BRITISH COUNCIL

Going Global Partnerships

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Guidance Notes: International Skills Partnership, Sudan

Call open until 11 March 2026

Going Global Partnerships

Going Global Partnerships builds stronger, more inclusive, internationally connected higher education (HE) and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) systems.

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.

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.

See open and upcoming Going Global Partnerships opportunities on our portal.

Opportunities are being launched continually, so please check this page regularly.

International Skills Partnership opportunity in Sudan

Value of grant	£30,000
Deadline for applications	11 March 2026
Contact for further information	skills@britishcouncil.org

Introduction to International Skills Partnerships

The British Council International Skills Partnerships (ISPs) brings together organisations in the TVET sector from the UK and partner countries to share their knowledge and expertise, and to collaborate on projects that focus on enhancing approaches to skills development internationally.

A key aspect of these collaborations is a focus on mutual sharing and learning. As well as strengthening TVET systems internationally, they bring a host of benefits to UK partners. These include unique professional development opportunities for staff, new knowledge and perspectives to enhance delivery, stronger recognition and international profile, and deeper relationships in key markets to support future collaboration and mobility opportunities.

International Skills Partnerships also have the potential to contribute to long-term systemic change. By addressing shared challenges, such as climate change, meeting the demands of a rapidly changing world of work, approaches to equality, diversity and inclusion, and building lasting relationships to continue collaborations beyond the project lifecycle, they ensure sustainable impact into the future.

Since 2009, British Council, has delivered over 200 partnership projects linking UK further education colleges to over 40 countries. These partnerships have brought together experienced organisations in the UK skills sector and one or more counterparts in other countries to develop and deliver an agreed project plan that supports national level policy priorities related to skills development and employability, such as embedding soft skills development in curricula; improving employer engagement; quality assurance; development of joint curricula; and career guidance programmes.

Partnerships are supported financially by the British Council to deliver projects, typically funded for one year with a view to becoming self-sustaining thereafter.

Overview of the partnership opportunity

The British Council has been present in Sudan since 1949, supporting international collaboration to develop better quality, more inclusive, and globally connected education systems. Despite the closure of the Khartoum office in April 2023, we continue to implement programs via remote operations and a network of focal points in Dongola, Atbara, Port Sudan, Gadaref, and Kassala. Our work in Sudan focuses on supporting policy and system development, helping the country make international best practice locally relevant.

Through our Going Global Partnerships program, we enable stronger transnational education and more internationalised, inclusive systems. Strengthening the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system has been a core focus of our work, supporting institutional partnerships and system collaborations. Sudan is currently navigating a complex environment where education is a critical tool for social protection and economic resilience.

We are inviting applications for an International Skills Partnership (ISP) focused on the modernization of the Food Processing curriculum within the Food Industry, which is categorized under the Agriculture pathway of the Sudanese technical education charter but it also crosscut with the Females' pathway as well. This curriculum is taught in Grades 11 and 12 (Higher Secondary level). The partnership will support one collaboration between a UK-based further education college or training institution and the National Centre for Curricula and Educational Research (NCCER). The goal is to bridge the gap between labour-market needs and the skills provided by the education system, specifically within a sector vital to Sudan's economic priorities.

UK Qualification Level Equivalence

This partnership targets the Sudanese Higher Secondary level (Grades 11 and 12). For the purposes of this collaboration, the curriculum development should be aligned with UK Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications (such as BTECs or T-Levels in Food Science, Food Preparation, or Agriculture).

The partnership will prioritize:

- Understanding the institutional context and technical capacity of the NCCER.
- Co-designing a Competency-Based Learning approach for Food Processing.

- Building the capacity of NCCER staff and teacher-trainers through Training of Trainers (ToT) models.
- Developing practical teacher guides, student workbooks, and multimedia learning resources suitable for both urban and low-resource settings.

Project Objectives

The objectives of this International Skills Partnership are to:

- **Modernize Curriculum:** Co-design and revise the National Curriculum for Food Processing (Grades 11–12) to align with Sudan's economic priorities and 21st-century skills.
- **Enhance Employability**: Integrate practical food safety, processing techniques, and entrepreneurship into learning outcomes to support self-employment and small enterprise development.
- **Build Capacity**: Design and deliver targeted capacity-building for NCCER staff and teacher-trainers on learner-centered pedagogy and formative assessment.
- **Develop Resources**: Create comprehensive teacher guidebooks and multimedia teaching aids, such as video demonstrations of food processing techniques, to support remote or low-resource learning environments.
- **Pilot and Refin**e: Test the revised materials in a representative sample of schools to ensure feasibility and national scalability.

Role Scope

The selected UK partner will:

- Lead Technical Design: Provide expertise in co-authoring the revised Food Processing curriculum (UK Level 2/3 equivalent) using competency-based approaches.
- Deliver Training: Facilitate a Training of Trainers (ToT) program for NCCER teacher-trainers, focusing on inclusive and industry-standard technical instruction.
- Develop Materials: Collaborate on the production of student activity guides and digital learning resources linked to real-world food production contexts.
- Knowledge Exchange: Participate in remote or hybrid knowledge exchange activities to share UK best practices in TVET and food science technology.
- Support Implementation: Provide technical advice on refining the curriculum based on feedback collected during the pilot phase in Sudanese schools.

The UK partner will work with the NCCER Project Lead, who serves as the Head of Technical Education Curricula Directorate, to develop an agreed action plan. The British Council teams in the UK and Sudan will provide ongoing advice and facilitate communication between the UK partner and the NCCER team based in Al Dweem.

Funding and Duration

- **Grant amount:** Up to **£30,000** to support partnership activities.

- **Eligible costs:** UK visit for Sudanese partners, staff time (up to 30% of the grant), development of tools and resources, and delivery of agreed activities. Due to serious and ongoing conflict, it will not be possible for UK stakeholders to travel to Sudan.

- **Project duration: 12 months**, commencing **March 2026**.

Eligibility criteria for Institutions

Applications must fulfil the following criteria to be eligible for funding under this call:

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
Each proposal must have one Lead institution from the UK
UK lead institution must be one of the following: • Further education college that is listed on the List of colleges in the UK (Sources: Education and Skills Funding Agency, and Association of Colleges) • Independent training provider • Membership organisation with a role in the Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET)/Further Education (FE) system • Sector skills organisation • Awarding body

The partnership can include Associated Partners in their proposals who can be one of the following: • Employer organisations and industry bodies • Other education organisations/charities/foundations/membership bodies • Any other public or private organisations with a role in the TVET/Further Education system • Not-for-profit organisations, including Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) • Government organisations • Civil society organisations (CSOs) and social enterprise organisations
For-profit non-education organisations are not eligible to receive any grant funds, except to cover travel-associated costs.

If you are in doubt about the eligibility of your organisation, contact skills@britishcouncil.org

Eligibility checks will be applied to all applications after the grant call closes and those which are not led by an eligible institution, rejected.

Target outcomes of the British Council's skills work

In assessing your project approach within your application, consideration will be given as to the extent to which the proposed project is likely to deliver against the target outcomes of the British Council's skills work. This list is included in the Call Guidance document.

- The establishment of an active network of local and global employers, employer representative organisations and other skills stakeholders
- Improvement of knowledge and understanding of effective approaches to skills development
- Young people are better prepared for the world of work
- Understanding and recognition of the benefits of working internationally and how to do this effectively is increased
- New approaches to skills development are implemented at institution/ organisation level
- Policy changes and/or new approaches to skills development are implemented at national and/or system level
- Higher quality skills that meet industry needs are developed.

Funding

Funds will be transferred directly to the Contracting Institution from the UK, who will be responsible for submitting a financial report upon completion of the project.

For an equitable partnership, the Contracting Institution should be able to timely transfer funding to the partnering institution(s) from overseas for activities which support the objectives of the collaboration and the overall project, allowing activities implementation to be implemented without delay.

For-profit non-education Associated Partners are only eligible to receive funds to cover travel-associated costs.

Matching funds are encouraged but not a requirement.

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' (https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/UKRI-050321-PolicyGuidelinesGovernanceOfGoodResearchConduct.pdf) , the Inter Academy Partnership report 'Doing Global Science: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in the Global Research Enterprise' (http://www.interacademycouncil.net/24026/29429.aspx) or contact us for further guidance.

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 that all staff, and those we work with, including partners and suppliers, operate within our Safeguarding Policy which articulates our approach to protecting children and adults at risk and promoting their wellbeing.

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.

For further information please see: https://www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/how-we-work/policies/safeguarding

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).

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 see our website: http://www.britishcouncil.org/privacy-cookies/data-protection. We will keep your information for a period of seven years after the project.

Application Process and Documentation

Applications should be submitted online via the Going Global Partnerships Grants Portal

https://goingglobalpartnerships.grantplatform.com/

The deadline for applications is 23:59 on 11 March 2026

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

Gender and EDI Statements

Applicants are encouraged to ensure equal opportunities in the teams implementing their proposed activity. Applicants may apply for additional funding to cover any specific requirements necessary to ensure full participation.

Please make additional costs in the 'human resources' section of the budget request within your application. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Please contact us for further information on the British Council's approach. See our Equality Policy here: https://www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/our-values/equality-diversity-inclusion

Gender and EDI Impact

Applicants are encouraged to ensure equal opportunities in the teams implementing their proposed activity. Applicants may apply for additional funding to cover any specific requirements necessary to ensure full participation, which will be considered on a case-by-case basis and dependent on the funding available.

Please contact us for further information on the British Council's approach. See our Equality Policy here: https://www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/our-values/equality-diversity-inclusion

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 Impact section of the application form.

Applicants should consider the key gender equality issues that are relevant to the proposed project and how it will contribute to addressing these. They should consider what measures will be put in place to ensure equal and meaningful opportunities for women, girls, and minority genders, including project design and team composition as well as activities and outcomes.

British Council reserve the right to reject the application if no consideration has been given to gender equality or if the proposal is assessed to result in a negative impact for gender equality.

Applicants are required to consider the impact their project will have on gender 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.

The statement is part of the equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) assessment criterion in this call. The following questions should be answered when writing the statement.

- 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.

- The expected impact of the project (benefits and losses) on people of different genders, both throughout the project and beyond.

- The impact on the relations between people of different genders and people of the same gender. For example, changing roles and responsibilities in households, society, economy, politics, power, etc.
- How will any risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality be avoided or mitigated against, and monitored?
- 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.

British Council reserve the right to reject the application if no consideration has been given to gender equality or if the proposal is assessed to result in a negative impact for gender equality.

Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Weighting (%)
Background and Relevant Experience	35
Project Approach	40
Experience of Project Budget and Financial Management	10
Gender and Equality Statement	15

Key Milestones

Milestone	Timelines
Deadline for applications	11 March 2026
Results announcement	13 March 2026
Contracts signed	27 March 2026
Delivery period	30 March 2026 – 30 March 2027

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

Applicant screening

In order 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 decreedorganisations should not have financial dealings;

- 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;

- 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.

Please consider flexible and technological solutions to progress activity for planned work where feasible.

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 Councilfrom time to time (see: www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/structure/status).

- The Grant Agreement Holder for the partnership will be the Contracting Institution.

- The successful applicants will be expected to undertake activities in the UK and in the overseas countries listed in these guidelines.

- 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.

- (Terms and Conditions of the Grant Agreement) ("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.**

- It is essential that all individuals travelling (including the Recipient, the Project Partner and all Sub-Grantees involved in the Project) should have adequate travel and medical insurance for their participation in reciprocal visits. This insurance is an eligible cost under travel as set out in the grant agreement (Schedule 4).

- In the event that you have any concerns or queries in relation to the Grant Agreement,you should submit a clarification request to skills@britishcouncil.org in accordance with the provisions of this call for applications by the application deadline. The British Council reserves the right not to make any changes to the Grant Agreement.

- The British Council is under no obligation to consider any clarifications / amendments to the Grant Agreement requested following the application deadline.

Annex 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 and travel insurance, and roaming charges during travel essential to the project, to the UK and partner country. The maximum number of staff travelling on any visit covered by the grant is four, guided by the cost of travel when booking.

- 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

- Staff costs for personnel working directly on the grant-funded project limited to 30% of the grant to be awarded.

- 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).

- 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.

- Any other costs deriving directly from the requirements of the Agreement shall be negotiated with the British Council. These shall not include purchase of equipment. The purchase of software might be eligible only when approved in advanced by the British Council. This shall depend on the rationale and clear written justification showing that it is essential to carry out the Project.

- 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.

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.

- 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.

- Exchange rate costs/losses and other banking-related costs.

- 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.