

# Innovation for African Universities

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## Calls for Expressions of Interest

The Innovation for African Universities (IAU) project is designed to support the development of Africa – UK HE Partnerships to build institutional capacity for HE engagement in entrepreneurship ecosystems in selected African countries.

IAU is a learning and collaboration platform which brings together Universities in the UK and SSA to engage, interact and learn from one another with the aim of developing mutually beneficial partnerships that strengthen the capacity and capability of Higher Education systems in both locations. Over a period of 18 – 24 months a total of 22 organisations, (including Universities, enterprise support organisations and other key ecosystem players) will collaborate with the aim of exchanging best practice that supports increased functionality of Universities.

To manage the implementation of the IAU we are inviting Expressions of Interest from Universities in SSA and UK that will serve as centre of excellence collaborating to co-create and co-deliver the project strands by developing institutional partnerships, convening and managing the peer learning networks and delivering capacity building activities that foster University engagement in entrepreneurship ecosystems across SSA (See Terms of Reference attached)

The implementing partners will be selected by the British Council through a competitive process that will identify experienced institutions with national, regional and international experience supporting ecosystem strengthening and development. The institutions will also be required to have direct and meaningful contextual knowledge regarding the challenges of higher education and business development in SSA

The selection process will involve a competitive call for proposals seeking candidates that demonstrate:

- Depth in expertise in entrepreneurship and innovation partnerships delivery within universities.
- Understanding of the needs underpinning the design of a capacity building programme for beneficiary partners.
- Ability to support beneficiary partners to build communities of practice with local start-up ecosystems.
- Experience delivering capacity building relevant to offering support to network partners
- Expertise in using technology and digital resources to deliver higher education programmes
- Track record of working in the Green Economy and with local climate and innovation ecosystems

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We are looking to identify:

- A partnership consisting of 1 UK and 1 SSA University that would comprise the centre of excellence and jointly implement the components of the IAU (See Terms of Reference attached)

If you are interested in applying as the centre of excellence, please submit the following using the EOI application form

- An outline of how your University proposes to co-deliver the IAU with the international partner, your approach, timelines, proposed risks and mitigation strategies and how you will leverage the expertise and experience of the corresponding UK/SSA partner to deliver the assignment.
- A profile of both partners demonstrating expertise in entrepreneurship and innovation partnerships/ capacity building programmes delivery, digitally, along with names and CVs of those experts who would be involved in the delivery of the assignment
- Evidence of previous engagement and experience in entrepreneurship ecosystems locally and internationally preferably in SSA that support the building of community of practices and/or emergence of high growth entrepreneurs in Higher education institutions.
- Up to three case studies of student businesses that have been supported previously including details of support provided and impact achieved by the businesses as a direct result of the support.
- Evidence of Access to Networks in the sector, industry, entrepreneurship ecosystem players in their location.
- UK University should demonstrate insight and knowledge of the challenges of higher education and business development in SSA
- Evidence of expertise in climate change and sustainability programmes or commitment to green economy

The EOI should highlight suitability of the partnership to co-delivering capacity building programmes virtually, convene and sustain networks that facilitate reciprocal knowledge exchange with a strong learning and dissemination component

It is envisaged that the delivery of the project will commence after **31 March 2021**

## Eligibility

We are inviting UK and SSA Universities, experienced in co-creating and co-delivering entrepreneurship and innovation programmes to submit joint project proposals as centre of excellence.

## EOI dates

The opening date of the opportunity is **27 January 2021** and the closing date is **19 February 2021**. The British Council reserves the right to extend the closing date.

- Any entry received after the closing date will not be considered.

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- The British Council accepts no responsibility whatsoever for any technical failure or malfunction or any other problem with any system, server, provider or otherwise that may result in any entry being lost, delayed or not properly registered.
  - Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted

## How to apply

To submit an EOI applicants must complete the application form and email it to [HE.Nigeria@ng.britishcouncil.org](mailto:HE.Nigeria@ng.britishcouncil.org)) and then follow these steps:

- accept these Terms and Conditions by submitting an application
- answer the privacy question
- answer the mandatory questions
- submit the application form by emailing it to the email address above
- applicants are responsible for ensuring they complete the form fully and correctly.
- All attachments/supporting documentation should be provided separately and clearly labelled to make it clear as to which part of your response it relates.
- If you submit a generic policy /document you must indicate the page and paragraph reference that is relevant to a particular part of your response.
- responses should be concise, unambiguous, and should directly address the requirement stated

## Selection of successful applicants

The entries will be assessed by a panel of British Council specialist Higher Education staff supported by technical experts from SSA region, who will select successful participants based on the quality of responses to the Application questions following the closing date referred to in the eligibility section above.

All decisions of the panel will be final and binding.

**No correspondence will be entered into with the unsuccessful participants.**

The British Council accepts no responsibility for failure to notify successful applicants where such failure results from the provision of inaccurate contact details by the applicants or from the acts or omissions of any third party (including, without limitation, any internet or postal service provider) and shall have no liability to any applicant if it is prevented from or delayed in delivering any aspect of the opportunity by acts, events, omissions or accidents beyond its reasonable control.

The British Council does not offer any insurance in connection with the opportunity. Each winning organisation is recommended to arrange their own insurance in respect of the opportunity.

## Grant Award

The amount of the grant to be awarded for the implementation of the IAU is £700,000 and should be expended solely in connection with the project. It is expected that the grant will be disbursed as outlined in the terms of reference document. The grant will be awarded to the UK partner, with

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a grant agreement signed with the British Council (draft attached), following thorough due diligence checks and vendor set up (where applicable). Vendor set up will require the UK partner to provide the below details no later than 3 business days following notification of award.

1. Completed British Council bank details form
2. Certificate of Incorporation
3. Completed British Council Suppliers appraisal questionnaire
4. Corporate Profile with list of past and present clients
5. Letter of reference from at least two of Supplier's clients

Further information on the grant administration would be detailed in the finalised grant agreement.

## Personal data

The British Council will collect and store the names and email addresses of all applicants and the additional details of applicants as anticipated by the 'how to apply' and 'selection of successful applicants' sections above.

The British Council will use this personal data for the following purposes:

- managing the relationship between the applicants and the British Council.
- communicating with applicants to answer their queries about the opportunity.
- communicating with successful applicants
- administering and delivering the selection.

Where an applicant has consented to the British Council doing so, the British Council may contact the applicant using the personal data collected to provide information about the goods, services, courses or promotions that the British Council offers.

By participating in the opportunity, applicants consent to their personal data being processed by the British Council in accordance with, and for the purposes set out in, this section of these terms and conditions. The British Council complies with data protection law in the UK and laws in other countries that meet internationally accepted standards. 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 have concerns about how we have used your personal information, you also have the right to complain to a privacy regulator.

## Publicity and rights

The British Council intends to publish the names of successful applicants on the British Council's websites, social media channels, press releases and other promotional and marketing material. In addition, the British Council may write and publish articles about the successful applicant's inclusion in the Season.

By applying to the opportunity, each applicant agrees to the use of their name and agrees to cooperate with any such publicity or marketing if they are successful in their application.

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Applicants will retain copyright in the entry material that they submit to the British Council. By entering the opportunity each participant grants the British Council, free of charge, permission to use the entry material (including, without limitation, modifying and adapting it for operational and editorial reasons) in any media worldwide for purposes connected with the opportunity.

All rights in the British Council's name and logo, websites, Facebook pages, Twitter pages, press releases and other promotional and marketing material and all course and examination content and materials (together the "Council's Materials") shall vest in and remain with the British Council (or its licensors).

By participating in the opportunity, applicants agree that they will not use, broadcast, publish, export, exploit, reproduce nor copy part or all of the Council's Materials.