

Newton Fund Institutional Links FAQs Version 5

Please note that, where there is overlap, Application Guidelines including country-specific requirements, take precedence over these FAQs.

Q: Are overseas campuses or other organisations affiliated to UK universities eligible?

A: Overseas campuses or other affiliates of UK (or other country) institutions in Newton-eligible countries can be involved, so long as there is evidence that they are building capacity in at least one other institution in the partner country. If they are registered as a legal entity in the partner country, they are eligible as principal applicants from that country, as long as at least one other institution from that country is involved and will benefit. If the overseas campus or other affiliate is legally registered in the UK, they are eligible as principal UK applicants, but would also need to involve additional expertise in the country where they operate.

Institutions cannot apply with their own affiliate, whatever the relationship.

Q: Can two universities apply as joint principal applicants?

A: There can only be one principal applicant from each of the two partner countries, for the purposes of contracting, payments and reporting. However, if for scientific reasons two equal partners are leading the project in one of the countries, there is scope on the application form to make this clear to assessors.

Q: Are international research institutes eligible as principal applicants?

A: Research organisations funded by multi-lateral government agencies may be eligible to apply, provided that their headquarters are legally registered in an eligible partner country, that links would be established which could not otherwise happen through existing networks; and provided that there is potential for impact in Newton Fund countries. This might include the involvement of researchers from the Newton Fund country.

Q: Can a private enterprise be a principal applicant?

A: For-profit enterprises can be associate partners but not principle applicants. We recognise that involving businesses can lead to more sustainable programmes, less dependent on public sector funding and offering the prospect of employment for the local population. However, the proposal must make it clear that businesses are not making a profit from exploiting poor people, and that any profits made through the activity are reinvested in the programme.

Q: Can commercial enterprises undertake market research funded by the Newton Fund grant?

A: Yes. However, the funded bodies will need to use their own resources. The focus must be identified priorities for the partner countries, rather than products or services that UK

business want to promote. This can include an opportunity to test the viability of addressing a challenge in the partner country, through research to test if a product/technology/service can be adapted, to lead to an accessible and affordable solution leading to real benefit for the partner country.

Q: Can a social enterprise or other not for profit organisation be a principal applicant?

A: Generally, a social enterprise or other not for profit organisation can only be an associated partner. However, there are exceptions – please contact us if in doubt.

Q: Can organisations from countries outside the Newton Fund be included as associated partners?

A: Countries outside the 15 Newton Fund countries cannot be associated partners or receive funding. They could be included in the project if they were funded from other sources.

Q: Can one principal applicant submit more than one application?

A: One individual cannot submit more than one application. However, different departments or research groups of the same university can submit more than one application.

Q: Can the same UK institution submit more than one application for a Link with the same partner country?

A: Different departments of the same institution can submit more than one application to the same partner country.

Q: Would a newly-appointed lecturer or other junior permanent member of staff be eligible as principal applicant?

A: This would depend on their research experience. The researcher would have to demonstrate independence through their CV (especially any research they have led, grant funding and publications). The Review Panel would take this into account when assessing the application and would also consider the standing of the research group.

Q: Do the funding rules only apply to the UK?

A: The funding rules will be strictly applied to all Newton Fund grant funding, subject to country-specific guidance. However, in countries where partner institutions provide the match funding, costs for items not eligible under the Newton Fund, such as equipment, infrastructure etc. may be included in the calculation of the match. All such items must be proportionate to the size of the Newton Fund contribution and the proposal must clearly demonstrate that these costs are essential for delivery of the project and that the funding institution could not be expected to provide them from existing resources.

Q: Do funds have to be shared equally among the partners?

A: This depends partly on the country but unless the country-specific guidance specifies otherwise, the funds do not have to be shared equally. The principal applicant is responsible for managing and reporting on the grant, but the partners may divide the funds in whatever way they agree, according to the needs of the project.

Q: What about “other staff-related costs (i.e. statutory contributions analogous to UK superannuation or National Insurance)”?

A: these costs can be covered, for project staff but not for existing employees.

Q: Costs in partner countries may be much lower than in the UK. Do costs covered by the Newton Fund grant have to be matched pound for pound?

A: No. Where partner institutions are required to provide match funding, this can be in the form of “equality of effort”. For example, if the Newton Fund grant is covering travel from the UK to the partner country, the match funding could cover an equal number of journeys from the partner country to the UK; or if costs of a part time research assistant are being met from the grant, match funding could cover the costs of a similar part time post even if actual costs were lower in the partner country.

Q: Can the British Council help us find a partner?

A: The organisations involved in the Newton Fund, including the British Council in partner countries, may be able to help with finding partners. In the first instance, however, we would recommend you get in touch with the UK HE International Unit if you are looking for a partner in the UK, or look at this website: <http://www.newtonfund.ac.uk/funding/application-support/>

Please note however that the British Council cannot normally be involved in further developing links.

Q: Can foreign nationals apply as principal applicant?

A: Yes, as long as they are full time employees of the applicant institution and fulfil all other eligibility criteria.

Q: Can I include an associated partner in my application?

A: Yes but the inclusion of an associated partner must add to the overall impact of the project. You must clearly outline the benefit that including an associated partner brings to the project and explain why the lead organisations aren't able to fulfil the role of the associated partner.

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.

Q: How is the budget distributed to the listed associated partners in the project?

A: The budget is distributed to the associated partner by the lead organisation

Q: Can principal applicants apply for multiple Newton Fund strands (IL, RL etc..) under the same call?

A: Within a grant call applicants cannot apply for Institutional Links & Researcher Links Travel Grant at the same time, but can apply for Institutional Links and Researcher Links Workshops. PIs cannot apply for more than one Newton Fund Institutional Links grant within a grant call but are permitted to submit one application for Newton and non-Newton (e.g Gulf, Russia) grant under the same call for applications.



INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

www.britishcouncil.org

