

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 and ageing population – requires an integrated research and innovation approach, bringing together communities from different disciplines, sectors and nations in high quality collaborations. The Newton Fund aims to build UK-Partner country research and innovation collaborations centred on these shared research and innovation challenges which have direct relevance to the partner country's 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 are intended to provide small-scale seed funding 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 that are 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 will typically range from £50,000 to £300,000 over two years, dependent on the country (see Annex 1 for country-specific limits), and will cover collaborations between the UK and **one** of the following Newton Fund countries: **Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Philippines, Vietnam.**

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, and any requirements regarding contributions from applying institutions) 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 take into account the country-specific guidance **cannot be considered for funding**.

Eligible proposals will be assessed by expert Review Panels and subsequently selected for funding by a joint Decision Panel on the basis of quality, fit to development needs and country priorities, capacity building potential and likely sustainability of the collaboration.

The deadline for submission of proposals is **16.00 UK time on 20 November 2014**.

3. Scope of the Programme

The primary aim of the Newton Institutional Links Programme is to enable the establishment and development of research and innovation collaborations between the UK and partner country institutions at the group, departmental or institutional level, and to encourage engagement with the commercial and not-for-profit sector. Grants under this Programme will allow partners to collaborate internationally, gain access to new research environments, facilities, knowledge and expertise, which will enhance the quality of their research and enable them to translate research and innovation into societal and economic benefit.

All research and innovation collaborations funded through 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.
- **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, collaborations should also 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.

Institutional Links grants can cover costs which support research and innovation collaboration, including research-related costs; travel costs associated to the exchange between partners of researchers, students and industry staff (including SMEs and not-for-profit organisations); the costs of organising meetings, seminars, training; and other activities to establish and strengthen collaborative links.

Institutional Links 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).

Grants can also include support for training technical staff, and a limited amount of funding for the purchase of equipment and consumables, or financing of other activity necessary for the translation of the research into benefit, thereby laying the foundations for longer term impact on the research and innovation landscape. All expenditure must be detailed in the budget request and a justification of costs included.

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 low- and middle-income countries¹, 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 along which the research and innovation work may lead to positive impact on these populations within a short- to medium-term timeframe (3-15 years).**

Under this Programme, topics can fall in one or more of the following research and innovation challenge areas:

- 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 inequalities, violence and security, peace building, civil society)
- Development-relevant data collection, quality and access (including administrative data and macroeconomic statistics).

5. Eligibility

Proposals must fulfil the following criteria in order to be eligible for funding under this Programme (for a full list, please see Annex 2):

- Each proposal must have one Principal Applicant from the UK **and** one Principal Applicant from the partner country
- Both Principal Applicants must be Leading Researchers² or Established Researchers¹
- Principal Applicants can be based at:
 - A not-for-profit higher education institution with the capacity to undertake high-

¹ As defined by the OECD DAC list of official development assistance (ODA) recipients (<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclistofodarecipients.htm>).

² 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).

- quality research
 - A publicly-funded research institution with the capacity to undertake high-quality research
 - A Catapult Centre³ (in the case of the UK Principal Applicant)
- Both of the Principal Applicants' institutions (the 'Lead Institutions') must have the capacity to administer a grant.

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
- 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 **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.

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/ publicly-funded research organisation will be rejected by the office. If you are unsure about your organisation's eligibility, please contact us at UK-InstitutionalLinks@britishcouncil.org.

6. Funding available

Under the Institutional Links programme, a key precondition for accessing UK funds is that matched funding is secured from partner countries. In some participating countries (Brazil, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Malaysia and Mexico), this matched funding will come from national agencies. In others (Colombia, Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam), the partner country contribution will have to be demonstrated as part of the application process in the form of by a financial or in-kind contribution from the partner country institution. This contribution can come directly from the institution, or from another organisation (e.g. a development bank, a charitable foundation, a multilateral organisation), provided that the origin of the funding is not the UK Government. Where matching funding is a requirement of the application, as a minimum there must be a matching of effort – for example, the partner country funds will cover the partner country researcher costs whereas the UK funds will cover the costs in the UK.

Applicants may submit proposals requesting funding between £30,000 and £300,000, depending on the country (please see Annex 1 for country-specific limits). These amounts refer to the actual cash contribution paid by the British Council and funded by the UK Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the in-country partners detailed in Annex 1. As mentioned above, for some countries, a matching contribution from the participating partner country institutions is a requirement (see Annex 1).

Funds will be disbursed directly to the Lead Institution(s) according to the approved budget breakdown. Funding may be transferred to Associated Partners for activities which support the objectives of the collaboration and the overall Programme⁴.

Institutional Links grants are intended to support 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 of this document specifies further, country-specific information on**

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

⁴ Note that For-profit organisations are only eligible to receive funds to cover travel-associated costs.

allowable and disallowable costs.

Institutional Links grants can cover:

- Human resources costs – if essential, appropriate and relevant to the collaboration – including but not limited to: staff costs of temporary research personnel **dedicated to the collaboration**, research assistant fees (specifically for the collaboration but not regular salary-/payroll-related costs). The costs of permanent staff or existing positions **cannot** be included (please see Annex 1 for exceptions).
- Other research-related costs:
 - Essential research equipment⁵. Usually, we would expect the initial cost of individual pieces of equipment to 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 to facilities or library services
 - Appropriate fieldwork costs essential to the operation of the collaboration (including but not limited to costs for research/data collection staff in the partner country),

The maximum proportion of the total grant value that can be requested to cover these costs is 5%, unless defined otherwise for specific partner countries (see Annex 1).

- Publication costs and associated publishing and communications costs (including web page development by external providers, if appropriate) directly related to the collaboration
- Short-term room hire for meetings, training events, seminars and conferences integral to the collaboration and any additional costs pertaining to these activities (e.g. projector, flip charts)
- Basic catering costs associated with events or meetings directly relating to the collaboration (these must be justified in the budget breakdown), unless specified otherwise (see Annex 1)
- 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 visitors (if required for travel to the partner country or the UK)
- Bank charges for transfer of funds from the Lead Institution to Associated Partners to cover their travel and expenses.
- The British Council is committed to equal opportunities and diversity and will consider, on a case by case basis, requests for additional support linked to the 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.
- Other staff-related costs (i.e. statutory contributions analogous to UK superannuation or National Insurance)
- Tuition fees
- Bench fees
- Costs relating to the construction, procurement or rental of physical infrastructure (e.g. office buildings, laboratory facilities) are not allowable under this scheme. It is expected that

⁵ Budget requests pertaining to these costs have to include any VAT costs, delivery and installation.

any rooms and facilities essential for the 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. However, **short-term rental** of meeting rooms for occasional use (e.g. for wider seminars and workshops) **is allowable**.

- 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.

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

A summary of the budget request should be submitted as part of the application form, and it must be accompanied by a detailed budget proposal covering the entire duration of the collaboration. Please use the detailed budget proposal template provided on the call website. All costs must be itemised, broken down by UK costs and partner country costs, and fully justified in the 'justification' section of the budget template.

Please note that the duration of the proposed collaboration should be no more than 24 months (for some participating countries the maximum duration is less – please see Annex 1) typically with an effective start before 1 April 2015. Funding of the collaboration, if approved, begins from the effective start date of the Institutional Links grant, i.e. 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 cost-effectiveness, the budget requested in your proposal (including human resource costs) should be kept as low as possible, covering only costs that are essential, appropriate and relevant to the collaboration. The proposal should maximise cost share through direct institutional contributions, indirect institutional contributions and private sector support. Please indicate in the budget form any funds the participating institutions/organisations will be contributing to this collaboration from their own funds (itemised as 'in-kind contribution'), including in the form of staff time. If you have applied for funds from other sources to cover this collaboration but have not yet received them, please include these as contributions and clarify the status of the applications (i.e. successful; awaiting receipt of funds; pending - still awaiting decision). Also please indicate when you will know the outcome of any pending applications.

For certain countries (Colombia, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia), the in-kind contribution must be 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 is covered by the partner institution.

For Brazil, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Malaysia and Mexico, 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 under 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. Selection process

Following an eligibility check by the British Council, there will be a concomitant selection process in the UK and in partner countries. Proposals will be scored by an external, independent Review Panel of academic experts in the UK as well as through review in partner countries. The scores will inform the final selection decision made in-country in collaboration with national stakeholders and partner funding organisations.

Eligible proposals will be peer-reviewed and assessed in the UK by one of five Review Panels:

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

Applicants should indicate in their online application form which Review Panel their proposal should be assessed by, and the subject(s) their proposal covers. Up to three subject areas can be selected in priority order, but the applicant will only be able to **indicate one Review Panel**. We reserve the right to allocate your proposal to a different Review Panel if required.

Proposals will be assessed against the criteria stated below. The ratings of the proposal against the quality criteria result in a total score between 0 and 60. Please see Annex 3 for an explanation of the scoring system. Proposals will be assessed by two reviewers and ranked at the Review Panel meeting. Those receiving a final score from the Panel meeting of less than 30 will be considered not fundable. However, please note that 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 under this Programme. Please see Annex 1 for priority and challenge areas 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.

9. Assessment criteria

The Review Panel will consider 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. They will be asked to comment on the following criteria in assessing proposals and applicants:

Research/innovation quality and background:

- Is the academic importance and timeliness of the research/innovation topic clearly

demonstrated?

- Do the lead applicants have sufficient relevant experience to lead the proposed collaborations and achieve the stated objectives?
- Is the value added – to the institutions and/or the wider research and innovation community – by the collaboration between the partnering institutions described clearly?
- Are the benefits and relevance of the research/innovation collaboration to the UK and partner country institution described clearly?

Proposal:

- Does the description of the collaboration include clear, feasible and realistic objectives and the potential for long term impact?
- Do the applicants clearly articulate specific outputs anticipated from the collaboration? Are these objectives likely to be achieved?
- Does the proposal explain 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?
- Is there strong evidence of support from the applicants' institutions?
- Does the proposed collaboration support new links or significantly extend and develop existing links?
- If the applicants' institutions are collaborating already, is there clear evidence that the grant would add significant value to the collaboration?
- Does the proposal include a clear and feasible description of the arrangements for project managing the collaboration and communication between partners?

Sustainability and capacity building:

- Is the potential in terms of professional development and capacity building for researchers, innovation practitioners and other individuals participating in the collaboration clearly described?
- Will the collaboration support 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?
- Is there potential for the collaboration to have lasting positive impact on the wider community's capacity to translate research into economic or societal benefit?
- Does the proposal include a clear and feasible description of how the participating institutions/organisations intend to sustain their collaboration over the longer term?

Relevance to development challenges:

- Does the proposed collaboration cover research and innovation that has the potential to contribute to the economic development and social welfare of the partner country?
- Does the topic or theme of the collaboration fall into one of the development challenge areas described in section 4 (and/or one of the relevant country-specific areas detailed in Annex 1)?
- If not, does the proposal make a strong argument for how the collaboration will contribute to the building of human capacity in-country?

As described in section 8, the assessment of proposals will be performed by external, independent

Review Panels and the final funding decisions will be made in discussion with British Council country offices and in-country partners, if applicable.

10. Proposal submission process

Applicants must submit a completed online application form. This can be found at www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/current-opportunities/institutional-links-2014. This application form **must** be completed online. 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 the completed budget template (available on the call website) and supporting letters (from the Principal Applicants' institutions as well as from Associated Partners, if relevant). Any problems with the online submission system should be reported to the following email address: UK-InstitutionalLinks@britishcouncil.org.

Before the completed application form can be submitted to the system, applicants will be asked to confirm in the online 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 should also be documented 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.
- Satisfied 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, applicants will receive a confirmation email containing the application ID number. This reference number should be used in all communications with the British Council. Applicants who have not received an automated email confirmation should contact the British Council at UK-InstitutionalLinks@britishcouncil.org.

11. Call deadline

The submission deadline is **16:00 UK time on 20 November 2014**. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered for funding.

12. Contact details

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

13. 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 that information. More information on this is available on the British Council data protection webpage: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/home-data-protection.htm>. or alternatively can it be requested to the local British Council office or the Data Protection Team dataprotection@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 proposal. Proposals which do not take into account the country-specific guidance **cannot be considered for funding**.

| Partner country | Thematic priority areas ⁶ | Duration of grants | Size of grants | Matched funding source | Other criteria, requirements and restrictions |
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| Brazil Strand 1 CAPES | <p>Thematic priority areas under the Institutional Links Brazil strand to be match-funded by CAPES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Drug Discovery. Priority will be given to proposals with a focus on neglected diseases or medical conditions affecting low income populations • Agriculture • Water • Environment <p>Please note that this list is provisional. Please check the call website after 14 October for more information.</p> | 4-24 months | Maximum £300,000 per proposal | Matched funding from Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES) | |
| Brazil Strand 2 SAE | <p>Under the Institutional Links Brazil strand match-funded by SAE, the thematic focus is a Knowledge Hub on Adaptation to Climate Change in Brazil.</p> <p>Only one proposal will be supported</p> | 4-24 months | Maximum £150,000 | Matched funding from the Brazilian Secretariat of Strategic Affairs (SAE), Presidency of the Republic of | <p>SAE will provide up to £150k in in-kind and financial contributions to support a single collaboration. This is expected to include:</p> <p>1. The building of a web platform where different actors would be able to present</p> |

⁶ If different from those mentioned in section 4. Please note that the guidance on relevance of the research to the economic development and social welfare laid out in section 4 still applies even if the thematic priority areas differ for a given participating country.

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| | under the strand to be match-funded by SAE. The successful proposal must demonstrate how the collaboration will build a UK-Brazil hub which focuses on Climate Change adaptation and its impact on Brazilian society. A number of specific activities are expected under this call (see last column). | | | Brazil | <p>their interests/expertise and match their needs/capacities/objectives.</p> <p>2. Academic workshops, missions and/or research visits.</p> <p>Brazilian applicants must contact SAE for information on in-kind funding prior to submission, and include details on the budget form Camila.Morsch@britishcouncil.org.br</p> |
| Colombia Newton-Caldas Fund | <p>Institutional Links grants under the Newton-Caldas Fund can address one or more of the following thematic priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture (e.g. irrigation, crop yields) • Climate and environment (e.g. climate change, green technology, sustainable development, ecosystem services, resource scarcity) • Waste and recycling • Water and sanitation • Rural and urban development | 4-24 months | £50,000-£300,000 | Matched funding from participating institutions | <p>Applicants will need to demonstrate match funding as an in-kind contribution. This must be 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 is 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 document. Any matched funding arrangements will have to be in place before the grant agreement with the British Council can be signed. Letters of support indicating the intention to contribute matched funding must be submitted along with the application form.</p> |

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| | | | | | Clarification on matched funding and examples of matched effort can be sought from the British Council prior to the submission deadline (Angela.Ramirez@britishcouncil.org.co). |
| Egypt Newton-Mosharafa Fund | <p>Institutional Links grants under the Newton-Mosharafa Fund can address one or more of the following thematic priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water management • Food production • Healthcare • Energy • Cultural heritage/architecture • Electronics/ICT | 18-24 months | £50,000-£300,000 | Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) | <p>For Egypt, the maximum proportion of the total grant value that can be requested to cover research-related costs other than human resources is 30%.</p> <p>The total staff cost should not be greater than 20% of the total grant value. Staff costs can include permanent staff and existing positions for work that directly contributes to the collaboration, temporary research personnel dedicated to the collaboration, and research assistant fees. Please note that the cost of permanent staff will be covered by the STDF contribution.</p> <p>The total travel-related costs (flight tickets, visa fees, medical insurance, etc.) should not be greater than 20% of the total grant value.</p> <p>The remaining part of the budget can be allocated to other eligible expenses (as listed in section 6 of the main body text of this document), including publication costs, short-term hiring of rooms (e.g. for meetings, workshops), catering and bank-transfer charges.</p> <p>The Principal Applicant/Lead Institution from Egypt must be public or private Egyptian universities or research institutes that must have an Egyptian</p> |

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| | | | | | <p>legal identity.</p> <p>While all applications will be processed through the British Council platform, all applicants will also have to register on the STDF website before the deadline of 20 November. Please contact Nevine Nabil at STDF if you have questions about the registration process (nevine.nabil@stdf.org.eg).</p> |
| Indonesia | <p>Institutional Links grants with Indonesia can address one or more of the following thematic priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 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) | 12-24 months | £60,000-£120,000 | Matched funding from participating institutions (please see notes) | <p>Applicants will need to demonstrate match funding as an in-kind contribution. This must be 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 is 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 document. Any matched funding arrangements will have to be in place before the grant agreement with the British Council can be signed. Letters of support indicating the intention to contribute matched funding must be submitted along with the application form. Clarification on matched funding and</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) | | | | <p>examples of matched effort can be sought from the British Council prior to the submission deadline (Grenti.Paramitha@britishcouncil.or.id).</p> <p>Patent-related costs can be covered up to a maximum of 1% of the total grant value.</p> <p>Private universities in Indonesia are eligible to apply as principal applicants.</p> <p>While proposals can initially be submitted in English, successful applicants will have to provide their proposal in Indonesian as well.</p> <p>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).</p> |
| <p>Kazakhstan</p> <p>Newton-AI Farabi Partnership Programme</p> | <p>Institutional Links grants under the Newton-AI Farabi Partnership Programme can address one or more of the following thematic priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Health and wellbeing Agri-technology Resilience and natural disasters Ecology and the environment Food and water <p>Multi-disciplinary approaches in</p> | 4-24 months | £50,000-£300,000 | | <p>Please note that final eligibility criteria will be confirmed shortly. Therefore, please continue to check the call website for updated information on the Institutional Links programme Kazakhstan.</p> <p>For Kazakhstan, the maximum proportion of the total grant value that can be requested to cover research-related costs other than human resources is 20%. Within this category, allowable costs include scientific equipment, consumables (including scientific software licences dedicated to the collaboration), access to facilities or library services, and appropriate fieldwork</p> |

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| | these areas will be welcomed. | | | | costs. |
| Malaysia Newton-Ungku Omar Fund | <p>The overarching theme for Institutional Links grants under the Newton-Ungku Omar Fund is “The Impact of Climate Change on Cities and Urbanisation”.</p> <p>Within this theme, proposals can address one or more of the following priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and life sciences • Improving environmental resilience • Energy security • Future cities • Digital, innovation and creativity | 4-12 months | £30,000-£150,000 | Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) | |
| Mexico | <p>Thematic priority areas, duration and size of grants and any other requirements for Mexico are being finalised.</p> <p>Please check the call website after 14 October for more information or get in touch with us on Patricia.Millan@britishcouncil.org or Liliana.Carral@britishcouncil.org.mx.</p> | TBC (please see note on the left) | TBC (please see note on the left) | Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACyT) | TBC (please see note on the left) |
| Philippines | <p>Five thematic priority areas for Institutional Links grants with the Philippines have been identified to provide guidance for applicants. They are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and life sciences: Reducing the dual burden of | 4-24 months | £30,000-£150,000 | Matched funding from participating institutions | Applicants will need to demonstrate match funding as an in-kind contribution. This must be 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 |

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| | <p>infectious disease on the fragile health systems of the region including addressing the increasing threat of anti-microbial resistance and neglected tropical diseases; diagnostics, and E-health systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving environmental resilience and energy security: Improving understanding and mitigating the human and economic impacts of natural hazards, reducing carbon emissions by improving 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 innovations that can deliver social and economic benefits. Facilitating | | | | <p>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 is 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 document. Any matched funding arrangements will have to be in place before the grant agreement with the British Council can be signed. 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 (Andrea.Teran@britishcouncil.org.ph).</p> <p>Additional requirements:</p> <p>Eligible institutions – Call is open to non-profit research establishments and public/private HEIs.</p> <p>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</p> |
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| | development of policies and approaches to enable creation of effective innovation systems and long term planning which will encourage sustainable development. | | | | than one Newton Fund country). |
| Vietnam | <p>Institutional Links grants with Vietnam can address one or more of the following thematic priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and life sciences • Agriculture • Environmental resilience and energy security • Digital innovation and creativity (focussing on economic development and social welfare) | 18-24 months | £50,000 to £150,000 | Matched funding from participating institutions, i.e. Vietnamese partner institutions are required to meet a minimum of 50% of the total collaboration budget | <p>Applicants will need to demonstrate match funding as an in-kind contribution. This must be 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 is 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 document. Any matched funding arrangements will have to be in place before the grant agreement with the British Council can be signed. 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</p> |

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| | | | | | <p>(Giang.Nguyen@britishcouncil.org.vn).</p> <p>Final funding decisions will be made in consultation with the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills representative in Vietnam and the Vietnam Ministry of Science and Technology.</p> <p>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).</p> |
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Annex 2 – Eligibility criteria checklist

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| The application has been submitted by the applicants by the published deadline. | |
| The application has been submitted using the correct online application form. | |
| The applicant has enclosed the 2 supporting letters required, one from the UK Principal Applicant's institution and one from the partner country Principal Applicant's institution. | |
| Applicants have submitted a detailed budget request using the budget request template provided. | |
| Where required (see Annex 1), sufficient matched funding in-kind has been demonstrated by the partner institution or an alternative funding source. | |
| The application form is 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 under this call for Institutional Links (call October 2014). | |
| 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. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 publically-funded 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 Annex 1 | |
| Both of the Principal Applicants' institutions (the 'Lead Institutions') must have the capacity to administer a grant and satisfy British Council requirements to prevent bribery, fraud and professional misconduct. Applicants will confirm that they comply to British Council requirements by responding to pre-submission questions in the online application form | |

⁷ <https://www.innovateuk.org/-/catapult-centres>

Annex 3 – 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. Proposals with an average score of less than 30 points are considered not fundable. Equally, only proposals that have clearly articulated relevance to economic development and social welfare of the partner country will be considered for funding.

| | Score | Range |
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| Section 1 – 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> | |

| Section 2 – Proposal | | 0-20 |
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| <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. | <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> | |

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| Section 3 – 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 ASSESSEMENT (Section 1 + Section 2 + Section 3) | | 0-60 |

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