BRITISH COUNCIL

SOUTH ASIA SCIENCE PROGRAMME

SMALL-SCALE RESEARCH

PROJECT SCHEME

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

2019

GUIDANCE NOTES

About the Small-Scale Research Project Scheme

The British Council Small-Scale Research Project Scheme provides funding (up to £5,000) for early career researchers in the UK and countries in South Asia to work collaboratively on a joint research project. The duration of the research project should be between 6 and 12 months.

The scheme aims to provide early career researchers with the opportunity to gain skills and experience in conducting research internationally. It also aims to prepare researchers to form consortiums and apply for grants provided by funding agencies and international institutions.

The theme of the collaborative research project should be related to one of the South Asia science priority areas:

- **Water**
    - For example, water resource management, water health and sanitation, water cooperation and diplomacy in South Asia.

- **Mental health**
    - For example, child developmental disabilities, mental health and resilience.

- **Global health**
    - For example, South Asia global health, migration and health, refugees.

We are unable to accept proposals which are not related to one of the three priority areas. These priority areas are related to the British Council South Asia science initiatives. Information about the initiatives can be found here: www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/south-asia-programmes

The context of the research should be in the South Asia region i.e. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

Eligibility

A partnership must be formed between a UK university/research institute and a university/research institute in one of the following South Asian countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka. The UK university/research institute, also known as the Lead Institution, will receive and manage the funding for the research project.

An early career researcher from each university/research institute must be appointed to carry out the research project. The early career researchers should be at the beginning of their research careers and to have been awarded their PhD not more than 10 years prior to applying for the grant. Allowances can be made for career breaks or other extenuating circumstances. Final year PhD students are also eligible to apply.

A senior researcher from each university/research institute must be appointed to be responsible for the oversight and progress of the research project.

The British Council Child Protection Policy applies for research projects involving children. www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/how-we-work/policies/child-protection

Submission process

The deadline for submission of a completed application is 23:59 UK time on 31 July 2019. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered for funding. The application form can be submitted by any of the researchers involved in the project.

Applications are submitted through the online application form:
https://britishcouncil2.formstack.com/forms/grants_for_small_scale_research_projects

The online form allows applicants to enter information and save it for a later date (up to 30 days). Applicants will receive a unique link to reopen the application form.

Applications must be in English. There are strict character limits for certain sections which cannot be exceeded.

A PDF version of the online form is available at the end of this document. This is solely to allow applicants to develop responses with partners in a convenient format. The final version of the application must be submitted using the online form.

If applicants experience problems with the online submission system, please contact **science.southasia@britishcouncil.org** before the submission deadline.

Selection process

Shortlisted candidates will be notified 10 working days after the submission deadline. The shortlisted candidates will be invited for a Skype interview where they will be given the opportunity to present their research project. Additional information about the research project may be requested.

We are unable to provide feedback regarding unsuccessful applications.

Documents required for submission

- Recent CV of the senior researcher based at a UK university/research institute.

- Recent CV of the early career researcher based at a UK university/research institute.

- Recent CV of the senior researcher based at a university/research institute in one of the following South Asian countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

- Recent CV of the early career researcher based at a university/research institute in one of the following South Asian countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

- A detailed project budget. The budget template is available here:
www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/south-asia-programmes/small-scale-research-project-scheme

- Letters of support from a UK university/research institute and South Asian university/research institute in English, on headed paper, signed by the Head of Department or other person with appropriate delegated authority, expressing specific commitment to the proposed project. The form should include any financial or in-kind contribution from the university.

Budget form

The Budget template should be completed electronically and attached to the online application form.

The budget template is available here: www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/south-asia-programmes/small-scale-research-project-scheme

The maximum grant value available from the British Council is £5,000. We encourage researchers to secure additional funding from other sources for the research project. Any additional funding should be included on the budget form.

All costs should be stated in GBP. There are three types of costs on the budget form- research related costs, travel costs and communication costs.

Researchers who receive the British Council grant will have to provide evidence on how the grant has been spent.

Equipment costs- The ownership of any equipment purchased for the project should be agreed between the research partners.

Visa fees- The British Council is not responsible for obtaining visas for researchers.

Flight costs- All flights are required to be economy class.

Application- PDF version

The PDF version of the online form is available to assist you in developing your application and sharing content with your partners. The final version of your application must be submitted using the online form.

1. Proposal Summary

Title of research project*

Duration of research project (in months) *

Proposed start date(dd/mm/yyyy) *

Total value of grant requested * (In GBP)

Please give a short summary in plain English of the research collaboration. This should be a statement for a non-specialist audience, giving the rationale of the collaboration and the main planned activities. Please state if any additional researchers are involved in the collaboration other than those from the selected UK university/research institute and South Asian university/research institute. **(5000 character limit, including spaces) ***

Objectives of the project (up to 5; specific and achievable) Objectives should cover what you hope the collaboration will achieve. Please ensure the objectives are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time bound).* **(900 character limit, including spaces)**

2. Lead Institution- UK university/research institute

Institution name*

Address* (Street, City, State/Province, ZIP/Postal code, Country)

Department*

3. UK university/research institute - Senior researcher responsible

Title*

Name*

Email*

Telephone number *

Position*

Please upload CV outlining education, employment and academic track record. *

4. UK university/research institute - Early career researcher

Title*

Name*

Email*

Telephone number *

Position*

Please upload CV outlining education, employment and academic track record. *

5. Partner institution- University/research institute in South Asia

Institution name*

Address* (Street, City, State/Province, ZIP/Postal code, Country)

Department*

6. University/research institute in South Asia - Senior researcher responsible

Title*

Name*

Email*

Telephone number *

Position*

Please upload CV outlining education, employment and academic track record. *

7. University/research institute in South Asia - Early career researcher

Title*

Name*

Email*

Telephone number *

Position*

Please upload CV outlining education, employment and academic track record. *

Supporting Documents

7. Please complete and upload the budget form for the research project. The form can been found on the British Council Small- Scale Research Project Scheme web page.

9. Upload a formal letter from the UK university/research institute stating their approval for the research project.

10. Upload a formal letter from the South Asian university/research institute stating their approval for the research project.

Corresponding email * Please insert the email address to which future correspondence regarding your application should be sent. An email will be sent confirming receipt of application.

END OF APPLICATION