PARTNERS FOR CHANGE

The British Council works with governments, education and training institutions, industries, academics and international donors to provide international education opportunities and improve the quality of higher education across Sub-Saharan Africa. By sharing international best practice and creating opportunities for dialogue, collaboration, research, exchange and mobility, we help to improve learning and employability outcomes for students, scholars, researchers and academics.

OUR WORK

INTERNATIONAL STUDY OPPORTUNITIES
We promote and support exchanges and international study opportunities for students, scholars and academics to support access to an internationalised higher education.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AND POLICY DIALOGUE
Through debate, discussion and research in the UK and globally we help to shape and enhance the quality of internationalised higher education. We bring together policy makers and professionals from different countries to learn from leading global practice and to shape future reforms for Sub-Saharan Africa.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION
We promote and support collaboration and partnerships between universities, industry and governments to maximise success through the internationalisation of higher education.

KEY FACTS
More than 430,000 international students choose the UK as a study destination each year, including many from Africa (Higher Education Statistics Agency).

500,000 overseas students study for a UK qualification overseas through transnational education partnerships.

200 institutional partnerships have been established under the Development Partnerships in Higher Education programme since 2006.

‘Globalisation gives an international dimension to all aspects of our lives... In higher education, it has led to intensified mobility of ideas, students and academic staff and to expanded possibilities for collaboration and global dissemination of knowledge.’

International Association of Universities
OUR TRACK RECORD

INTERNATIONAL STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Supporting exchanges and international study opportunities for students, scholars and academics

Scholarships
In partnership with leading oil and gas companies, we work to address skills gaps in Sub-Saharan Africa by providing scholarships for vocational studies, technical training and postgraduate degrees in the UK.

With Tullow Oil we offer scholarships to individuals in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Ivory Coast and Uganda. Since the partnership began in 2011, the scheme has grown from supporting 24 students in Ghana, to supporting 110 students from 11 countries worldwide. Phase 2 of the partnership was launched in 2014. (Phase 1: 2011–13; Phase 2: 2014–16)

In Nigeria, we partner with Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas Ltd to offer a postgraduate scholarship scheme for students to study at universities in the UK. The scheme supported ten students in 2013. (£775,000, 2012–15)

In Tanzania, we work with British Gas to support 34 scholars to study in UK universities. (£1.5 million, 2013–17)

New projects
In 2015, we plan to commence the implementation of the following projects:

In Nigeria, the Elano Scholarship Programme will support scholars to study at UK universities.

In Botswana, the Debswana Scholarship Programme will provide scholarships for postgraduate students to study abroad, including in the UK.

The East African Development Bank Scholarships programme will offer scholarships to study at universities in the UK.

The British Council will manage over 200 scholarships from countries in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2015–16.
OUR TRACK RECORD

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AND POLICY DIALOGUE

Shaping and driving international higher education through debate, discussion and research

Going Global
Our annual Going Global conference offers an open forum for global leaders of international education to discuss issues facing the international education community. The event is the largest of its kind and attracts over 1,000 delegates from more than 80 countries, including many from Sub-Saharan Africa.

Education World Forum
The Education World Forum is a ministerial education seminar held annually in the UK, where ministers from Sub-Saharan Africa and around the world gather to debate future practice in education. The event attracts more than 300 participants from over 70 countries.

Global Education Dialogues
Our Global Education Dialogues bring together governments, universities and industry leaders to reflect on and debate the challenges and opportunities facing international higher education.

Fresh contributions are put forward from our network of leading thinkers, and the debates are disseminated through digital platforms to a global audience.

Education Intelligence
Our Education Intelligence service provides UK clients with cutting-edge data, analysis and knowledge about international higher education, specialising in student insights, student mobility trends and partnership development. This enables clients to optimise their marketing and recruitment strategies to attract students, including those from Sub-Saharan Africa.

Universities, Employability and Inclusive Development Research and Advocacy Project
We are working with the Institute of Education at the University of London on research that will provide policy makers with compelling evidence on how they can build stronger links between the higher education sector and the labour market. These links will be imperative to ensure young graduates have the skills to generate the growth Africa needs to release its potential. (£750,000, 2012–15)

Skills for employability
We work to develop high-quality vocational and higher technical education and training, professional education and enterprise skills training to better meet the needs of industry and help young people to prosper.

Working with the Department of Higher Education and Training in South Africa we have helped to establish an Association of Colleges for South Africa and are facilitating direct partnerships between South African colleges and colleges in the UK to strengthen curriculum design, lecturer professional development and employer engagement. A partnership agreement has been signed with the National Business Initiative, an organisation supported by over 100 businesses operating in South Africa, to establish a network of like-minded and mutually supportive organisations. (£209,000, 2009–15)
OUR TRACK RECORD

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

Shaping and driving international higher education through debate, discussion and research

Partnership for African Social and Governance Research
This independent organisation, which we established through a DFID-funded programme, now works to increase the capacity of African universities and researchers and supports the wider African social and political science research community. The innovative Master of Research and Public Policy programme, a collaboration of 12 universities across seven African countries, is Africa’s first graduate programme focused on public policy. Each university offers the two-year degree based on a common curriculum and course content. (DFID, £8.5 million, 2009–14)

Services for International Education Marketing
Our global Services for International Education Marketing programme supports UK education institutions to attract international students. Operating in 65 countries, the programme provides services for international student recruitment, and market intelligence, and enables the development of working relationships between institutions in the UK and other countries. In Sub-Saharan Africa, we work with UK education providers in Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Mauritius.

International Higher Education Partnership Programme
Building on the Government of Ethiopia’s progress in improving access to higher education and its ambition to have an industry-led economy, we work in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Education in Ethiopia to improve the quality of postgraduate education in the areas of engineering and technology. New postgraduate programmes at master’s and PhD levels are now offered at selected Ethiopian universities in partnership with 16 international universities from four different continents. We also work to improve the quality and relevance of teaching in engineering and technology, working closely with academic staff at universities. (£2.6 million, 2015–17)

The Newton Fund
Through the Newton Fund we are supporting professional development and technical training in the science and innovation sector. By facilitating partnerships with the UK, the fund seeks to stimulate the economic development and welfare of developing countries. The fund supports the professional development of researchers to build their skills in areas such as communication and research management, as well as supporting good research governance and community and policy maker engagement. It also supports employability through workforce planning and the development of technical and vocational training in the research and innovation sector. (£16 million, 2014–19)

Researcher Links
Through Researcher Links, run as part of the Newton Fund, we help to build the capacity of early-career researchers from the UK and countries in Sub-Saharan Africa through fully funded workshops and travel grants. International research collaboration is essential for the global knowledge economy, and it has been shown that internationally mobile researchers tend to be more productive. (2013–17)

A shared research interest can help to build trust and relationships between people from very different backgrounds and cultures.
The British Council creates opportunities for people worldwide by helping societies achieve change in education, skills, enterprise, civil society and justice. Working closely with governments, donors and businesses, we deliver value-for-money international development solutions that are both effective and sustainable.

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