

Going Global Partnership

**Innovation for African
Universities**

**Grant Call
Guidance Notes**
for UK and SSA (Ghana,
Kenya, Nigeria or South
Africa) Entrepreneurship Support
Organisations (2026-2027)

28 September 2026

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Grant Call to deliver and manage the IAU Enterprise and Innovation Challenge: Sustainability phase

1. About Going Global Partnerships

[Going Global Partnerships](#) supports universities, colleges and wider education stakeholders around the world to work together towards stronger, equitable, more inclusive and internationally connected higher education, science and TVET.

Through international partnerships, system collaborations and opportunities to connect and share, we enable stronger transnational education, more collaborative research, higher quality delivery, enhanced learner outcomes and stronger, internationalised, equitable and inclusive systems and institutions.

Higher education and TVET providers and research organisations can access funding to develop collaborative partnerships with institutions in other countries, focusing on key areas such as capacity strengthening, collaborative research projects, developing joint teaching programmes and establishing new transnational education links. These mutually beneficial partnerships help universities and colleges develop and sustain stronger international connections.

We help to strengthen higher education and TVET in five core areas:

- **Enabling research:** supporting research, knowledge and innovation collaborations to address local and global challenges and promote inclusive growth.
- **Internationalising higher education and TVET:** supporting systems, institutions and individuals to benefit from internationalisation, including enabling transnational education and system alignment.
- **Strengthening systems and institutions:** improving the quality and efficiency of higher education and TVET institutions and systems.
- **Enhancing learner outcomes:** addressing the qualities of the global graduate, including soft skills, employability and community outcomes.
- **Increasing equality, diversity and inclusion:** making higher education and TVET more accessible, equitable and accountable.

If you are interested in our work in this area and want to get involved, please regularly visit our [Opportunities and insights webpage](#), where we open all our funding calls and other opportunities.

2. Key Information about this Grant Call

IAU Enterprise and Innovation Challenge: Sustainability phase

Maximum value of grant in GBP	£ 220 000
Minimum number of grants expected to be funded in this call	1

Deadline for applications	28 October 2026 Time: 11 am (GMT+1)
Contact for further information	Meekness.lunga@britishcouncil.org

3. About the Grant call

Africa continues to face significant challenges relating to youth unemployment and the transition of young people from post-school education into sustainable economic participation. Higher education institutions have an increasingly important role to play, not only as producers of graduates and knowledge, but as contributors to entrepreneurship, innovation, employment and wider economic and social development.

The Innovation for African Universities (IAU) programme was established as a targeted response to this challenge. Since 2021, IAU has worked across Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and the UK to strengthen the role of higher education institutions within entrepreneurship ecosystems. Earlier phases of the programme focussed on expanding UK and SSA collaboration in this area, strengthening capacities and capabilities for innovation and entrepreneurship, curricular development, university-industry engagement and establishment of platforms supporting student entrepreneurship and innovation.

The programme launched an Enterprise and Innovation Challenge in 2025, which places greater emphasis on directly supporting student and graduate-led innovations and enterprises through SSA:UK partnerships. The challenge aims to support student-led projects to progress towards commercialisation, while strengthening university entrepreneurship ecosystems and fostering long-term SSA:UK partnerships to enhance graduate outcomes. The longer-term ambition is for students to leave higher education better equipped for economic participation, for participating universities to strengthen entrepreneurship and innovation capabilities, and for partnerships and programme practices to be sustained beyond the funding period.

The Challenge awarded grants to support 36 student-led innovations and enterprises from participating universities across Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. The portfolio covers a wide range of sectors and includes digital, green and socially focused innovations addressing areas such as agriculture, health, education, energy, financial inclusion and environmental sustainability.

The current phase is being delivered through two partnerships:

- African Student Commercialisation and Enterprise Network Development (ASCEND), supporting projects in Ghana and Nigeria; and

- Accelerating Student-Led Innovation in Africa (ASLIA), supporting projects in Kenya and South Africa.

Both partnerships provide structured support to participating projects. Their activities have included baseline and commercialisation assessments, customer and market discovery, business-model development, prototyping and testing, commercialisation support, mentoring, coaching, pitch development, and engagement with investors, industry and innovation ecosystems.

The IAU Enterprise and Innovation Challenge: Sustainability phase is proposed as the final stage of the current Challenge, focused on supporting the most advanced projects to convert progress made thus far into more sustainable commercial, market, international and funding opportunities. The rationale for the sustainability phase is grounded in three complementary sources of evidence:

- The IAU Theory of Change identifies three stages of change: learning, action and lasting outcomes. The current ASCEND and ASLIA interventions are intended to measure change across the learning and action levels, however the Theory of Change also identifies follow-on finance, market access and continued institutional and ecosystem support as important conditions for lasting change. It recognises that ventures may face barriers relating to regulatory requirements, intellectual property, registration, procurement, commercialisation and access to follow-on funding. The sustainability phase is intended to address this final transition.
- A baseline assessment was completed by 28 project teams participating in the current Enterprise and Innovation Challenge. While this does not represent the full portfolio of 36 projects, it provides a useful indication of current needs across the portfolio. The baseline found substantial variation in project maturity. Of the 28 responding teams, 54% were classified as being at an early stage of progress, 32% as having made good progress, one project as well advanced and three as very early stage. Commercialisation emerged as a significant priority. Nineteen of the 28 responding teams, or 68%, identified having a clearer pathway for commercialising their idea as a key programme goal. Teams also identified marketing and customer acquisition, access to funding, product development, technology and equipment as major challenges. These differences support a more tailored final-stage intervention rather than a uniform package of support.

- A recent British Council tracer study in Ghana examined 47 youth-led enterprises associated with the broader IAU ecosystem and previous enterprise-support interventions. The study found that incubation and capacity-building support had made a positive contribution to entrepreneurial capability and early enterprise survival, particularly through training and mentoring. However, the study also identified a significant post-incubation continuity gap. Enterprises frequently faced barriers relating to follow-on finance, market access, value-chain integration, production infrastructure, technical support and sustained advisory engagement. It concluded that the ecosystem was relatively effective at enterprise activation but weaker in supporting enterprise acceleration and growth beyond incubation. Internationalisation was also identified as a major gap. More than 90% of surveyed enterprises reported no structured collaboration with UK or other international partners, mainly because of limited access to relevant opportunities. The study recommended stronger approaches to market linkage, international collaboration, technical assistance and financing mechanisms suited to enterprises transitioning beyond incubation. While these findings do not describe the current cohort, they provide relevant programme-level learning about the types of challenges that may arise once structured incubation, acceleration and capacity-strengthening support concludes.

Call objectives and intended outcomes

We are inviting eligible organisations to partner with us in delivering and managing the sustainability phase. Successful partnerships will receive a grant to design and deliver this phase, supporting a portfolio of student-led enterprises and/or innovations.

The aim of the sustainability phase is to provide a final, targeted package of support to a competitively selected group of student-led innovations and enterprises from the 36 currently participating in the IAU Enterprise and Innovation Challenge. This final phase will build directly on progress achieved through ASCEND and ASLIA and will focus on helping selected projects to strengthen commercialisation, market engagement, access and exposure to UK and international opportunities, access to follow-on funding and longer-term sustainability beyond IAU support. The sustainability phase will therefore not recruit any new projects.

The objectives of the sustainability phase are to:

1. **Advance commercialisation and sustainability** by enabling selected innovations and enterprises to take practical and measurable steps towards market adoption and continued operation.

2. **Strengthen market access and engagement** by connecting selected projects with customers, users, industry, commercial partners and relevant market actors.
3. **Facilitate international exposure and connections** by creating purposeful opportunities for selected projects to engage with UK, African and wider international entrepreneurship, innovation, industry and market ecosystems.
4. **Improve access to follow-on funding and investment opportunities** appropriate to the stage, model and ambitions of participating projects.
5. **Address specific barriers to progression** through targeted specialist technical and business support and progression funding.

The sustainability phase will complement and extend the work of the current projects (ASCEND and ASLIA) rather than duplicate it. Each selected enterprise will require an Individual Innovation and Enterprise Progression Pathway to ensure that this support is tailored to the projects' stage of development and needs. Not every enterprise will be expected to access every support strand unless if there is evidence of need. The support strands will be as follows (this can be refined or further developed by the successful partners):

1. Commercialisation and Market Development: this strand should enable selected projects to make practical progress towards market access/adoption and commercialisation
2. International Exposure, Partnerships and Market Access: this strand should provide selected projects with purposeful UK and/or international opportunities, with particular emphasis on UK entrepreneurship ecosystems, partnerships and potential markets
3. Funding and Investment Opportunities: this strand should support selected projects to identify and pursue appropriate sources of follow-on funding
4. Specialist Technical and Business Support: selected projects should have access to specialist expertise required to overcome specific barriers
5. Grant Funding: this strand will offer a mechanism through which the most successful projects will be awarded some progression funding linked directly to milestones achieved during the project.

The sustainability phase will be delivered through one grant awarded competitively to an SSA:UK partnership of entrepreneurship support organisations. The sustainability phase will support a competitively selected group of the existing 36 projects (min 16 projects). Participation will be determined using two complementary components:

- 1) Endline assessment: The endline assessment from the current Enterprise and Innovation Challenge will provide insights on progress achieved through the programme, current stage of development, application of programme support, remaining barriers and readiness to benefit from a final, more advanced phase.
- 2) Motivation to participate: The 36 eligible projects will be invited to submit a short motivation demonstrating, progress achieved during the current phase; commitment and motivation to continue developing the innovation or enterprise; the next significant outcome they seek to achieve; the barriers preventing further progress; how participation in the sustainability phase could help address these barriers; and their capacity to engage fully in the programme.

Selection will therefore consider both evidence of progress and the likelihood that the sustainability phase can enable meaningful further development. The final number of projects selected will be determined during the final programme design and inception phase. We aim to support not less than 16 projects from the current portfolio.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

Appendix 2 shows the theory of change for the IAU Enterprise and Innovation Challenge phase, mapping inputs and activities through three tiers of outcomes (Learning, Action and Lasting Outcomes) to the intended impact. Key assumptions and risks are also made explicit. The key intended outcomes for the sustainability phase will be as follows:

- Learning Outcome: Strengthened entrepreneurial capabilities and mindsets
- Learning Outcome: Strengthened network knowledge and collaboration
- Action Outcome: Student ventured advanced
- Action Outcome: Partnership and ecosystem collaborations strengthened
- Lasting outcome: Students and graduates are better placed to participate economically
- Lasting outcome: Partnerships and provision are sustained beyond the funding period

The sustainability phase will align with the existing IAU Theory of Change and MEL Framework. Monitoring will operate at both project and programme levels. During the inception phase, the

successful partners will be required to develop and finalise a proportionate MEL system as part of their deliverables. This component can be outsourced to an independent consultant.

Marketing, Communications and Visibility

The successful partnership will be expected to work with the British Council to develop and deliver communications and visibility activities (these can be outsourced to an independent consultant/agency) to:

- Profile all innovations and enterprises and their progression through the sustainability phase;
- Capture credible stories and evidence of commercialisation, market engagement, international connections, partnerships and access to funding;
- Provide visibility for the contribution of SSA:UK collaboration to supporting student and graduate innovation;
- Identify and create opportunities to showcase the IAU programme and selected projects through relevant higher education, industry and entrepreneurship platforms;
- Produce appropriate digital content, case studies and other communications assets that can be used beyond the lifetime of the programme;
- Ensure appropriate British Council and IAU visibility across programme activities; and
- Ensure that communications are inclusive, consent-based and compliant with relevant British Council brand, safeguarding and data-protection requirements.

4. Key Milestones

Milestone	Timelines
Deadline for applications	28 October 2026
Results announcement	Thursday 5 November
Contracts signed	Thursday 12 November 2026
Period of grant payments	End November/December 2026 February 2027 June 2027

Note that all dates may be subject to change if the call received significantly more applications than expected.

5. Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility checks will be applied to all applications after the grant call closes. Those applications which are not eligible, will be rejected during these checks.

Each proposal must have:

- One Lead Entrepreneurship Support Organisation from one of the overseas countries [Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria or South Africa]; and
- One Lead Entrepreneurship Support Organisation from the UK

Each Lead Institutions must have the capacity to administer a grant.

The proposal must be prepared jointly by leaders from all organisations involved in the project but must be submitted by the UK Lead organisation on behalf of the partnership.

The Contracting entity is the Lead Organisation that has submitted the application, and if the application is successful, will sign the Grant Agreement with the British Council. A grant can only be awarded if the Contracting Organisation is in good standing with the Going Global Partnerships programme, with no outstanding funds to be recovered from a previous grant or activity.

The UK and SSA Lead institutions must be one of the following:

- Entrepreneurship support organisations;
- University affiliated innovation hubs, accelerators;
- Other incubators and accelerators;
- Innovation and commercialisation support organisations; and
- Comparable organisations with suitable expertise

The partnership should collectively demonstrate:

- experience supporting youth-led innovations and enterprises;
- university entrepreneurship ecosystem affiliations, links or connections;
- tangible experience beyond training and incubation;
- commercialisation and market-development expertise;
- relevant UK and SSA industry and business networks;
- funding and investment networks;
- ability to mobilise specialist technical expertise;
- multi-country delivery capacity;
- appropriate financial-management capability; and
- monitoring, safeguarding, inclusion and risk-management systems.

The call will not be open to **universities or individual academic staff** as lead applicants. The intention is to engage specialist entrepreneurship and innovation support organisations with demonstrated experience of supporting youth-led innovations and enterprises and meaningful links and/or affiliations to university entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystems. Please send an enquiry to [Meekness Lunga](#) if you are in doubt about the eligibility of your organisation.

Eligibility Criteria for Partnerships

This grant call is open to partnerships between the UK and Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria or South Africa. The monies granted to these countries is therefore considered as Official Development Assistance (ODA).

The Grants made to partnerships with ODA-eligible countries must be ODA compliant. To be counted as ODA, all activities (research or otherwise) must qualify under rules set down by the OECD, which states that research projects should be ***directly and primarily related to the problems of developing countries***. Please outline the economic development and social welfare impact of your work, including how it is conducted as well as the outputs and potential outcomes. The work should be relevant to at least one of the Sustainable Development Goals. The applications must have an adequate Gender Equality Statement.

The British Council supports peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide. To align our granting to this mission, we are unable to support projects with military or security partners, or with military, security or dual use impacts or outcomes. All applications will be checked to ensure alignment with this policy at the eligibility stage.

All applications are checked to ensure alignment with this policy at the eligibility stage.

6. Funding

The IAU Enterprise and Innovation Challenge will support 1 partnership with a budget of max £ 220 000 to design, deliver and manage the sustainability phase, for an 8-month period, starting from November 2026.

Applicants may be asked to adjust their budget if their request does not fit within funding guidelines or if this is considered not appropriate by the application reviewers.

Matching funds from organisations are encouraged but are not a requirement.

There are some limits on funding allocations:

- For-profit non-education organisations are only eligible to receive funds to cover travel-associated costs. The proposal must clearly define their contribution to achieving call objectives.
- Human resource costs: Staff costs for personnel working directly on the grant funded project limited to 30% of the grant to be awarded
- UK expertise costs: Limited to 20% of grant to be awarded.
- Travel costs: Limited to 20% of the grant to be awarded.

For successful partnerships, funds will be disbursed directly to the Contracting Organisation according to the approved final budget and after signing of the Grant Agreement. The

Contracting Organisation is responsible for all budget management, including grant transfers to overseas partner/s. For an equitable partnership, the Contracting Institution should be able to transfer funding to the partnering institution(s) for activities in a timely way. Implementation will be delayed and the objectives of the collaboration and the overall project impacted if the funds are not shared in time. We encourage partners, especially first-time partners, to discuss in advance their internal mechanisms that will enable the budget transfer between countries.

7. Ethics

It is essential that all legal and professional codes of practice are followed in conducting work supported by this call. Applicants must ensure the proposed activity will be carried out to the highest standards of ethics and research integrity.

In the application form, applicants 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.

Please refer to the Research Councils UK '[Policy and Guidelines on Governance of Good Research](#)', the Inter Academy Partnership report '[Doing Global Science: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in the Global Research Enterprise](#)', or contact us for further guidance.

8. Safeguarding and Protecting Adults at Risk

The British Council is committed to safeguarding children and adults at risk and to upholding their rights in accordance with all applicable legislation and statutory guidance. As part of that commitment, we require all organisations - and by extension the staff who work for them - who contract with us, plus any other Associated Partners and suppliers, to operate within and adhere to our Safeguarding Policy which articulates our approach to protecting children and adults at risk, and ensures their wellbeing. By completing and submitting an application to this call, you are accepting and agreeing that the partnership and all associated organisations and persons will comply with and uphold all aspects of our Safeguarding Policy.

We have robust systems and procedures in place to both prevent incidents (covering, for example, the recruitment of appropriate staff, training and support given so that staff can work safely, and standards regarding the way in which we carry out activities) together with responsive actions necessary to address situations where we become aware that a child or an adult at risk may have been harmed. As part of our policy, all countries have a named Safeguarding Focal Point (SFP) who is supported by a Regional Safeguarding Manager (RSM) and the British Council Safeguarding Team.

Visit [Safeguarding](#) webpage for more information.

9. Privacy Notice

The British Council and UK partners comply with UK GDPR and the UK Data Protection Act 2018 and data protection laws in other countries that meet internationally accepted standards. The British Council will use the information that you provide for the purposes of processing your application, making any awards and the monitoring & review of any grants. The legal basis for processing your information is agreement with our terms and conditions of application (contract).

We may share selected non personal data with agencies responsible for monitoring and evaluation and marketing and communications of the IAU Enterprise and Innovation Challenge: Sustainability phase (if applicable).

Your information will not be used/shared beyond the partners mentioned above for any other purpose without your specific consent. British Council and its partners reserve the right to publish and share anonymised aggregated information with stakeholders.

Organisation details, where collected, are used for monitoring and evaluation and statistical purposes. Gender information and country of origin, where collected, is used solely for statistical purposes. If we need to contact you, we will do so using the contact details you have provided.

Under UK Data Protection law, you have the right to ask for a copy of the information we hold on you, and the right to ask us to correct any inaccuracies in that information. If you want more information about this, please contact your local British Council office or [Visit our project website](#). We will keep your information for a period of seven years after the project.

10. Application Process, Documentation and Pre-Submission Checklist

Applications must only be completed and submitted via the [Good Grants online platform](#)

Any applications submitted via any other channel will be ineligible and will not be considered for funding. It is possible to download a blank version of the application form to enable your partnership to develop your answers together before it is submitted. The Good Grants platform will not allow submission where any specified word limits are exceeded or questions missed.

Accessibility

The Good Grants platform offers a wide range of accessibility support, and is fully compliant with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) WCAG 2.2 AA standards, the Revised Section 508 ICT standards from the U.S. Access Board, and the European Union's

EN 301 549 Accessibility requirements for ICT products and services.

If you require any access adjustments or have any additional support or learning needs in order to submit the application, please contact us prior to the deadline.

Deadline

The deadline for applications is 11:00am (UK time) on 28/October/2026. We recommend that you submit at least an hour before to avoid any last-minute technical glitches.

Due to the volume of applications, we receive, any application received after specified deadline will be considered **ineligible**.

Documentation

All supporting documents (budget sheets, CVs, supporting letters) must be uploaded on to the Good Grants platform prior to the deadline.

Ensure you have included all of the documentation listed in the Pre-Submission Checklist below as incomplete applications may be immediately regarded as ineligible. The British Council receives large numbers of applications to its funding calls, and for this reason we cannot facilitate a resubmission process should your application be deemed ineligible.

Pre-Submission Checklist

1. This application has been discussed and agreed between both Lead Institutions.

2. The application form and supporting documents have been completed in English.
3. Lead Institutions must have the capacity to administer a grant and satisfy British Council requirements to prevent bribery, fraud and professional misconduct. Applicants confirm that they comply with British Council requirements by responding to Pre-submission Confirmation in the application form.
4. Applicants have submitted a CV for both Lead Applicants. The CV should not be more than three pages.

11. Impact on Environment

The British Council is committed to minimising its environmental impact. For this call, we have developed a set of questions in the application form which will enable us to understand the expected impact of a proposed project on the climate (and environment more broadly). We welcome information from Applicants regarding environmental considerations such as reducing carbon emissions for their projects (for example, alternatives to national or international travel such as virtual delivery), minimising waste or promoting resource efficiency.

Please note, responses to these questions will not form part of the grant assessment criteria and will not be subject to peer review. The British Council collects this information for internal purposes only.

12. Gender Equality Statement

To comply with the International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014, applications must outline how they have taken meaningful yet proportionate consideration as to how the project will contribute to reducing gender inequalities in the Gender Equality Statement section of the application form.

Applicants are required to consider the impact their project will have on gender equality and provide a gender statement. It should not be a re-statement of your institution's policy; you may refer to the policy but should show how the policy will be implemented in terms of the project. Below are the project aspects that can be taken into consideration for the gender statement but not limited to.

- Outputs;
- Outcomes;
- Make-up of the project team; participants, stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project;
- Processes followed throughout the project, including methodologies and sampling processes;
- Budget;
- Risk;
- Measures taken to facilitate the participation of people from different genders.

Please note that the Gender Equality Statement should clarify and enable a clear demonstration that contributing to addressing gender inequalities has been considered in the partnership development.

All applications are checked for an adequate Gender Equality Statement at the eligibility stage. The following questions should be answered when writing the statement.

Analysis

- What are the key gender equality issues that are relevant to the IAU Sustainability Phase and how it will contribute to addressing these? Please include data and evidence to support your analysis of the relevant gender equality issues. This should include issues relevant to the theme of your project and to the team that will deliver it.

Measures

- Have measures been put in place to ensure equal and meaningful opportunities for people of different genders to be involved throughout the project? This includes the development of the project, the participants of the research and innovation, and the beneficiaries of the activities.
- Drawing on the analysis of the gender equality issues, think about the barriers to participation and engagement in the project and how you will overcome these through your project plan and activities.

Impact

- Describe how the project will impact women, men and people with diverse gender identities, both throughout the project and beyond. Specifically, show how the project will address the barriers that have been set out in the question above.
- Consider also the potential impact of the project on relations between men and women e.g. changes in voice, decision making, leadership, etc Please refer to the examples shared in the application form for more information.

Risks

- How will any risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality be avoided or mitigated against, and monitored?

Outcomes

- Are there any relevant outcomes and outputs being measured, with data disaggregated by age and gender (where disclosed)?

Not all questions will be applicable. If a question is not applicable, you will need to articulate the reasons why.

Applicants are encouraged to check the [Guide to Addressing Gender Equality](#) document which provides further information which will help you to write your gender statement e.g. guidance on how to undertake a gender analysis etc.

British Council reserve the right to reject the application if inadequate consideration has been given to gender equality, or if the proposal is assessed to result in a negative impact for gender equality.

13. Equality Diversity and Inclusion Statement

The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. Working effectively with equality, diversity and inclusion is an essential part of our purpose. We want to ensure that everyone who works with us and for us is treated with respect and dignity. We aim to remove barriers to granting, redress any identified imbalances caused by inequality and provide and maintain a fair and accessible process, ensuring application requirements have been designed to support inclusion and diversity.

Applicants are encouraged to structure response to EDI section by considering those questions below. You will be requested to report the progress and outcomes in your interim and final report.

- Will your project target specific groups (e.g. age, disability, race/ethnicity, religion/belief, and socio-economic background)?
- What activities are going to be designed to include or benefit these groups? How are these groups going to be engaged in the planning, delivery, or evaluation of the project?
- What are the intended outcomes for these groups?
- Can you anticipate any barriers to participation of these groups and consider ways to remove them? How will the EDI outcomes be sustained or built upon after the project ends?

14. Accessibility and Adjustments

Approach for reasonable adjustment and access support

We provide disability and accessibility support for applicants and grant recipients at different stages of the grant from application, project delivery to reporting.

Application stage

If you need support when applying for funding, you should try to speak to your employer first, if applicable (e.g., your university, or other host institutions).

If you need additional support to apply for this opportunity, please contact the British Council at [Going Global Partnerships](#) as early as possible (and at least two weeks before the application submission deadline as early notification helps us provide more timely assistance) to discuss individual needs for reasonable adjustments or disability-related support during the application. This includes e.g. requests for application information in alternative formats, access support worker to help you make an application, etc.

Project accessibility costs

Applicants and grant recipients are encouraged to take a proactive approach to build accessibility into the design and delivery of their proposed activities and events, so that we can improve the experience for everyone, particularly for disabled people

e. These include e.g. support from a Sign Language interpreter to make your designed event inclusive, remediation service to make your research report accessible, etc. These project accessibility costs should be planned and included in your project budget.

Personal access costs

These are designed to remove barriers and support the grant recipients (or their core team) in managing grants and delivering the project. These include e.g. requests for information in alternative formats, access to a support worker to help you during the project and in drafting the end of project report, a travel assistant to support your attendance to events, etc.

Note that these personal access costs should be planned as additional expenses on top of the project budget and therefore should be listed separately from the project budget. Make sure you plan for any personal access support you might need during or at the end of the project. Make sure you plan ahead where possible and consider our reporting requirements. These costs can only be for the project period (between your project start date and end date) and must be specific to your project. We are not able to cover costs for support that is unrelated to the activity. The amount of personal access costs you can include in your application should be relevant to your activity and the size of your task. These costs are submitted separately from your project budget and we do not take them into consideration in the evaluation of your application, as this allows for all applications to be submitted and assessed on an equal basis.

For example, if the maximum amount you can apply for the project is £10,000. Your application is for £10,000 and you also need an extra £500 personal access costs. We will consider this as an application for £10,000, rather than £10,500 and you will be eligible to apply. Please include as much detail in the expenditure line description. We need to understand what you are going to use the additional costs for, and how it's specific to your needs and project. Our grants cannot cover any activity or spending that takes place before we can make a decision.

These will be considered on a case-by-case basis and dependent on the funding available. Requests for Personal Access Costs will be reviewed only after the project is selected for funding. We may contract with the Contracting Institution for the main project and then do a contract amendment for any additional amounts shortly afterwards. [Kindly note request for Personal Access Cost won't affect the evaluation of the proposal. The requests for personal access cost would be reviewed by British Council EDI team and project members.]

If you wish to discuss the requests and/or costs in your application, please contact the British Council at [Going Global Partnership](#).

Please note that funding allocated for personal access costs is ring-fenced and must only be used for the stated purpose. Any unused funds should be returned in line with the British Council requirements.

Please contact us for further information on the British Council's approach. See our [Equality Policy](#).

15. Budget

Budgets must only be submitted using the Budget section of online Application form.

You will note that some budget categories are subject to a cap which is set as a percentage of the total amount of funding being applied for. Where a budget cap is specified, it must be adhered to as it is a stipulation of the funding. If caps are not adhered to, your requested budget may be subject to correction by the British Council to make it compliant, and this may result in a reduction of your grant.

A list of eligible and ineligible cost can be found in [Appendix 1](#).

16. Selection Process

- All applications received by the deadline will be logged and acknowledged – if you have not received an acknowledgement within seven days, please check your spam folder for messages from British Council Good Grants. If you have not received any acknowledgement of receipt of application, please contact us with details by writing at [Going Global Partnerships](#)
- Applications will be reviewed for eligibility and completeness – if we do not have everything requested in the Pre-submission Checklist your application may be declared ineligible and not proceed to next stage. We receive large volumes of applications so we may not be able to notify you of this outcome at this stage.
- **Applications will be assessed by a panel of subject experts, on the basis of the assessment criteria specified.**
- The top ranked application will be selected and will be notified about their selection for contracting and disbursement of grants.
- Requests for Personal Access Costs from successful applicants will be reviewed only after the project is selected for funding.

- Unsuccessful applications will be notified at a later stage. **You can ask for feedback to your application by writing to [Going Global Partnerships](#).**

17. Selection Criteria

Categories and Criteria	%
Understanding of the IAU Sustainability Phase , including its purpose and intended outcomes, the support already provided through ASCEND and ASLIA, the requirement for complementarity and additionality, and the differing stages and needs of participating innovations and enterprises	20%
Delivery approach and methodology , including Individual Innovation and Enterprise Progression Pathways, commercialisation and market development, international (UK) exposure, partnerships and market access, funding and investment opportunities, specialist technical and business support, progression grant funding and sustainability beyond IAU support	40%
Experience and capability of the SSA:UK partnership , including relevant track record, university entrepreneurship ecosystem connections, industry, market, funding and international networks, and capacity to deliver across Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa	25%
Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL), Marketing and Communications , including measuring project-level progression, capturing programme learning and evidence, and communicating results in collaboration with the British Council and documenting impact using digital assets	15%
Total	100%

Scoring range (0-20 per category)

- **20 points:** Meets all criteria to an exceptional level.
- **16 to 19 points:** Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level.
- **11 to 15 points:** Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level.
- **6 to 10 points:** Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level.
- **1 to 5 points:** Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level.
- **0 points:** Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.

18. Applicant Screening

To comply with UK government legislation, the British Council may at any point during the application process, carry out searches of relevant third-party screening databases to ensure that

neither the applicant institutions nor any of the applicants' employees, partners, directors, shareholders are listed:

- as an individual or entity with whom national or supranational bodies have decreed organisations should not have financial dealings; and/or
- as being wanted by Interpol or any national law enforcement body in connection with crime.
- as being subject to regulatory action by a national or international enforcement body; and/or,
- as being subject to export, trade or procurement controls or (in the case of an individual) as being disqualified from being a company director; and/or,
- as being a heightened risk individual or organisation, or (in the case of an individual) a politically exposed person.

If the applicant or any other party is listed in a Screening Database for any of the reasons set out above, the British Council will assess the applicant as ineligible to apply for this grantcall. The applicant must provide the British Council with all information reasonably requested by the British Council to complete the screening searches.

Please read the text to this effect on the application form and tick the box to show that you understand this.

19. Granting Process

When a decision has been made on applications the British Council will send out a notification to the successful applicant with a timeline to accept the Grant.

This will be followed by sharing of the British Council Grant Agreement for signatures. Funding will be offered to one successful application on the terms and conditions as set out in the sample grant agreement which has been made available as part of the funding call launch. The terms and conditions in this template are non-negotiable and standard for all grants from Going Global Partnerships. Contracting Institutions are expected to obtain necessary institutional approval for these contractual terms prior to application submission. Please ensure you seek approval from any necessary internal colleagues or teams, such as pre-award, legal and/or finance, before the deadline for submission. The Grant Agreement to the successful applicant will be populated with some of the data you have entered into your application, so please ensure that the responses you give are full and correct in order to prevent errors in the contract once it is issued.

Funds will be disbursed only upon the British Council receiving an acceptably signed copy of the Grant Agreement. It will be expected that the Grantee is able to return a signed copy of agreement within the stipulated timelines given by the British Council, and the funding may be at risk if the stipulated timelines are not adhered to.

British Council will also ask for a copy of the Contracting Institution's most recent Bank Details which should be supplied on the provided form and on the institution's letter head.

20. British Council Contractual Requirements

- The contracting authority is the British Council which includes any subsidiary companies and other organisations that control or are controlled by the British Council from time to time. Visit - British Council
- The Contracting Institution is the Lead Institution that has made the application on the Good Grants platform. The Contracting Institution for the partnership will sign the Grant Agreement with the British Council. The Contracting Institution must be eligible to receive and manage grant funds. The Contracting Institution is accountable for delivery, reporting, and compliance with all grant requirements.
- Other key partners are names in the Grant Agreement. The Contracting Institution is responsible for flowing down the relevant clauses to the other partners.
- The British Council is subject to the requirements of the UK Freedom of Information Act, ("FOIA"). Please indicate in your application whether FOIA also applies to your organisation, so that we can reflect this in the Grant Agreement should you be successful in your application.
- A copy of the Grant Agreement is available with the call document.
- Terms and Conditions of the Grant Agreement: By submitting a response to this call for applications, you are agreeing to be bound by the terms of these guidelines and the Grant Agreement without further negotiation or amendment.

21. Monitoring and Reporting

The Contracting Institution is responsible for complying with the requirements of monitoring and reporting as detailed in the Grant Agreement. We require both financial and activity reporting.

Appendix 1 – Eligible and ineligible costs

Eligible costs

The following costs are eligible for funding:

- Travel: Travel (economy class) and subsistence costs to the UK/partner country, visa fees, vaccinations, quarantine costs (not exceeding GBP800 per person for 14 days), medical insurance, and roaming charges during travel essential to the project, to the UK and partner country.
- Local travel in the UK and overseas (public transport to and from the airport and for meetings/visits is encouraged where possible).
- Reasonable accommodation and subsistence costs for staff when visiting their partner organisation in the UK or overseas
- Reasonable hospitality costs (excluding self-entertaining costs).
- Reasonable production costs (such as for the development of materials but excluding time spent by staff in relation thereto).
- Consultancy fee (for external procurement and up to 20% of the total project costs).
- Essential equipment for use in the project including consumables, specialist software licences essential to the collaboration, access fees for facilities or library services. Equipment must be essential to project delivery and beyond the scope of institutional provision.
- Cost of meetings, training events, workshops, public engagement events, and seminars integral to the proposal. Translation and interpreter fees.
- Publication costs directly related to the collaboration, including web page development by external providers, if appropriate. Open access publication is encouraged.
- Online platform and relevant costs for digital delivery can be included.
- Attendance at conferences or other events in the UK, partner countries, or virtual events to present the outputs and outcomes of the project.
- Monitoring and evaluation costs.
- All the foregoing activities must be directly related to the development and delivery of the agreed project. Partners will be asked to provide the British Council with information on expenditure, supported by receipts for monitoring and auditing purposes.
- The cost of staff time for full-time personnel working directly on the project -only the time allocated for the project, plus the costs of temporary personnel and other temporary staff recruited to work solely on the project,
- Exchange rate costs and other banking-related costs.

Ineligible costs

The following costs are ineligible for funding:

- Promotional activities solely concerned with the recruitment of overseas students.
- Institutional overheads including administration fees and other indirect costs.
- Costs associated with Master's and PhD scholarships (including stipends and tuition).
- Purchase or rental of standard office equipment (except specialist equipment essential to the research). This includes IT hardware – laptops, personal computers, tablets, smartphones, Mac workstations, computer parts and peripherals, etc. Any standard hardware routinely used by researchers and academics will not be funded.
- Office software and office equipment including desks, chairs, filing cabinets, photocopiers, printers, and fax machines.
- Mobile phone costs including rental or purchase, and monthly phone bills.
- IP costs, patent, copyright, licensing, or other IP-related costs.
- Costs relating to the construction, procurement, or rental of physical infrastructure (e.g., office buildings, laboratory facilities). Rooms and facilities essential for routine collaboration are provided as an in-kind contribution by participating institutions. These can be detailed as an in-kind contribution in the budget breakdown.
- Entertainment costs such as gifts, alcohol, restaurant bills, or hospitality costs for personnel not directly participating in the project, excessive restaurant costs, and excessive taxi fares.
- No profit or fees must be charged to the grant.
- British Council Grants cannot be converted to any Gift Cards, non-monetary assets, Crypto currencies.

Appendix 2 – IAU Programme Theory of Change

