

INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

NEWTON FUND INSTITUTIONAL LINKS GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS APRIL 2017 VERSION 5

Countries included in this call are:

Brazil | Egypt | Indonesia | Kenya | Malaysia | Mexico | Philippines | Thailand

Call opens: 3 April 2017

Call closes: 13 June 2017 16:00 UK time

1. Background

The Newton Fund aims to build UK-partner country collaborations centred on shared research and innovation challenges which have direct relevance to Newton partner countries' social welfare and economic development. It is managed by UK Government's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and delivered through 15 UK delivery partners in collaboration with 16 partner countries.

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 Institutional Links Programme is designed to establish links beyond the level of the individual researcher and innovation practitioner, opening up opportunities for 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 Fund Institutional Links grants provide small-scale seed funding for collaborations between the UK and the participating Newton Fund countries¹ 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

¹ Links with particular additional countries may be possible in individual calls; please check Appendix 1

- 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 Appendix 1 for country-specific limits).

For best fit to the local context and development needs, priority areas, specific innovation challenges and additional application requirements have been set at a country 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-specific guidance **cannot be considered for funding.**

3. Scope of the programme

Grants under the Newton Fund 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 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 Appendix 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.

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).

Countries to be involved in the April 2017 call are:

Brazil | Egypt | Indonesia | Kenya | Malaysia | Mexico | Philippines | Thailand

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.

Newton Fund 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 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); however, this is capped at 30% of the

total value of the grant. 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.

Institutional Links grants can also support the 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 at the following link: www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/current-opportunities/newton-institutional-links-april-2017

In addition, a summary of costs to be covered by the grant must be included in the online application form and must contain justifications, (e.g. periods of research assistant time, why consumables or equipment are needed). Six-monthly financial reporting on grant expenditure, and narrative reporting using ResearchFish will be required as a condition of the grant.

4. Relevance to economic development and social welfare (Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligibility)

For the purpose of the Newton Fund 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 low-income and vulnerable populations in these countries.

In order to be considered for funding under the Newton 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 Fund support.**

In some disciplines, development relevance can be longer-term and less direct than in other areas and impact may be societal. In all cases, it is the responsibility of the applicant to articulate how the research area or activity proposed will meet these criteria. Applicants should not expect reviewers to make assumptions about development impact that is not clearly described within the proposal.

Under this call, the following research and innovation challenge areas will be given priority **(unless specified further in Appendix 1 for individual countries)**. Multidisciplinary proposals are welcome in five panel areas: Biological and Medical Sciences; Engineering and Physical Sciences; Environment, Agriculture and Food Sciences; Social Sciences; and Arts and Humanities. 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)

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>

- Demographic change and migration
- Rural and urban development
- Infrastructure (including civil engineering, information and communication technologies, big data for social and economic development, transportation)
- 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 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 advised to include within their application reference to any local or national consultation, links to government policies, and existing links with government institutions.

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

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 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 research⁴A 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.
- Individual departments within a single institution can make multiple applications per call provided that the proposed activities are clearly different
- Principal Applicants may only submit one Institutional Links application per Institutional Links call.
- Principal Applicants that have received Institutional Links grants **in previous years** can submit further applications for Institutional Links provided the proposed activities are clearly distinct from, or build on, any already funded through the Newton Fund. Principal Applicants may not apply if they have already received an Institutional Links grant that year.

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' https://cdn5.euraxess.org/sites/default/files/policy_library/towards_a_european_framework_for_research_careers_final.pdf

⁴ Please see the list here https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/eligible_uk_research_organisations_v.10.pdf for a list of eligible UK research organisations.

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

- Organisations affiliated to higher education institutions in the UK or any other country and based in the partner country, (e.g. an overseas campus) may apply as the Lead Institution in the partner country provided that other eligible higher education institutions or research organisations are also involved as Associated Partners in-country.
- 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 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 Institutional Links grants. Furthermore, **for-profit organisations are not eligible to receive any 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 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 Appendix 1 for country-specific guidance and funding limits.

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

An advance payment of 60% of the Newton Fund grant will be made on signature of the grant agreement, followed by two payments of 20% dependent on approval of reports by the British Council. Please note that payment ratios can vary for different countries.

In some cases the whole grant will be awarded to the UK Lead Institution, which will then disburse the funds to the Lead Institution in the partner country; in other cases there is a separate grant agreement with each Lead Institution.

Lead Institutions may transfer funding to Associated Partners for activities which support the objectives of the collaboration and the overall Programme⁶. 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.

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

Please complete the budget spreadsheet as provided on the call website with details of all costs:

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

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.

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

6.1 Eligible costs

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

Institutional Links grants can cover:

| Category | Type | Percentage limits | Notes |
|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Human Resources costs | Staff costs for personnel working directly on the grant-funded project: salaries and fees of temporary research and research assistant personnel, and other staff recruited to work on the project, for example data collection staff in partner country. | None See country specific guidance for more details | This includes on-costs such as superannuation, and national insurance payments. Indirect costs cannot be covered and are assumed to be contributed by the principal institutions. |
| | A proportion of staff costs for permanent staff of lead institutions. | Limited to 30% of total human resources costs funded by the grant | This includes on-costs such as superannuation, and national insurance payments. If you would be unable to deliver your proposed project without a higher contribution to permanent staff costs, please contact UK-InstitutionalLinks@britishcouncil.org with a justification and we will consider your case. Please note that we would normally limit this to the stated 30% of HR costs of universities. |

| Category | Type | Percentage limits | Notes |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Other research related costs | Essential research equipment for use on the project. | Limited to 30% of total grant (unless specified in Appendix 1). | <p>If the applicant requests more than 30% of the total budget requested under this category, the project will be considered ineligible.</p> <p>Permission must be obtained from British Council before the purchase of equipment over £5,000 if the application is successful. Criteria are normally:</p> <p>Equipment is essential to delivery of the project and cannot be expected to be provided by institutions</p> <p>Equipment will be used in the partner country and will remain there on project completion.</p> |
| | Consumables | | |
| | Specialist software licences essential to the collaboration. | | |
| | Access fees to facilities or library services | | |
| Operational Costs | Travel (economy class) and subsistence costs to the UK and partner countries. | None See country specific guidance | In line with British Council policies and the criteria detailed in Appendix 1. |
| | Visa fees, vaccinations and medical insurance for travel essential to collaboration, to the UK and partner countries. | | |
| | Costs of meetings, training events and seminars integral to the collaboration. | | <p>This can include short-term room hire, hire of audio-visual equipment (projectors, etc.) and stationery supplies (flip-charts, etc.)</p> <p>Attendance at events which are not part of the project, included in the proposal, will only be funded exceptionally, and only if the collaborators will be presenting the project.</p> |
| | Basic catering costs associated with events or meetings directly relating to the collaboration. | | |

| Category | Type | Percentage limits | Notes |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
| Communications costs | Publication costs directly related to the collaboration | None (see country specific guidance) | This includes web page development by external providers, if appropriate We particularly encourage open access publishing |
| | Use of telecommunications such as video / audio / web conferencing | | |
| Other costs | Bank charges for transfer of funds from the Lead Institution to other Partners | | Note that for-profit organisations are only eligible to receive funds for travel associated costs. |

6.2 Ineligible costs

Institutional Links grants **cannot cover:**

- Full economic costs (FECs)
- Institutional overheads, administration fees and other indirect costs
- Costs of staff based in commercial or for-profit organisations
- Costs of permanent staff in Associated Partner organisations
- Purchase or rental of standard office equipment (except specialist equipment essential to the research). This includes:
 - IT hardware – laptops, personal computers, tablets, smart phones, Mac workstations, computer parts and peripherals, etc. Any standard hardware which would routinely be used by researchers and academics will not be funded.
 - Office software.
 - Desks, chairs, filing cabinets, photocopiers, printers, fax machines.
- Mobile phone rental or purchase.
- Tuition Fees.
- Bench Fees (for example PhD, Masters or Undergraduate study).
- Costs related to writing up, promoting or disseminating previous research.
- Attendance at conferences or other events unless this is to present outputs and outcomes of the project.
- Patents costs.
- 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. These can be detailed as an in-kind contribution in the budget breakdown.
- 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
- Other indirect costs not listed in the above table or detailed in Appendix 1.

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

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, in-kind funding, other funding sources, and private sector support.

Please indicate in the appropriate budget spreadsheet (and summarise as indicated on the application form) 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.

For most countries, 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. Project duration

The maximum duration of the proposed collaboration is 24 months (less for some participating countries – see Appendix 1). Funding, if approved, begins from signature of the Grant Agreement 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.

8. 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, 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.

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

9. Diversity

The British Council is committed to equal opportunities and diversity in all our activities. This includes avoidance of bias due to gender, disability, racial or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or religious belief. Applicants are therefore encouraged to include participation by researchers from under-represented groups in the teams implementing their proposed research. Applicants may apply for funding to cover extra costs for such participation, for example, for people with disabilities who may otherwise not be able to participate, or for childcare. Please describe any action you are taking to encourage diversity under “Collaboration” on your application form.

Please make costs necessary to cover this inclusion clear in the ‘human resources’ section of the budget request within your application.

Please contact us at UK-InstitutionalLinks@britishcouncil.org for further information on funding. For more on the British Council's approach, see our Equality Policy at: https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/equality_policy_1.doc.

10. Submission process

The deadline for submission of a completed application including all supporting documentation is **16:00 UK time on 13 June 2017**. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered for funding.

The deadline applies to all parts of your application, including upload 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 https://britishcouncil-cxobw.formstack.com/forms/application_form_il_2017_april which includes the upload of supporting information. 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 the following documents, as described, by the deadline. As above, **late submission of supporting documents, or submission of documents which do not comply with these requirements, will render the application *ineligible*.** The documents are:

- Principal Applicants' CVs (up to two sides of A4 each)
- A detailed project budget (template available on the British Council call webpage)
- Letters of support from the UK and partner country Principal Applicants' institutions, on headed paper, 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 in-kind support to be given and describing why the experience and capability of the Principal Applicant is particularly suited to the project content. Please note that supporting letters must not be signed by the Principal Applicants.
- If the proposal includes Associated Partners, a pdf file **combining together signed letters on letter headed paper from each partner containing 300 words on the expertise they will bring to the project and the role they will take**. Links to partner websites should be included if applicable.

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

Applications must be in English.

To assist you in developing your application and sharing content with your partners, you can access a Word version of the online form here: www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/current-opportunities/newton-institutional-links-april-2017

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.

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.

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, Head of Department or other person with appropriate delegated authority.
- confirmed the Principal Applicants' 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-InstitutionalLinks@britishcouncil.org.

11. Applicant screening

In order 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 reasonably 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.

12. Selection process

Selection begins with an eligibility check by the British Council against the eligibility criteria given in these Guidelines, including Appendix 1 (Country specific guidance) and the Eligibility Checklist at Appendix 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 Appendix 3 for assessment form).
- Thorough review in the partner country.

- 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.
- 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 <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 proposed 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 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 be considered not fundable. However, achieving an average score equal to or above the threshold does not mean 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 Appendix 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.

Successful applicants will be notified approximately 4–5 months after the call deadline.

13. Data protection

How we use your information

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

We shall share any necessary data on your application with the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and with our funding partners in your country in order to assist with management of the application process; any decisions on grants will be made in collaboration with them.

Organisation details, where collected, are used for monitoring and evaluation and statistical purposes. Gender information, where collected, is used solely in preparing statistical reports.

The British Council collects country of origin for reporting and statistical purposes and to contact you within your own country.

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 or see our website: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/privacy-cookies/data-protection>.

14. Contractual Requirements

- The contracting authority 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 Newton 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 www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/current-opportunities/newton-institutional-links-april-2017
- (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.**
- In the event that you have any concerns or queries in relation to the Grant Agreement, you should submit a clarification request to UK-InstitutionalLinks@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.


15. Contact details

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

APPENDIX 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 appendix 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**.

| 1. Brazil | |
|---|---|
| Brazil co-funder: | Conselho Nacional das Fundações Estaduais de Amparo à Pesquisa  |
| Duration of grants: | 18-24 months |
| Size of grant: | Up to £120,000 overall. The UK institution may request a maximum of £60,000 |
| Thematic priority areas: | <p>Social Innovation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rural Development - Biodiversity <p>Please refer to the “additional eligibility criteria” for the specific thematic priority area of each participating state.</p> |
| Contractual arrangements: | |
| British Council Newton Fund will issue a grant agreement to the UK Lead Institution and manage the UK side of the grant. CONFAP will issue a contract with the Brazilian Lead Institution and manage the Brazilian side of the grant. | |
| Additional eligibility criteria: | |
| <p>Only researchers and institutions from the following states are eligible to apply. Each state has identified thematic priority areas for this call and will welcome applications from the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distrito Federal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biodiversity - Climate change and water in Cerrado Biome Rural Development - Family Farming and sustainability 2. Maranhão <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rural Development: Family farming and Solidarity-based Enterprises <p>Applications will be from NGOs focused on family farming, especially those with an agroecological approach and State Forum on Solidarity Economy</p> 3. Minas Gerais <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agronomy - Food Science and Technology - Agricultural Engineering; Sanitary Engineering; Forestry Engineering; Fishing Engineering 4. Mato Grosso do Sul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biodiversity: characterisation, conservation and sustainable use of Cerrado and Pantanal | |

Biomes.

- Studies in the areas of climate, air, hydrology, terrain, soils and geology.

5. Pará

- Natural products from plant species
- Biotechnology
- Fauna and Microorganisms

6. Sergipe

- Rural development: aquaculture, tropical fruit farming, biofertilizers
- Food security, nutrition, basic sanitation.
- Biodiversity: forest preservation and environmental education

7. Goiás

- Rural development
- Biodiversity

8. Paraná

- Alternative energies: sustainability for small farmers, climate control etc.

9. Alagoas

- Rural development
- Biodiversity

10. São Paulo

- Rural development
- Biodiversity

11. Santa Catarina


- Food security
- Technologies for the sustainable development of family farming and artisanal fisheries

The CNA system is comprised by 3 entities: The Confederation for Agriculture - Confederação da Agricultura e Pecuária o todo Brasil (CNA), representing rural Brazilian producers at small medium and large scale; The national service for rural learning - Serviço Nacional de Aprendizagem Rural (SENAR), responsible for providing technical assistance, professional technical training and the promotion of social initiatives for men and women in the countryside and; the CNA INSTITUTE – (Instituto CNA), which develops social studies and research aimed at the agricultural sector. The SENAR is a non for profit social autonomous service, linked to the CNA. It serves over 3 million Brazilian from the rural sector, per year at no cost, offering managerial and technical assistance, as well as professional and technical training through online and in-person courses. Present in all of Brazilian states with 27 regional administrations, SENAR is referred to as a school transferring research and technology to the countryside, with a demand-led approach.


Submission process:

Applicants should submit one application via the UK system and also a separate application in-country. For additional information, please visit the following link:

<https://www.britishcouncil.org.br/newton-fund/chamadas/institutional-links-desenvolvimento-rural-biodiversidade-2017>

| | |
|---|---|
| 2. Egypt: Newton-Mosharafa | |
| Egypt co-funder: | Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) <div style="text-align: right;">  </div> |
| Duration of grants: | 24 months |
| Size of grant: | Up to £300,000 GBP |
| Thematic priority areas: | <p>1. Sustainable Food Production</p> <p>The partners will look to prioritise projects related to the investigation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climatic and extra climatic factors affecting livestock, aqua fisheries and sustainable crop production. • Innovative solutions for combatting emerging infectious livestock diseases. • Waste management and biofuel production. • Advanced trends to improve livestock productivity <p>2. Sustainable water management</p> <p>The partners will look to prioritise projects related to the investigation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitation technology • Advances in desalination technology <p>3. Affordable & Inclusive Healthcare</p> <p>The partners will look to prioritise projects related to the investigation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancer • Translational medicine • Chronic diseases • Geriatric medicine <p>4. Renewable Energy</p> <p>The partners will look to prioritise projects related to the investigation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New trends in renewable energy • Advances in energy storage systems |
| Contractual arrangements: | |
| British Council Newton Fund will issue a grant agreement to the UK Lead Institution and manage the UK side of the grant. STDF will issue a contract with the Egyptian Lead Institution and manage the Egyptian side of the grant. | |
| Additional eligibility criteria: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with STDF guidelines Principal Investigators cannot have more than two projects funded by STDF running at the same time. | |

| |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a strong emphasis in Egypt on encouraging more collaboration between research and industry. When deciding which applications to fund, preference will be given to proposals which involve participation from private sector enterprises. • For the Egyptian budget, allowances will be as follows: 1) Max 25% on salary/staff costs 2) Max 10% on travel costs 3) Max 20% on indirect costs/overheads 4) The remaining 45% can go on other costs (research costs, equipment, communication, publication, materials, field work expenses) |
| Other considerations: |
| <p>The Egyptian budget should be calculated in Egyptian pounds. To work out the total amount of the grant, applicants should use the exchange rate published by the National Bank of Egypt for the week beginning 17th April. To be eligible for funding the project requires the relevant clearances from the Egyptian authorities. The Egyptian PI should apply for this when they initially submit their application - the STDF will not submit this paperwork on their behalf.</p> <p>Applications that are successful are chosen by the British Council but the decision is ratified by the Egyptian government.</p> |
| Submission process: |
| One application via the UK system |

| | |
|--|---|
| 3. Indonesia | |
| Indonesia co-funder: | Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education (MRTHE)  |
| Duration of grants: | 12 to 24 months |
| Size of grant: | Up to £120,000 GBP, which consists of Newton Fund up to £100,000 GBP and KLN or INSINAS up to GBP 20,000 (up to 2 years) |
| Thematic priority areas: | <p>Proposals must be relevant to at least one of the priority sectors listed on the Indonesia's National Master Plan for Research 2015-2045, as follow:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Food Security 2. Energy and Renewable Energy 3. Health and Medicine 4. Transportation Technology and Management 5. Information and Communication Technology 6. Advance Material 7. Maritime 8. Disaster Mitigation and Management |
| Contractual arrangements: | |
| British Council Newton Fund will issue a grant agreement to the UK Lead Institution and manage the UK side of the grant. MRTHE will issue a contract with the Indonesian Lead Institution and manage the Indonesian side of the grant. | |
| Additional eligibility criteria: | |

1. Criteria for the UK principal applicant is same with general guidelines

2. Criteria for the Indonesia principal applicant must comply with KLN/INSINAS criteria, which can be found here : <http://simlitabmas.dikti.go.id/#>

Project output must include international publication

Other considerations:

For Indonesian applicants please refer to The Regulation of the Finance Ministry No.106/PMK.02/2016 to see the eligible budget allocation for each project based on subject/sector

<http://risbang.ristekdikti.go.id/regulasi/PMK-106-PMK.02-2016.pdf>

For more information and specific Indonesia criteria query, please contact

newtonfund.indonesia@britishcouncil.or.id

Submission process:

Applicants should apply to both the British Council Newton Fund UK application system and either the KLN & INSINAS's open call process. The following types of applicant should apply for one of MRTHE's programme:

1. **State Universities and Private Universities**, should apply to the Newton Fund Institutional Links in the UK and also KLN Programme (Kerjasama Luar Negeri)

2. **Research institutions** should apply to the Newton Fund Institutional Links in the UK and also INSINAS Programme (Insentif Riset Sistem Inovasi Nasional)

*Please open this website for details of criteria <http://simlitabmas.dikti.go.id/#>

*We cannot take the application further if the application does not comply to KLN or INSINAS's mechanism

4. Kenya

Kenya co-funder:

National Research Fund (NRF)



Duration of grants:

12 months

Size of grant:

£100,000

Thematic priority areas:

Priority areas of focus in Kenya

The Newton Utafiti Fund programme encourages transformative and collaborative research purposefully developed to add value and create synergy across existing sectors and other initiatives of government and partners to national priorities as well as contribute to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The priority areas of focus for Kenya during this second call have been identified as:

1) Food Security

Population growth and increasing consumption trends are posing a major burden to Kenya's limited resources. Increasing population migrations from rural to urban areas and occasional droughts have continued to impact agricultural productivity. About 10 million people in Kenya suffer from chronic food insecurity and poor nutrition, and between two and four million people require food assistance at any given time. Nearly 30% of Kenya's children can be classified as undernourished, and micronutrient deficiencies are widespread.

The Kenyan Government is committed to building self-reliance to reduce chronic food insecurity, as well as measures to assist those in needs with a view of longer-term development efforts to mitigate the potential impact of future emergencies. The Vision 2030, Second Medium Term Plan (2013-2017) and the Food and Nutrition Security Policy (FNSP) provides a framework for multiple dimensions to food security and nutrition improvement. It recognizes the need for multi-public and private sectors involvement, and that hunger eradication and nutrition improvement to be a shared responsibility of all Kenyans. This is also with the is aspirations of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) particularly Goal Number two targeting to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

2) Sustainable and Renewable Energy

Access to sustainable energy is a necessary precondition for achieving national development goals such as poverty eradication, access to clean water, improved public health and education, women's empowerment and increase food production. The country is straining to achieve the set target for the Sustainable Energy for all by 2030.

Over 80% of Kenyans rely on the traditional use of biomass as the primary source of energy for cooking and heating. The Kenyan government is putting in place measures to regulate the fuel wood sector to reverse the trend. Researchers are invited under this Newton Utafiti Fund programme to come up with multidisciplinary research concepts to address issues of access to sustainable and renewable energy with a special emphasis to rural communities.

3) Health

The government of Kenya recognizes that achieving the development goals outlined in Kenya Vision 2030 will require increasing productivity. The health sector is expected to play a critical supportive role in maintaining a healthy workforce which is necessary for the increased labour production that Kenya requires in order to match its global competitors. Therefore, health is one of the key components in delivering the social pillar for the Kenya Vision 2030. The country has developed a number of strategies to address the health challenges. The Constitution of Kenya (2010) introduced a transformational change in governance and public administration, providing for the Right to Health for every Kenyan, and a devolved system of governance. The Kenya Health Policy (2014-2030) has defined a comprehensive set of policy objectives and orientations to be attained in order to accelerate improvements in the health of Kenyans.

In this call, researchers in the health sector are invited to contribute to facilitating the aspirations of Kenya's development blueprint Vision 2030, Health Policy, Attainment of SDG No. 3 on ensuring healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all and other relevant sector policy documents.

4) Environment and Climate Change

Kenya recognizes the value of her environmental resources and that the degradation of the environment can adversely affect productivity and increase levels of poverty in the country. The conservation and sustainable use of land, water, forests, biological and mineral resources are key to the country's development objectives. The rate of exploitation of the country's land and biological resources is considered unsustainable. Natural

ecosystems, important for a number of natural services and products are being converted to other uses or face the threat of degradation due to pollution.

It is worth noting that enhanced emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere has led to global warming and climatic change, and the changes to the earth surface through various human activities, including waste disposal, has contributed to global environmental change, the local magnitude and potential impact of which is yet to be established. To the Government of Kenya, these changes pose both potential risks and opportunities for food production, human health and energy availability, among many others. Multi-sector and multidisciplinary research proposals are invited to contribute in reverse these challenges and alleviate climate change adversities.

5) Manufacturing for SMEs

Over the past few years the level of Government interests in entrepreneurship and small business development as potential solutions to flagging economic growth and rising unemployment has increased. Kenya's manufacturing sector is identified as among the key productive sectors identified for economic growth and development because of its immense potential for wealth, employment creation and poverty alleviation. Kenya Vision 2030, Second Medium Term underscores the importance of this sector to the economy.

The SMEs are well recognized for their operation cutting across almost all sectors of the economy and sustain majority of households in Kenya. The sector employs significant number of employees and is currently receiving a lot of Government attention as it's seen as the solution to the crippling unemployment especially for the youth. Transformative research targeting manufacturing for SMEs is highly welcome.

6) Governance and Conflict resolution related to development

Kenya recognizes that Governance, peace and security of humankind is an international concern. It requires the development of partnerships between public agencies, local communities, civil society and various related actors. The National Policy on Peace building and Conflict Management provides platform to address the key challenges facing Kenya in her commitment to supporting sustainable peace and development.

In this programme, researchers are being invited to develop multi-sector approaches to enhance institutional framework for conflict management and Peace building that fosters strong partnerships between the Government, the market, the civil society, Development partners and grass root communities for sustainable development.

7) Cross-Cutting Issues


There are a number of cross-cutting issues that are important for the country. Researchers are expected to address the issues as they develop their proposals under the above listed priority areas of focus. The issues are:


- Social-Science Interface
- Technical skills
- Big data
- Basic sciences
- Education
- Innovation & Entrepreneurship skills
- Gender Mainstreaming

Contractual arrangements:

British Council Newton Fund will issue a grant agreement to the UK Lead Institution and manage the UK side of the grant. NRF will issue a contract with the Kenyan Lead Institution and manage the

| |
|-----------------------------------|
| Kenyan side of the grant. |
| Submission process: |
| One application to the UK system. |

| 5. Malaysia | |
|---|--|
| Malaysia co-funder: | Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT)  |
| Duration of grants: | 12 – 24 months |
| Size of grant: | £50,000 GBP – £150,000 GBP |
| Thematic priority areas: | The overarching theme for this call is Climate Change & Sustainability. In particular, applications will be welcome from these focus areas: <ul 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 |
| Contractual arrangements: | |
| British council will disburse 50% of the grant to all successful applicants and MIGHT will transfer the remaining 50% of grant in cash to British Council (30% upon receipt of interim report and 20% upon receipt of final report submitted by UK PI). | |
| Other considerations: | |
| 35% of the total grant can be spent on other-research related costs. | |
| Submission process: | |
| One application to the UK system | |

| 6. Mexico | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Mexico co-funder: | Fondo de Sustentabilidad Energética (SENER-CONACyT)  |
| Duration of grants: | 12 months |
| Size of grant: | £80,000 GBP for Technological Developments/£70,000 GBPs for Solutions for the Public Policy (i.e. policy manuals) |
| Thematic priority areas: | Applications are welcome from the following key thematic priority areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Electrical Energy Storage</u> <i>Sub-theme 1: Planning and management of energy storage</i> Research to improve the planning and management of electrical energy |

storage; identify the applications of energy storage in Mexico; integrate systems to optimize energy storage and reduce costs; generate public policies to implement strategies in storage of electric energy in order to reduce energy poverty and guarantee the supply of energy to the population; facilitate government interventions targeting low-income groups and decentralise energy infrastructure

Sub-theme II: Technological developments to improve energy storage

Research to design new devices, applications and processes that improve energy storage at lower costs and that may have a social, environmental and economic impact for the Mexican population; evaluate and compare existing energy storage technologies and delivery processes versus their cost, seeking a direct impact on the living conditions of the Mexican population.

2. Energy Efficiency and Epidemiology

Sub-theme I: Planning and management of energy efficiency

Research to improve the planning and management of energy efficiency; generate public policies to implement strategies that help reduce carbon emissions, reduce energy poverty, improve the monitoring and evaluation of energy systems and ensure an efficient supply to the population; facilitate government interventions targeting lower income groups in less efficient households and decentralize energy infrastructure; build standards for energy supply of social housing; applications of epidemiology for demand analysis and improvements in energy efficiency

Sub-theme II: Energy efficiency in construction

Research to explore possible future scenarios of energy efficiency in the construction industry; examine the interventions needed to overcome barriers to energy efficiency in construction; analyse the current political landscape, regulations and performance of energy efficiency in the construction industry for the benefit of the Mexican population; applications of epidemiology for demand analysis and improvements in energy efficiency

Sub-theme III: Technological developments to improve energy efficiency

Research to design new energy efficiency devices and processes that may have a social, environmental and economic impact on the Mexican population; evaluate and contrast the efficiency of existing technologies and processes seeking to improve those that have a direct impact on the living conditions of the Mexican population

3. Materials for Clean Energies

Sub-theme I: Materials Development

Research to accelerate the exploration, discovery and use of new low-cost, high-performance clean energy materials to accelerate the transition to low-carbon economies by integrating the potential social, environmental and economic impact of such developments (waste reduction, decentralised energy infrastructures, materials that can be used in remote and marginalised areas, improved health, etc.)

Sub-theme II: Process integration

Research to automate and improve the processes necessary to integrate these materials into new technologies at every step of the innovation chain of new materials, while integrating the social and economic benefits for the Mexican population through the use of local resources.

4. Offshore clean energy generation technologies

Sub-theme I: Planning and management of offshore clean energy generation technologies

Research to inform public policy to decentralise energy systems and make them accessible to the population without electrical energy connectivity (grids); identification of marine energy resources and devices compatible with the geographical conditions of Mexico and the energy needs of the

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>population without electrical network connectivity; design of early technologies or creation of correspondence of existing technologies to solve the energy needs of the population without electrical network connectivity; marine spatial planning for the optimized deployment and assignment of offshore technologies to meet the energy needs of the population without electrical network connectivity</p> <p>Sub-theme II: Integration of offshore clean energy generation systems</p> <p>Research to inform public policies and support the management, control and valuation of marine energy surpluses to make an economically efficient use of overcapacity in marine energy and inform public policies for the socio-economic development of ports and coastal communities of Mexico; design of monitoring, control and evaluation systems for offshore technologies to improve their efficiency and use</p> |
| Contractual arrangements: | |
| <p>British Council Newton Fund will issue a grant agreement to the UK Lead Institution and manage 50% of the grant. SENER-CONACyT will issue a contract with the Mexican Lead Institution and manage 50% of the grant.</p> | |
| Additional eligibility criteria: | |
| <p>In the case of Mexico, the principal investigator is expected to be a member or candidate to be part of the National System of Investigators. The researcher must be based in an institution of higher education or research centers of Mexican origin or based in Mexico with the capacity to carry out high quality research</p> <p>- The institution of the Mexican principal investigator must be enrolled in the National Register of Scientific and Technological Institutions and Companies (RENIECYT) in order to receive funds.</p> <p>In addition the proposal must include the formation of a multidisciplinary and inter-institutional team with at least the following members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A project leader represented by a member researcher or SNI candidate based on a Mexican institution as well as a deputy researcher • A project co-leader represented by a researcher based in a British institution as well as a deputy researcher. • A project coordinator belonging to the proposing institution or some other non-profit organization that supports with the logistics and organization of the work sessions. It is recommended that there be one coordinator per institution for greater efficiency and preferably include staff with knowledge and experience that can contribute to project deliverables. In the case of technological developments, the support of an Office of Technological Transfer or some expert in technology management, technological maps, management of intellectual property is suggested. • An administrative leader on the part of each institution that takes care of the formalisation of the contracts and follows up the payments and financial reports • A minimum of 5 members (at least 2 from each country) and a maximum of 20 participants (10 from Mexico and 10 from the UK) in each working group. • Working groups may include non-governmental organizations, civil associations and private companies that are relevant and contribute to the research, provided that they will not receive funding but will be able to access the working sessions. • Proposals should clearly specify the names, profiles and role to be developed in the project. | |
| Other considerations: | |
| <p><u>Modalities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals should include activities for the development of solutions, services or technologies in the areas of Energy Efficiency, Clean Energy Materials, Electrical Energy Storage and Offshore Clean Energy Generation Technologies. There are two modalities for funding; we need that the applicants state clearly which modality will be followed and which activities will be pursued during the project. <p>Modality I: Research for the elaboration of opinions, manuals, recommendations or publications that help public policy for the efficient management of energy in the country</p> <p>Expected Deliverables at the end of the project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A technical report is expected with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed research activities and conclusions • Project feasibility analysis | |

- Benchmark analysis against existing projects of the same nature.
 - Mapping of financing alternatives to scale the project
2. A publication: Paper or article published at the end of the project in an academic or science journal (mandatory). Please carefully consider to avoid the publication of information that may be detrimental to the intellectual property of the project.
 3. A manual with opinions and recommendations that help public policy for the efficient management of energy in the country.

Modality II; Technological developments (between Levels 2 and 3 of Technological Maturity (regarding the Technology Readiness Level scale of NASA-TRL 2 and 3).

1. A technical report is expected with:

- Developed research activities and conclusions
- Project feasibility analysis
- Benchmark analysis against existing projects of the same nature.
- Mapping of financing alternatives to scale the project
- Technological Roadmap
- Market validation analysis

2. A publication: Paper or article published at the end of the project in an academic or science journal (mandatory). Please carefully consider to avoid the publication of information that may be detrimental to the intellectual property of the project.

Additional budget constraints


- The maximum proportion of the total value of the grant to cover research costs is 40% for technological developments and 30% for other projects.
- Cost of consultants or trainers that are relevant / crucial for the deliverables of the project. Up to 35% of Human Resources cost. The applicants will have to state clearly what would the consultancy/training will be for.
- Bank charges for transfer of funds from the Lead Institution to other Partners will not be met by the Mexican partner and must be included

Other considerations

- For technological developments, these activities are expected to be at least in Technological Maturity Level 2 (NASA TRL 2) and maximum in Level 3 (NASA TRL3). In the case of technological developments we need that the applicants state and justify clearly the level of Technology Readiness their research is sitting in. For the benefit of applicants we have created this check list so they can assess their project's technological maturity level (https://www.britishcouncil.org.mx/sites/default/files/trl_diagnosis_questionnaire_final.xlsx)
- For research for the public policy/research landscape, it is expected that such activities will lead to the elaboration of opinions, manuals, recommendations or publications that help public policy for the efficient management of energy in the country or that will contribute significantly to establish a pathway for further research in the country (i.e. in marine energy, epidemiology, etc.)
- All projects must demonstrate that within 3 to 15 years they can lead to a high social, environmental and economic impact for the Mexican population, especially in marginalized or high poverty areas

Submission process:

Applicants should submit one application via the UK system and also a separate application in-country.

| 7. Philippines | |
|---|--|
| Philippines co-funder: | Commission on Higher Education  |
| Duration of grants: | 24 months |
| Size of grant: | Up to £120,000 for UK partner and Php 10 million for Philippine partner |
| 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 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. |
| Contractual arrangements: | |
| British Council Newton Fund will issue a grant agreement to the UK Lead Institution and manage the UK side of the grant. The Commission on Higher Education will issue a contract with the Philippine Lead Institution and manage the Philippine side of the grant. | |
| Additional eligibility criteria: | |
| Applying institutions from the Philippines should be eligible for the CHED Institutional Development and Innovation Grants in order to qualify. For more information, please read http://www.ched.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CMO33_s2016.pdf . | |
| Applicants are required to submit a Work and Financial Plan from the Philippine partner for the Php10 m award from CHED. Download the form from https://www.britishcouncil.ph/programmes/newton-fund/institutional-links . | |
| Other considerations: | |
| More guidelines on CHED funding restrictions on the Php10 m grant can be found here: http://www.ched.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CMO33_s2016.pdf . | |

Submission process:

One application via UK system; accompanied by the additional submission of a Work and Financial Plan from the Philippine partner pertaining to the use of the Php10 m from CHED.

8. Thailand**Thailand co-funder:**

Thailand Research Fund (TRF)

**Duration of grants:**

24 months

Size of grant:

£50,000 - £100,000

Thematic priority areas:

Applicants are welcome to apply for funding in one of the following thematic priority areas:

1. Education research and innovation for development
2. Economic growth (eg. Equitable growth, financial sector development, private sector development)
3. Demographic change, migration and ageing society
4. Rural and urban development
5. Infrastructure (including civil engineering, information and communication technologies, big data for social economic development)
6. Governance, society and conflict (eg. Transparency, accountability, effective institutions, land and natural resource rights, poverty alleviation, social development, structural inequalities, civil society)
7. Innovative and Sustainable competitiveness in Agriculture

Contractual arrangements:

British Council Newton Fund will issue a grant agreement to the UK Lead Institution and manage the UK side of the grant. TRF will issue a contract with the Thai Lead Institution and manage the Thai side of the grant.

Additional eligibility criteria:

- Thai lead applicant must not hold senior / executive position (Dean level or above).
- In requesting for the budget, the Thai applicant must request no more than 50% of the total cost of the grant and the UK applicant must request no more than 50% of the total cost of the grant.
- Human Resources cost for Thai applicant must not exceed 15% of total grant.

Other considerations:

Thai applicants must follow additional guidelines as outlined by TRF.
In addition to UK applicants report submission via Researchfish, Thai applicants must also submit narrative and financial report to TRF.

Submission process:

One application via the UK system.

APPENDIX 2: ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA CHECKLIST

| Eligibility criteria checklist | |
|--|--|
| The application | |
| The application has been submitted by the applicants by the published deadline. | |
| 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 Appendix 1. | |
| <p>Principal applicants 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 Centre⁷ (in the case of the UK Principal Applicant) • an alternative institution as detailed in Appendix 1 <p>For the UK, if the lead institution is not an HEI, they are listed here (https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/institutional_links_-_eligible_uk_research_organisations_-_version_1april_2015.pdf). Please contact UK-InstitutionalLinks@britishcouncil.org if in doubt</p> | |
| The applicants have included 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 Principal Applicants. | |
| Applicants have submitted 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 principal applicants have submitted only one (1) application under this Institutional Links call. | |
| If either principal applicant has previously received a Newton Fund Institutional Links grant then the proposed activity builds significantly upon the existing project. | |
| The budget | |
| The total budget is within 10% of the limits given in this guidance, including Appendix 1 for the applicable partner country. If the budget is over 10% above the maximum, the application is ineligible. If the budget is within 10% of the limits given, the budget is cut to the maximum allowed if chosen for funding. | |
| The budget requested under “other research related costs” is 30% or less of the total budget (unless specified otherwise in Appendix 1). | |
| The budget requested for permanent staff costs is 30% or less of the total budget requested for human resources costs. | |
| If the partner country Lead Institution is affiliated in any way with a higher education or research institution in another country, (e.g. UK, USA), the proposal includes other eligible higher education or research institutions in the partner country. | |

⁷ <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 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.

| Section 1: Relevance to economic development and social welfare | Score | Range |
|---|-------|--------|
| <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). Please see section 4 of the guidelines for further details.</p> | | YES/NO |

| Section 2: Research/innovation quality and background | Score | Range |
|---|-------|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The academic importance and timeliness of the research/innovation topic is clearly demonstrated. • The Principal 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 style="text-align: center;">0–20</p> <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> |

| Section 3: 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 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 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>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> | |

| Section 4: Sustainability and capacity building | Score | Range |
|--|---|-------------|
| | | 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) | Score | Range |
| | | 0–60 |