in these Guidelines, including Annex 1 and the Eligibility Checklist at Annex 2.

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

- Assessment and scoring in the UK by at least two independent experts (see Annex 3 for assessment form)
- Thorough review in the partner country
- Review by a full 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
- Review of development relevance against Official Development Assistance (ODA) definitions established by the OECD and guidance developed by the Newton Fund with advice from the UK Department for International Development, see

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

<http://www.newtonfund.ac.uk/about/what-is-oda/>. All proposals must clearly articulate a plausible pathway to positive impact of the research on the lives of low-income populations and to a contribution to the economic development and social welfare of the partner country within a reasonable timeframe (3-15 years). If the proposal is deemed not to meet this essential criterion, it will be rejected for UK Newton funding however high the quality of the research.

- Final decision making in the partner country based on UK and partner country review and ODA scores, in collaboration with UK Newton Fund partners, in-country stakeholders and national co-funding organisations.

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

- **Biological and Medical Sciences**
- **Engineering and Physical Sciences**
- **Environment, Agriculture and Food Sciences**
- **Social Sciences**
- **Arts and Humanities**

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

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

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

Only proposals which have clearly articulated relevance to economic development and social welfare (as defined in section 4) will be considered for funding.

10. Data protection

As part of the online application form, the British Council will ask applicants' permission to:

- Use the information provided in the application for processing the application, making any consequential award, for the award payment, monitoring, maintenance and review of the award. Information will be shared with national Programme partners for the purpose of selection and monitoring of the award.
- Make information on the successful applications available to the public on their website and other publicity, and in reports and documents.
- Contact applicants in the future to inform them about future British Council opportunities.

Under UK Data Protection laws applicants have the right to ask for a copy of the information we hold on them, for which we may charge a fee, and the right to ask us to correct any inaccuracies in

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

that information. More information on this is available on the British Council data protection webpage (<http://www.britishcouncil.org/home-data-protection.htm>). Alternatively, it can be requested from the local British Council office or the Data Protection Team dataprotection@britishcouncil.org.

11. Contact details

All queries or comments about this call should be addressed to the Institutional Links email address UK-InstitutionalLinks@britishcouncil.org.

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

Annex 1 – Country-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 level through discussion with national stakeholders.

This annex provides country-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**.

<p>1. BRAZIL</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brazilian co-funder: PRESIDÊNCIA DA REPÚBLICA, SECRETARIA DE DIREITOS HUMANOS (SDH); SDH will invest 900,000.00 reais in hiring professionals to support the project • Duration of grants: 18 - 24 months • Size of grant: One grant of £ 220,000 • Thematic priority areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forensic Anthropology
<p>The Institutional Link between an eligible Brazilian and eligible United Kingdom institution shall embrace:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building for researchers and forensic anthropology experts in the fields of human rights, the eradication of State violence and the strengthening of democracy; • Creation of a body of work (reports, profiles, processes and protocols) in the field of forensic anthropology to facilitate the solution of cases of gross human rights violations, particularly forced disappearance and body concealment as well as associated crimes, like torture, executions and extrajudicial imprisonment, as a means to fight State violence from the dictatorial past and from the present, which now particularly affects peripheral and Black populations. • To a lesser extent (up to 30% effort and resources), the creation of a specialized scientific journal; the promotion of scientific production and other channels for bilateral cooperation in this area, including undergraduate and post-graduate research. <p>The suggested activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary and ante-mortem investigations aimed at building the capacity of individuals and contributing to the identification of

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

the locations of the disappeared; running workshops and a bilateral congress on this theme;

- Reports on the technical, logistical and operational needs of each activity involved in search and identification to be used as a reference by other Brazilian forensics professionals;
- Coordinating and carrying out all other activities to identify the location of the disappeared;
- Developing and publicising processes, protocols and general knowledge aiming at strengthening the discipline in Brazil and producing a range of tools that will help to guarantee the right to the truth and memory. Participating at meetings with social movements, disappeared family movements and civil society organizations concerned about human rights and the elimination of violence in order to allow social participation in the process of location and identification of victims of forced disappearance.

Other specific guidelines:

- Successful applicants will work with a cohort of experts that will be hired by the SDH/PR to directly contribute to the project and to its overall objectives, one of them being capacity building. The two Lead Institutions and the SDH/PR will form the management committee of the project to organise the researchers and work towards the project objectives, delivering as one. Applicants should therefore make use of the resources made available by the SDH/PR.
- Associate partners may join the call in addition to the two Lead Institutions.

2. COLOMBIA: Newton-Caldas Fund

- **Colombian co-funder:** Matched funding from participating institutions, see below
- **Duration of grants:** 4 - 24 months
- **Size of grant:** £ 50,000 to £ 300,000
- **Thematic priority areas:**
 - Competitiveness for small agricultural producers
 - Climate and environment (e.g. climate change, green technology, sustainable development, ecosystem services, resource scarcity)
 - Sustainable energy for all

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

- Education research and innovation for development
- Economic growth (e.g. equitable growth, financial sector development, private sector development, competitive production chains, eco-tourism)
- Health care for communities in poverty
- Water and sanitation
- Demographic change and migration
- Rural and urban development
- Infrastructure (including civil engineering, information and communication technologies, big data for social and economic development)
- Humanitarian disasters and emergencies, disaster risk reduction
- Resilient and connected communities
- Governance, society (e.g. transparency, accountability, effective institutions, land and natural resource rights, poverty alleviation, social development, structural inequalities, civil society)
- Development-relevant data collection, quality and access (including administrative data and macroeconomic statistics).
- Addressing non-conventional landmines among civilian populations
- Responsible small scale mining (of minerals)

- Proposals, within the thematic areas given above, and aimed at the Colombian Pacific region, are strongly encouraged.

Match Funding:

- Applicants must demonstrate match funding equivalent to the amount of funding requested from the Institutional Links programme, either in terms of cash, or in terms of matched effort. An example of matched effort would be where the partner institution covers the costs of the collaboration in the partner country, and the Institutional Links grant covers the costs of the collaboration in the UK, or where the travel costs of the UK researchers are covered by the Institutional Links grant and the travel costs of an equal number of partner country researchers are covered by the partner institution.
- Matched funding may also be secured by applicants from an alternative source as outlined in section 6 of the main text of these guidelines.
- Letters of support indicating the intention to contribute matched funding must be submitted along with the application form. Clarification on matched funding and examples of matched effort can be sought from the British Council prior to the submission

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

<p>deadline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any matched funding arrangements must be in place before the grant agreement with the British Council can be signed.
<p>3. EGYPT: Newton-Mosharafa Fund</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Egyptian co-funder: Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) Duration of grants: 24 months Size of grant: £ 50,000 - £ 300,000 Thematic priority areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water management Food/agriculture Renewable energy Affordable and inclusive healthcare Cultural heritage Archaeology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> British Council will contract and pay all UK costs to UK partner; STDF will contract and pay all Egyptian costs to Egyptian partner. The Egyptian principal applicant must be an Egyptian citizen and have a PhD; the Egyptian main applicant's institution can be a public or private university/research centre, but must have an Egyptian legal identity (AUC and Arab Academy are not eligible) Applications will be through the British Council website and online form but the applicants must register on the STDF website in order to generate the appropriate application number <p>Eligible costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total staff costs should be ≤20% (For the Egyptian institution, staff costs can include permanent staff and existing positions for work that directly contributes to the collaboration, in addition to temporary research personnel dedicated to the collaboration,

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

research assistant fees, etc. For the UK institution, permanent staff are not eligible to have their costs covered.)

- Total travel-related costs (flight tickets, visa fees, medical insurance, etc.) should be ≤10%.
- The remaining part of the budget can be allocated to the other eligible expenses (as listed in the Call document), including publication costs, short-term hiring of rooms (for meetings, workshops, etc.), catering, and bank-transfer charges.
- Please note, the applicants do NOT need to split the UK/Egypt costs 50:50. Most/all of the costs may be incurred in one country or the other.

Unless explicitly stated otherwise in these IL guidelines, standard STDF regulations on applying for grants apply to the Egyptian applicant, including that applicants cannot apply for more than one grant at a time.

4. EGYPT: Newton-Mosharafa Fund: Halophytes for Animal Feed

- **Egyptian co-funder:** Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) and Systel Telecom
- **Duration of grants:** 24 months
- **Size of grant:** £ 50,000 - £ 400,000 (up to £300,000 for standard Institutional Links, and up to £100,000 for PhD placements)
- **Thematic priority areas:**
 - Halophytes for animal feed

Research topic

- It is a national priority in Egypt to develop new methods in agriculture and food production. The vast majority of arable land in Egypt is in the Nile Valley and Nile Delta. But a large proportion of this arable land is used to grow crops for animal feed, an inefficient use of the country's resources.
- In recent years, in answer to this inefficiency, there has been increasing interest in growing crops using salt water (halophytes). The development of a halophyte which could successfully and sustainably feed water buffalo and other livestock could mean that Egypt was able to rear its animals in farms on the coast, and thus reclaim huge swathes of arable land for the cultivation of crops to feed people. This would have a transformative effect on Egypt's food security situation.
- The Newton-Mosharafa Fund is therefore inviting UK and Egyptian researchers to submit applications for an extended

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

Institutional Links / PhD placements grant to explore new solutions to this challenge.

Grants

- The Egyptian principal applicant must be an Egyptian citizen and have a PhD; the Egyptian main applicant's institution can be a public or private university/research centre, but must have an Egyptian legal identity (AUC and Arab Academy are not eligible)
- Applications will go through the British Council website but the applicants will need to register on the STDF website in order to generate the appropriate application number
- The total staff cost should be $\leq 20\%$ (of the Institutional Links aspect, eg. a maximum of 20% of 300,000). (NB for the Egyptian institution, staff costs can include permanent staff and existing positions for work that directly contributes to the collaboration, in addition to temporary research personnel dedicated to the collaboration, research assistant fees, etc. For the UK institution, permanent staff are not eligible to have their costs covered)
- The total travel-related costs (flight tickets, visa fees, medical insurance, etc.) should be $\leq 10\%$ of the grant (excluding PhD funding), eg a maximum of 10% of 300,000.
- The remaining part of the budget can be allocated to the other eligible expenses (as listed in the Call document), including publication costs, short-term hiring of rooms (for meetings, workshops, etc.), catering, and bank-transfer charges.
- 30% of the grant (excluding PhD funding) may go towards research-related costs

PhD placements

- This extended Institutional Link on Halophytes for Animal Feed offers funding for PhD students at one of the applicant Egyptian institutions to undertake a placement at one of the UK applicant institutions
- A key goal of the project is capacity building for these PhD students
- £ 100,000 is available to fund these placements, to cover bench fees, tuition fees (if applicable) and living expenses. This funding is ring-fenced and not included in the calculation of other budget lines.
- Selection of the students will be carried out by the applying institutions.
- The students can undertake placements from three months to two years. This may be in any combination.
- Applicants must indicate in the application form how many PhD students will be travelling, for how long, and what their research will cover.

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

5. INDONESIA

- **Indonesian co-funder:** Matched funding from participating institutions, see below
- **Duration of grants:** 12 - 24 months
- **Size of grant:** £ 25,000 to £ 100,000
- **Thematic priority areas:**
 - Energy and renewable energy
 - Food Security
 - Future cities and design technology
 - Biomedical
 - Maritime
 - Science, Technology and Innovation policy

Match Funding:

- Applicants must demonstrate match funding equivalent to the amount of funding requested from the Institutional Links programme, either in terms of cash, or in terms of matched effort. An example of matched effort would be where the partner institution covers the costs of the collaboration in the partner country, and the Institutional Links grant covers the costs of the collaboration in the UK, or where the travel costs of the UK researchers are covered by the Institutional Links grant and the travel costs of an equal number of partner country researchers are covered by the partner institution.
- Matched funding may also be secured by applicants from an alternative source as outlined in section 6 of the main text of these guidelines.
- Letters of support indicating the intention to contribute matched funding must be submitted along with the application form. Clarification on matched funding and examples of matched effort can be sought from the British Council prior to the submission deadline
- Any matched funding arrangements must be in place before the grant agreement with the British Council can be signed.

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

<p>6. MALAYSIA: Newton-Ungku Omar Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malaysian co-funder: Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) • Duration of grants: 12 - 24 months • Size of grant: £ 50,000 to £ 150,000 • Thematic priority areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Theme: Climate Change & Sustainability ○ Focus Areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health & life sciences 2. Improving environmental resilience and energy security 3. Future Cities 4. Agritech 5. Digital, Innovation & Creativity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 35% of the total grant funding may be spent on research-related costs.
<p>7. PHILIPPINES</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philippines co-funder: Commission on Higher Education (CHED) • Duration of grants: 4 - 24 months • Size of grant: £ 30,000 to £ 150,000 • Thematic priority areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Health and life sciences: Reducing the dual burden of infectious and lifestyle diseases on the fragile health system of the region including addressing the increasing threat of anti-microbial resistance and neglected tropical diseases; research on diagnostics, e-health systems, and biomedical device development. ○ Improving environmental resilience: Improving understanding and mitigating the human and economic impacts of natural hazards. ○ Improving energy security: Reducing carbon emissions by improving energy efficiency and provision of renewable

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

energy.

- **Future cities:** Addressing the challenges and maximising the opportunities posed by the rapid urbanisation through support to the development of physical and virtual infrastructure and better understanding human impacts.
- **Agritech:** Increasing agricultural productivity and addressing food security issues as production is likely to be hindered by the impacts of climate change.
- **Digital, innovation and creativity:** The use of web technology, data analytics, big data, and creative industries as drivers of disruptive innovations that can deliver benefits to social and economic development. Similarly, facilitating development of policies and approaches to enable creation of effective innovation systems and long term planning will be essential to encourage sustainable development.

- British Council will contract and pay costs to UK applicants; CHED will contract and pay Philippine applicants.
- Philippines not-for-profit research establishments and public and private HEIs are eligible to apply.
- This opportunity is open to researchers who are eligible to apply for existing CHED Grants-in-Aid programme for research & development and extension.
- Proposals can include regional activity on other Newton Fund ASEAN countries if covered by the matched funding (for example where a SEAMEO regional centre is collaborating with a UK institution, there can be activity in more than one Newton Fund country).

Match Funding

- Match funding will be provided by the Commission on Higher Education for applications from HEIs.
- Research establishments applying must demonstrate match funding equivalent to the amount of funding requested from the Institutional Links grant, either in terms of cash, or in terms of matched effort. An example of matched effort would be where the partner institution covers the costs of the collaboration in the partner country, and the Institutional Links grant covers the costs of the collaboration in the UK, or where the travel costs of the UK researchers are covered by the Institutional Links grant and the travel costs of an equal number of partner country researchers are covered by the partner institution.
- Matched funding may also be secured by applicants from an alternative source as outlined in section 6 of the main text of these guidelines.

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

- Letters of support indicating the intention to contribute matched funding must be submitted along with the application form. Clarification on matched funding and examples of matched effort can be sought from the British Council prior to the submission deadline
- Any matched funding arrangements must be in place before the grant agreement with the British Council can be signed.

8. THAILAND

- **Thailand co-funder:** National Science Technology and Innovation Policy Office (STI)
- **Duration of grants:** 24 months
- **Size of grant:** £ 100,000- £ 300,000
- **Thematic priority areas**
This joint call will focus on the following issues related to the enhancement of science technology and innovation policy research in Thailand:
 - Capacity building related to science technology and innovation policy
 - Innovation systems at national, regional and sectoral levels
 - Science technology and innovation data collection, quality and access
 - Science technology and innovation indicators
 - Science technology and innovation policy evaluation
 - Innovation management and research commercialization
 - Science technology and innovation human resource management
 - Science technology and innovation infrastructure
 - Science technology and innovation for health, food, energy and/or environment
 - Technology foresights and future cities

Projects may include one or more of the following activities:

- Institution and program design for a science, technology and innovation (STI) policy research institute
 - Roles and structures of institutions with a mission on STI policy research
 - Research priority setting to suit local context
- Joint policy research projects in the following topics:

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

- ASEAN innovation systems and/or ASEAN open innovation platform
- Technology trends and technology foresights in Thailand’s strategic sectors such as food, automotive, and health industries
- Service innovation in Thailand
- Policy research training and capacity building on the following topics:
 - Theories on science technology and innovation policy
 - Policy evaluation and monitoring
 - Policy analysis and tools

Possible Outcomes:

- Recommendations on the organizational structure that is appropriate to an STI policy research institution in the context of Thailand
- Research directions and priority STI policy research programs identified
- At least 2 policy research papers prepared for submissions/submitted to international peer reviewed journal
- At least 60 policy researchers that have been trained in the entire programme

9. TURKEY: Newton-Katip Çelebi Fund

- **Turkey co-funder:** Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK)
- **Duration of grants:** up to 24 months
- **Size of grant:** £ 100,000 (and up to 360,000 TL for the matching Turkish application)
- **Thematic priority areas:**
 - Lifelong health and wellbeing
 - Agriculture and food security
 - Disaster and emergency management
 - Energy and climate change
 - Education and skills; young innovators
 - Shifting global geopolitics: crisis management and managing risks

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

- Democratic discourses and the rule of law
- Globalization and Industrial Relations
- Policy making in the age of austerity: comparative insights
- Information and Communications Technology
- Transportation

We also encourage multidisciplinary proposals involving the social sciences across the above themes.

- TÜBİTAK will make payment to the Turkish applicant and British Council will make payment to the UK applicant
- UK and Turkish applicants are expected to jointly develop collaborations.
- UK applicants must submit their proposal (including a budget request of up to £100,000 focusing on UK costs) in English via the British Council online form,
- AND Turkish applicants partnering with the above UK applicants should submit their proposal (including a budget request of up to 360,000 TL focusing on Turkey costs) in Turkish to TÜBİTAK by the same deadline. Detailed funding rules and application pages can be found at <http://tubitak.gov.tr/tr/kurumsal/uluslararasi/icerik-basvuruya-acik-programlar>
- Proposals will be considered concurrently in both countries and only those that are approved for funding from both sides can be funded.
- The maximum funding per collaborative project for Turkish partners is 360,000 TL (approx. £100,000) to be shared between participating Turkish partners. The maximum funding per project for UK partners is £100,000 to be shared between participating UK institutions

10. VIETNAM

- **Vietnam co-funder:** Matched funding from participating institutions, see below
- **Duration of grants:** 18 - 24 months
- **Size of grant:** £ 75,000 - £ 150,000
- **Thematic priority areas:**

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

- Health and life sciences
- Improving environmental resilience and energy security
- Future cities
- Agritech
- Digital innovation for development

- Proposals can include regional activity in other Newton Fund ASEAN countries if covered by the matched funding (for example where a SEAMEO regional centre is collaborating with a UK institution, there can be activity in more than one Newton Fund country).

Match Funding

- Applicants must demonstrate match funding equivalent to the amount of funding requested from the Institutional Links programme, either in terms of cash, or in terms of matched effort. An example of matched effort would be where the partner institution covers the costs of the collaboration in the partner country, and the Institutional Links grant covers the costs of the collaboration in the UK, or where the travel costs of the UK researchers are covered by the Institutional Links grant and the travel costs of an equal number of partner country researchers are covered by the partner institution.
- Matched funding may also be secured by applicants from an alternative source as outlined in section 6 of the main text of these guidelines.
- Letters of support indicating the intention to contribute matched funding must be submitted along with the application form. Clarification on matched funding and examples of matched effort can be sought from the British Council prior to the submission deadline
- Any matched funding arrangements must be in place before the grant agreement with the British Council can be signed.

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

Annex 2 – Eligibility criteria checklist

The application has been submitted by the applicants by the published deadline.	
The application has been submitted using the correct online application form.	
The application has been submitted by a Principal Applicant in the UK and a Principal Applicant based in one of the partner countries listed in Section 2.	
Principal Applicants are based at: <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 Centre⁸ (in the case of the UK Principal Applicant) ○ An alternative institution as detailed in Annex 1 ○ For the UK, if the Lead Institution is not an HEI, they are listed here 	
The applicants have included 2 supporting letters, one from each of the two Lead Institutions, on headed paper, signed by the Head of the institution or person with appropriate delegated authority, giving specific commitment to the project as described in Section 8 of these Guidelines. Supporting letters are not signed by the Principal Applicants.	
Applicants have submitted a detailed budget request using the budget spreadsheet provided.	
If there are Associated Partners, additional information on the Associated Partners has been uploaded	
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 Principal Applicants have submitted only 1 application per participating country under this call for Institutional Links	
The Principal Applicant does not already hold an Institutional Links grant with the partner country	
Both of the Lead Institutions have the capacity to administer a grant and satisfy British Council requirements to prevent bribery, fraud and professional misconduct.	

⁸ <https://www.innovateuk.org/-/catapult-centres>

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

<p>Applicants have confirmed they comply with British Council requirements by responding to pre-submission questions in the online application form</p>	
<p>The total budget is within 10% of the limits given in this guidance, including Annex 1 for the applicable partner country. If the budget is over 10% above the maximum, reject; if it is within 10%, send forward for review. Cut the budget to the maximum allowed if chosen for funding.</p>	
<p>The budget requested under “other research related costs” is 30% or less of the total budget (unless specified otherwise in Annex 1). If this is more than 30%, reject.</p>	
<p>If the partner country principal applicant is affiliated in any way with a UK higher education or research institution, the proposal includes other eligible higher education or research institutions in the partner country.</p>	

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

Annex 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 that have clearly articulated relevance to economic development and social welfare of the partner country will be considered for funding. In addition, only proposals with an average score of 30 points or more for Sections 2 to 4 are considered fundable.

		Range
Section 1 – Relevance to economic development and social welfare		YES/NO
<p>The proposal clearly articulates a plausible pathway for the research to lead to positive impact on the lives of people on low income and contribute to the economic development and social welfare of the partner country and within a reasonable timeframe (3-15 years).</p> <p>Please see section 4 of the Guidelines for further details.</p>		

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

	Score	Range
Section 2 – Research/innovation quality and background		0-20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The academic importance and timeliness of the research/innovation topic is clearly demonstrated. • The Lead Applicants 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 the majority of the criteria to a very high level</p> <p>11 to 15 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level</p> <p>6 to 10 points: Meets the majority 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>	

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

Section 3 – Proposal		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 result from the project activity, in particular taking into account who might benefit and how they might benefit. • There is strong evidence of support from the applicants' institutions and Affiliated 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 there 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>20 points: Meets all criteria to an exceptional level</p> <p>16 to 19 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level</p> <p>11 to 15 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level</p> <p>6 to 10 points: Meets the majority 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>

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

Section 4 – Sustainability and capacity building		0-20
<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>20 points: Meets all criteria to an exceptional level</p> <p>16 to 19 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level</p> <p>11 to 15 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level</p> <p>6 to 10 points: Meets the majority 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 2 + Section 3 + Section 4)		0-60