

## **Brazil – Newton Fund Professional Development and Engagement Programme**

Diversity and Inclusion in Science - Master's Scholarships for Brazilian Students

Call for expressions of interest from UK universities to host Brazilian Master's  
Scholars

### **1. Background**

In Brazil, decision-making spaces in the political and private spheres have traditionally been governed by segments of society that do not necessarily represent the diversity of its population. Diversity and equal opportunities in the various aspects of society become evident through the representation and participation of the different identities that make up the population.

The disparity between sections of the Brazilian population has multiple causes and symptoms, one of which are the opportunities afforded students in higher education, and in particular the opportunities provided for international postgraduate research. Statistics provided by the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), for the year 2014, show that Black, Indigenous and Pardos<sup>1</sup> groups are severely underrepresented as a proportion of the national population in scholarship cohorts (Tavares et al, 2015)<sup>2</sup>. These three groups are economically less affluent compared to other groups in Brazil, and these statistics are synonymous with further data from higher education and measures that confirm the marginalisation of these groups in other areas of business and society.

Through this project, the Diversity and Inclusion in Science - Master Scholarships for Brazilian students, we seek to indirectly increase the participation of under-represented groups in science, and promote a more egalitarian and prosperous science and innovation environment in Brazil. Scholars, who may or may not be from underrepresented ethnic groups, will need to demonstrate academic excellence and a desire and strategy to inspire other young people, secondary beneficiaries, to pursue a career in science. After their Masters scholarship, and using some of the skills and experience from their UK studies, the participants will help to address historical marginalization through their work in the community and with young people.

### **2. Call Objective**

Access to education is one contributing factor leading to the underrepresentation of certain groups in senior positions in the Brazilian private and public sectors. The objective of this call and project is to help address this situation by providing opportunities for Brazilian students who are committed to a representative science and innovation sector to complete a Master's degree in the United Kingdom. In particular this project will:

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<sup>1</sup> ethnic category particular to Brazil, also termed mixed ethnic ancestries

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.cnpq.br/documents/10157/1f95db49-f382-4e22-9df7-933608de9e8d>

- Provide the selected candidates with a foundation to launch their careers in higher education and research in Brazil
- Enable individuals who will be able to promote and enhance science and innovation in Brazil through their exposure to the expertise in the UK's renowned in science and technology research sector
- Empower Scholars who will, after their degree, promote science and higher education careers to young people in Brazil, helping to encourage young people from marginalised communities to pursue professions in the knowledge economy. Candidate selection will be based on an individual's academic potential and their desire and strategies aimed at encouraging others, secondary beneficiaries, to pursue education and research opportunities.
- Provide a platform for Brazil and the UK to work together to address this significant challenge to Brazilian society and to enhance opportunities for young people in Brazil

### 3. Opportunity for UK Universities

This call seeks expressions of interest from internationally focused UK institutions, with a commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) values and who wish to host Brazilian Masters Scholars. Institutions are asked to provide details of a +/- 15month programme, consisting of a +/- 3month English language summer course and a +/- 12month Master's degree. Times within the 15 month timeframe may vary. The participation of the institutions is also expected to raise the interest of UK scholars in the promotion of EDI values within the international science and innovation sector.

This call is part of the Newton Fund Professional Development and Engagement (PDE) programme, provided by the UK Government's Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and managed by the British Council. This project is running in partnership with Brazilian Research Funding Agencies namely FAPEG, FAPESB and FAPESQ-PB.

To submit an expression of interest please complete the overview and budget forms and send these to [UK-PDE@britishcouncil.org](mailto:UK-PDE@britishcouncil.org) by 17.00 on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017. If your institution intends to submit an expression of interest please email [UK-PDE@britishcouncil.org](mailto:UK-PDE@britishcouncil.org) to confirm your wish to host students by 17.00 on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

Please send any questions to Camila Almeida [Camila.Almeida@britishcouncil.org.br](mailto:Camila.Almeida@britishcouncil.org.br) and Diana Daste [Diana.Daste@britishcouncil.org.br](mailto:Diana.Daste@britishcouncil.org.br).

### 4. Budget available from the Newton Fund

Up to £ 35,000 per student for a period of +/-15 months

UK universities who would like to host students under this scheme would be expected to co-fund the scholarships by way of making up any shortfall in funding for the 15-month period that the £35,000 grant does not cover.

## 5. Expected Deliverables

The grant to the university should be used towards covering the following items:

- Tuition Fees
- Pre-sessional English language summer course
- Stipend/living allowance; including accommodation (+/-15-month period)

For living costs including accommodation, UK institutions may select a figure within the bands provided below based on the local cost of living and accommodation rates – details will be asked for in the scholarship budget.

London	Elsewhere
Minimum <b>£1,279</b>	Minimum <b>£1,043</b>
Maximum <b>£1,654</b>	Maximum <b>£1,343</b>

Host universities, through their international student support structures, would be expected to provide support throughout the 15-month term. This should include:

- a. Communications prior to arrival – especially regarding travel advice to the university campus
- b. Support for the international student experience / student life mentoring
- c. Arranging accommodation or housing for the scholar
- d. General information about adapting to living in the UK
- e. Opportunities for skills development
- f. A nominated point of contact for any issues or concerns

## 5. How does the Scholarships' programme work?

A call was launched in Brazil on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016, in order to select candidates interested in pursuing a Master's degree programme in the UK. Successful candidates shall take an English language and IELTS preparation course in Brazil prior to applying for UK university places at those institutions that send an expression of interest.

The master's courses shall cover a wide range of disciplines from Science Technology and Innovation (ST&I) and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) areas.

### ***Selection of Scholars***

A Steering Committee, composed by Brazilian academic reviewers will select the candidates through a points based system encompassing the programme's criteria. Candidates may be from any ethnic background, and must demonstrate a desire and strategy to act as a mentor to young people from marginalized communities when they have completed their degrees.

Selected candidates will also undergo the application processes carried by the respective UK universities in order to enrol in the master's course of their choice.

## **6. Implementation of the grants**

The UK institutions receiving scholars shall sign a Grant Agreement with the British Council. This Grant Agreement will detail all items to be funded, payment methods monitoring and evaluation, and reporting requirements.

The UK institutions will also be responsible for reporting proof of enrolment in the Summer Course (when applicable) as well as from the Master's programme by the end of September 2017.

## **7. Proposed calendar for the Scholarship programme:**

### ***Scholars Timeline***

<b>NEWTON FUND SCHOLARSHIPS' CALL PHASES</b>	
<b>Call Launch</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> December 2016
<b>Call Closure</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
<b>Applications Assessment</b>	Between 21 <sup>st</sup> February and 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2017
<b>Interviews</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> and 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2017
<b>Results Announcement</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2017
<b>English preparation courses and support in</b>	Between 15 <sup>th</sup> April and 1 <sup>st</sup> August

<b>application process – Brazil</b>	
<b>UK UNIVERSITIES APPLICATION PHASES</b>	
<b>Application period</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> April – 15 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>Announcement of results and conditions on offer</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> July – 30 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>Local processes for travel and Visa issuing</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> July – 1 <sup>st</sup> August
<b>Summer course in the UK</b>	Between 3 <sup>rd</sup> July and 29 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
<b>Master's programme</b>	Between October and October 2018
<b>POST – UK ACTIONS</b>	
Between April and June 2018	

#### ***TIMELINE FOR UK UNIVERSITIES' CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST***

<b>Call launch (British Council)</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>Call closure (British Council)</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2017
<b>Communication and applications from Brazilian Scholars</b>	On-going from 1 <sup>st</sup> week of April
<b>Applications from candidates</b>	On-going from 1 <sup>st</sup> week of April
<b>Grant Agreement signature period (British Council – Awarded Universities)</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> April 2017