Request for Proposal (RFP)

1 Overview of the British Council

1.1 The British Council is the UK’s international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries. We do this by making a positive contribution to the UK and the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust.

1.2 We work with over 100 countries across the world in the fields of arts and culture, English language, education and civil society. Each year we reach over 20 million people face-to-face and more than 500 million people online, via broadcasts and publications. Founded in 1934, we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body.

1.3 The British Council employs over 10,500 staff worldwide. It has its headquarters in the UK, with offices in London, Manchester, Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh. Further information can be viewed at www.britishcouncil.org.

2 Introduction and Background to the Project / Programme

2.1 The Newton Fund is a £735 million fund (£75 million a year for 7 years starting 2014/15) which will support science and innovation partnerships between the UK and 17 countries that are emerging economies. The countries currently involved in the Newton Fund are: China | India | Brazil | Chile | South Africa | Mexico | Colombia | Kenya | Turkey | Malaysia | Thailand | Vietnam | Indonesia | Philippines | Egypt | Jordan | Peru.

It forms part of the UK’s Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment and its primary focus is to develop partner countries’ research and innovation capacity for long-term sustainable growth and welfare through building research and innovation capacity. It is intended that partner countries will provide funding to match the investment made by the UK. For more details on The Newton Fund refer to http://www.newtonfund.ac.uk/.

The Newton Fund is managed by the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), and delivered through 7 UK delivery partners.

The Newton Professional Development and Engagement Programme is one the Newton Programmes delivered by the British Council. This programme is shaped by the demands and development priorities of
the country stakeholders, with the aim of supporting the research environment and enabling optimal impact from research. The programme has the added benefit of building up relationships between skills providers with knowledge and understanding of UK research and innovation ecosystems and partner country stakeholders.

The services provided under the Newton Professional Development and Engagement Programme will enable much stronger links between the UK and partner country stakeholders, will create greater opportunities and assist in building capacity in the research and innovation sector.

Newton Fund Indonesia is an official collaborative development programme between the UK and Indonesian Government in the area of research and innovation. The 7 year programme, with up to £18 million UK funding for Indonesia was launched in 2014.

The British Council in Indonesia is working in partnership with a number of relevant Indonesian government organisations and funding bodies to deliver programmes that benefit Indonesian researchers. At the moment, the Newton Fund Indonesia is the official partner for Indonesia Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education (Ristekdikti) to deliver UK-Indonesia Science & Technology Fund. This partnership was launched on 23rd of March 2016.

Project background

Indonesia is projected to be the 4th largest global economy by 2050¹. To realise this forecast, Indonesia has to change and innovate to address challenges, keep pace with the fast moving global trends and move towards a knowledge based economy.

Indonesia has enjoyed a very positive economic growth for the past decade and is now described as middle-income country. The Indonesian government however is aware of the necessity to avoid the 'middle income trap'. To avoid economic stagnation Indonesia needs to engineer a shift from mainly agricultural output to manufacturing and high productivity services. Building such an economy is difficult and multifaceted; it requires quality and accessible higher education, sound information infrastructure, strong research and development, persistent innovation, and the right economic incentives.²

The key component of knowledge-based economy is intellectual capabilities; information and knowledge hold a greater economic potential than natural resources. The Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education (Ristekdikti) has highlighted the strategic objective of the Ministry “to increase the relevance,


quality and quantity of highly educated human-capital, and the ability of science-technology-innovation for competitive advantage of nations”.

Academic publications are important reflections of the strength of the research community in a country. A strong research community fuels innovation in the economy. It's also the basis for generating high-quality evidence to inform policy decisions. In Indonesia, many research results are finalised at documentation stage, without further dissemination, advancement, let alone implementation. International publication will facilitate further dissemination of knowledge and information, as well as generating further research and innovation led to social economic advancement.

In 2014 Ristekdikti established a partnership with the British Council through the UK Government’s Newton Fund and the Indonesia Science and Technology Fund. The collaboration has sought to enhance research outputs and innovation and has contributed to a significant increase in the number of international publications (including joint authors’ papers) in Indonesia.

However, Indonesia comparative ranking on performance of publication quality is still behind other ASEAN neighbouring countries, i.e. Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. Despite its pros and cons, Indonesia government is still pretty much looking at its universities’ performance through the ranking system in the QS (Quacquarelli Symonds). The QS university ranking system includes article citation as heavy-weighted criteria, amongst other criteria such as academic reputation, employer reputation, international faculty and international students. Therefore, quality improvement on article writing to meet international journal standards is very much important to support government of Indonesia’s ambition in improving the international ranking of Indonesian universities.

Came at the fourth in ASEAN region for most cited articles3, Indonesia is still thriving for better position on the ranking. Systemic efforts related to quality improvement of research has been done by government such as the development of the Indonesia index researchers performance measurement tool, SiNTA (Science, Innovation Index)4 and national platform for scholarly publications, GARUDA (Garda Rujukan Digital)5. SiNTA is a web-based research information system offering fast access, easy and comprehensive tool to measure the performance of researchers, institutions and journals in Indonesia. GARUDA serves as a resource platform to find scholarly-publication in Indonesia. Aside on the development of technology and system, human resources development is essential to boost country’s research sector performance.


4 http://sinta2.ristekdikti.go.id/

5 http://garuda.ristekdikti.go.id/
Government of Indonesia has been investing significantly to increase the quality of university. Article writing has been a vital part of this effort. This effort is also supported by a newly launched research grant ‘World Class Research’ (WCR). The WCR is intended for Indonesian researchers who plan to publish their articles in top 200 reputable international journals. Upon completion of this training, participants will be able to utilize this funding mechanism as part of post-training action plan. With this mechanism, tangible outputs such as international publication are expected.

Although the number of Indonesian indexed journals has been increasing year by year, quality is still an issue in order to boost up Indonesia university in the world’s university ranking.

Through the Professional Development and Engagement strand of the Newton Fund, the UK suppliers will be asked to conduct two training workshops on Academic Writing. The back to back 2 days course will be addressed to 30 participants in two different cities in Indonesia. Participants of the training will include experienced researchers and academics from Indonesia universities and the principal investigators/grant holder of Newton Institutional Links. The course will include a plenary session and parallel sessions for STEM focused and Social Science articles.

Given the different participants’ background the UK suppliers will need to able to demonstrate specialist knowledge and experience in delivering training to STEM and social sciences researchers as well as ability to draw from experience working in relevant UK sectors.

This capacity development activity will further support Indonesia research sector to push the quality of research/academic articles of Indonesian researchers to international-class level.

2.2 The purpose and scope of this RFP and supporting documents is to explain in further detail the requirements of the British Council and the procurement process for submitting a tender proposal.

3 Tender Conditions and Contractual Requirements

This section of the RFP sets out the British Council’s contracting requirements, general policy requirements, and the general tender conditions relating to this procurement process ("Procurement Process").

3.1 Contracting requirements

3.1.1 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 (see: http://www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/structure/status).

3.1.2 The appointed supplier will be expected to deliver the goods and/or provide services at their own premises, and at the British Council offices in London and/or Pune, India, and at other locations to be confirmed by the British Council.

3.1.3 The British Council’s contracting and commercial approach in respect of the required goods and/or services is set out at Annex 1 (Terms and Conditions of contract) ("Contract"). By submitting a tender
response, you are agreeing to be bound by the terms of this RFP and the Contract without further negotiation or amendment.

3.1.4  The Contract awarded will be between 4 February 2019 and 31 March 2019.

3.1.5  In the event that you have any concerns or queries in relation to the Contract, you should submit a clarification request in accordance with the provisions of this RFP by the Clarification Deadline (as defined below in the Timescales section of this RFP). Following such clarification requests, the British Council may issue a clarification change to the Contract that will apply to all potential suppliers submitting a tender response.

3.1.6  The British Council is under no obligations to consider any clarifications / amendments to the Contract proposed following the Clarification Deadline, but before the Response Deadline (as defined below in the Timescales section of this RFP). Any proposed amendments received from a potential supplier as part its tender response shall entitle the British Council to reject that tender response and to disqualify that potential supplier from this Procurement Process.

3.2 General Policy Requirements

3.2.1  By submitting a tender response in connection with this Procurement Process, potential suppliers confirm that they will, and that they shall ensure that any consortium members and/or subcontractors will, comply with all applicable laws, codes of practice, statutory guidance and applicable British Council policies relevant to the goods and/or services being supplied. All relevant British Council policies that suppliers are expected to comply with can be found on the British Council website (www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/transparency/policies). The list of relevant policies includes (but it is not limited to): Anti-Fraud and Corruption, Child Protection Policy, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, Fair Trading, Health and Safety Policy, Environmental Policy, Records Management, and Privacy.

3.3 General tender conditions (“Tender Conditions”)

3.3.1  Application of these Tender Conditions – In participating in this Procurement Process and/or by submitting a tender response it will be implied that you accept and will be bound by all the provisions of this RFP and its Annexes. Accordingly, tender responses should be on the basis of and strictly in accordance with the requirements of this RFP.

3.3.2  Third party verifications – Your tender response is submitted on the basis that you consent to the British Council carrying out all necessary actions to verify the information that you have provided; and the analysis of your tender response being undertaken by one or more third parties commissioned by the British Council for such purposes.

3.3.3  Information provided to potential suppliers – Information that is supplied to potential suppliers as part of this Procurement Process is supplied in good faith. The information contained in the RFP and the supporting documents and in any related written or oral communication is believed to be correct at the time of issue but the British Council will not accept any liability for its accuracy, adequacy or completeness and
no warranty is given as such. This exclusion does not extend to any fraudulent misrepresentation made by
or on behalf of the British Council.

3.3.4 Potential suppliers to make their own enquiries – You are responsible for analysing and reviewing all
information provided to you as part of this Procurement Process and for forming your own opinions and
seeking advice as you consider appropriate. You should notify the British Council promptly of any perceived
ambiguity, inconsistency or omission in this RFP and/or any in of its associated documents and/or in any
information provided to you as part of this Procurement Process.

3.3.5 Amendments to the RFP – At any time prior to the Response Deadline, the British Council may
amend the RFP. Any such amendment shall be issued to all potential suppliers, and if appropriate to ensure
potential suppliers have reasonable time in which to take such amendment into account, the Response
Deadline shall, at the discretion of the British Council, be extended.

3.3.6 Compliance of tender response submission – Any goods and/or services offered should be on the
basis of and strictly in accordance with the RFP (including, without limitation, any specification of the British
Council’s requirements, these Tender Conditions and the Contract) and all other documents and any
clarifications or updates issued by the British Council as part of this Procurement Process.

3.3.7 Format of tender response submission – Tender responses must comprise the relevant documents
specified by the British Council completed in all areas and in the format as detailed by the British Council in
Annex 2 (Supplier Response). Any documents requested by the British Council must be completed in full. It
is, therefore, important that you read the RFP carefully before completing and submitting your tender
response.

3.3.8 Modifications to tender response documents once submitted – You may modify your tender
response prior to the Response Deadline by giving written notice to the British Council. Any modification
should be clear and submitted as a complete new tender response in accordance with Annex 2 (Supplier
Response) and these Tender Conditions.

3.3.9 Rejection of tender responses or other documents – A tender response or any other document
requested by the British Council may be rejected which:

- contains gaps, omissions, misrepresentations, errors, uncompleted sections, or changes to the
  format of the tender documentation provided;
- contains hand written amendments which have not been initialled by the authorised signatory;
- does not reflect and confirm full and unconditional compliance with all of the documents issued by
  the British Council forming part of the RFP;
- contains any caveats or any other statements or assumptions qualifying the tender response that are
  not capable of evaluation in accordance with the evaluation model or requiring changes to any
  documents issued by the British Council in any way;
- is not submitted in a manner consistent with the provisions set out in this RFP;
- is received after the Response Deadline.
3.3.10 **Disqualification** – If you breach these Tender Conditions, if there are any errors, omissions or material adverse changes relating to any information supplied by you at any stage in this Procurement Process, if any other circumstances set out in this RFP, and/or in any supporting documents, entitling the British Council to reject a tender response apply and/or if you or your appointed advisers attempt:

- to inappropriately influence this Procurement Process;
- to fix or set the price for goods or services;
- to enter into an arrangement with any other party that such party shall refrain from submitting a tender response;
- to enter into any arrangement with any other party (other than another party that forms part of your consortium bid or is your proposed sub-contractor) as to the prices submitted; or
- to collude in any other way
- to engage in direct or indirect bribery or canvassing by you or your appointed advisers in relation to this Procurement Process; or
- to obtain information from any of the employees, agents or advisors of the British Council concerning this Procurement Process (other than as set out in these Tender Conditions) or from another potential supplier or another tender response,

the British Council shall be entitled to reject your tender response in full and to disqualify you from this Procurement Process. Subject to the “Liability” Tender Condition below, by participating in this Procurement Process you accept that the British Council shall have no liability to a disqualified potential supplier in these circumstances.

3.3.11 **Tender costs** – You are responsible for obtaining all information necessary for preparation of your tender response and for all costs and expenses incurred in preparation of the tender response. Subject to the “Liability” Tender Condition below, you accept by your participation in this procurement, including without limitation the submission of a tender response, that you will not be entitled to claim from the British Council any costs, expenses or liabilities that you may incur in tendering for this procurement irrespective of whether or not your tender response is successful.

3.3.12 **Rights to cancel or vary this Procurement Process** - By issuing this RFP, entering into clarification communications with potential suppliers or by having any other form of communication with potential suppliers, the British Council is not bound in any way to enter into any contractual or other arrangement with you or any other potential supplier. It is intended that the remainder of this Procurement Process will take place in accordance with the provisions of this RFP but the British Council reserves the right to terminate, amend or vary (to include, without limitation, in relation to any timescales or deadlines) this Procurement Process by notice to all potential supplier in writing. Subject to the “Liability” Tender Condition below, the British will have no liability for any losses, costs or expenses caused to you as a result of such termination, amendment or variation.

3.3.13 **Consortium Members and sub-contractors** – It is your responsibility to ensure that any staff, consortium members, sub-contractors and advisers abide by these Tender Conditions and the requirement of this RFP.
3.3.14 **Liability** – Nothing in these Tender Conditions is intended to exclude or limit the liability of the British Council in relation to fraud or in other circumstances where the British Council’s liability may not be limited under any applicable law.

4 **Confidentiality and Information Governance**

4.1 All information supplied to you by the British Council, including this RFP and all other documents relating to this Procurement Process, either in writing or orally, must be treated in confidence and not disclosed to any third party (save to your professional advisers, consortium members and/or sub-contractors strictly for the purposes only of helping you to participate in this Procurement Process and/or prepare your tender response) unless the information is already in the public domain or is required to be disclosed under any applicable laws.

4.2 You shall not disclose, copy or reproduce any of the information supplied to you as part of this Procurement Process other than for the purposes of preparing and submitting a tender response. There must be no publicity by you regarding the Procurement Process or the future award of any contract unless the British Council has given express written consent to the relevant communication.

4.3 This RFP and its accompanying documents shall remain the property of the British Council and must be returned on demand.

4.4 The British Council reserves the right to disclose all documents relating to this Procurement Process, including without limitation your tender response, to any employee, third party agent, adviser or other third party involved in the procurement in support of, and/or in collaboration with, the British Council. The British Council further reserves the right to publish the Contract once awarded and/or disclose information in connection with supplier performance under the Contract in accordance with any public sector transparency policies (as referred to below). By participating in this Procurement Process, you agree to such disclosure and/or publication by the British Council in accordance with such rights reserved by it under this paragraph.

4.5 The Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FOIA"), the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 ("EIR"), and public sector transparency policies apply to the British Council (together the "Disclosure Obligations").

4.6 You should be aware of the British Council’s obligations and responsibilities under the Disclosure Obligations to disclose information held by the British Council. Information provided by you in connection with this Procurement Process, or with any contract that may be awarded as a result of this exercise, may therefore have to be disclosed by the British Council under the Disclosure Obligations, unless the British Council decides that one of the statutory exemptions under the FOIA or the EIR applies.
4.7 If you wish to designate information supplied as part of your tender response or otherwise in connection with this tender exercise as confidential, using any template and/or further guidance provided at Part 2 (Submission Checklist) of Annex 2 (Supplier Response), you must provide clear and specific detail as to:

- the precise elements which are considered confidential and/or commercially sensitive;
- why you consider an exemption under the FOIA or EIR would apply; and
- the estimated length of time during which the exemption will apply.

4.8 The use of blanket protective markings of whole documents such as “commercial in confidence” will not be sufficient. By participating in this Procurement Process you agree that the British Council should not and will not be bound by any such markings.

4.9 In addition, marking any material as “confidential” or “commercially sensitive” or equivalent should not be taken to mean that the British Council accepts any duty of confidentiality by virtue of such marking. You accept that the decision as to which information will be disclosed is reserved to the British Council, notwithstanding any consultation with you or any designation of information as confidential or commercially sensitive or equivalent you may have made. You agree, by participating further in this Procurement Process and/or submitting your tender response, that all information is provided to the British Council on the basis that it may be disclosed under the Disclosure Obligations if the British Council considers that it is required to do so and/or may be used by the British Council in accordance with the provisions provision of this RFP.

4.10 Tender responses are also submitted on the condition that the appointed supplier will only process personal data (as may be defined under any relevant data protection laws) that it gains access to in performance of this Contract in accordance with the British Council’s instructions and will not use such personal data for any other purpose. The contracted supplier will undertake to process any personal data on the British Council’s behalf in accordance with the relevant provisions of any relevant data protection laws and to ensure all consents required under such laws are obtained.

5 Tender Validity

5.1 Your tender response must remain open for acceptance by the British Council for a period of 45 days from the Response Deadline. A tender response not valid for this period may be rejected by the British Council.

6 Payment and Invoicing

6.1 The British Council will pay correctly addressed and undisputed invoices within 30 days in accordance with the requirements of the Contract. Suppliers to the British Council must ensure comparable
payment provisions apply to the payment of their sub-contractors and the sub-contractors of their sub-contractors. General requirements for an invoice for the British Council include:

- A description of the good/services supplied is included.
- The British Council Purchase Order number is included.
- It is sent electronically via email in PDF format to BC.Invoices@britishcouncil.org or by post to:
  The British Council, Corporate Services – UK Hub Team, 10 Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BN

7. Specification

Objective

The proposed training aims to increase capacity of Indonesian researchers in international publication writing.

Activities

The suppliers will conduct a 2 day workshop in two cities in Indonesia. One to one programme in form of manuscript review of Indonesian researchers will be essential in this training. The format, focus and thematic areas will be agreed with the successful bidders. The aim of the workshops is to strengthen the quality of manuscript up to international journal standards.

The workshop should be delivered by 2 suppliers, one with a strong specialist training expertise on Academic Writing for social sciences and the other one for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). The workshops will be conducted in half day plenary and 1.5 day of parallel session of one to one manuscript review (format of this to be agreed).

Suppliers will develop training materials tailored to participants’ needs and these will be then made available online on the British Council website in Indonesia.

Suppliers will also provide post-workshop support in the 10 days following the delivery of the workshop.

The training will be addressed to 30 researchers for each workshop (15 from social sciences and 15 from STEM)

The workshops will take place on the first week of March 2019. Final dates will be agreed with the successful bidders.

UK suppliers

Suppliers from UK/international Q1 or Q2 journals and/or academics that have successfully published articles on Q1 and Q2 journals and have strong relevant training experience are invited to apply.

Overview of deliverables

a) Planning meetings with the British Council and Ristekdikti via Skype and/or email for content development
b) Designing workshop content and modes of workshop assessment

c) Participant selection

d) 2 day workshop delivery in two cities in Indonesia.

e) One to one follow up support for workshop participants in the 10 days following the end of the workshop

f) Draft a project final report, to be submitted at a date and in a format to be confirmed in writing by the British Council

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

The successful suppliers will be encouraged to create an online survey prior to the workshop to assist with the workshop preparation and to act as baseline. A post-workshop survey will also be required. The results of these will be included in the final report. This report will also include a narrative summary of the workshop and recommendations for any future professional development training.

**8 Mandatory Requirements / Constraints**

8.1 As part of your tender response, you must confirm that you meet the mandatory requirements / constraints, if any, as set out in the British Council’s specification forming part of this RFP. A failure to comply with one or more mandatory requirements or constraints shall entitle the British Council to reject a tender response in full.

8.2 Suppliers are invited to formulate a detailed proposal for the initial activity that represents value for money against a maximum budget of GBP 12,800 exclusive of VAT.

8.3 Travel and Expenses: Please note that all travel, meals and accommodation costs will be paid separately by the British Council in line with the British Council travel policy and therefore the cost for these are not required to be included in your proposed costs.

**9 Qualification Requirements**

9.1 As part of your tender response, you must confirm compliance with any qualification requirements as set out at Annex 2 (Supplier Response). A failure to comply with one or more such qualification requirements shall entitle the British Council to reject a tender response in full.

**10 Key background documents and further information**

10.1 Further relevant background documents / information may be provided to potential suppliers as set out below, as an Annex to this RFP and/or by way of the issue of additional documents / links to additional
information / documents. Where no such information / documents are provided, this Section of the RFP will not apply.

11 Timescales

11.1 Subject to any changes notified to potential suppliers by the British Council in accordance with the Tender Conditions, the following timescales shall apply to this Procurement Process:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date / time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RFP Issued to bidding suppliers</td>
<td>17 December 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for clarification questions (Clarity Deadline)</td>
<td>20 January 2019 by 17.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Council to respond to clarification questions</td>
<td>22 January 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for submission of RFP responses by potential suppliers (Response Deadline)</td>
<td>27 January 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Decision</td>
<td>30 January 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract concluded with winning supplier</td>
<td>25 January 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract start date</td>
<td>4 February 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12 Instructions for Responding

12.1 The documents that must be submitted to form your tender response are listed at Part 2 (Submission Checklist) of Annex 2 (Supplier Response) to this RFP. All documents required as part of your tender response should be submitted to UK-PDE@britishcouncil.org by the Response Deadline, as set out in the Timescales section of this RFP.

12.2 The following requirements should be complied with when submitting your response to this RFP:

- Please ensure that you send your submission in good time to prevent issues with technology – late tender responses may be rejected by the British Council.

- Do not submit any additional supporting documentation with your RFP response except where specifically requested to do so as part of this RFP. PDF, JPG, PPT, Word and Excel formats can be used for any additional supporting documentation (other formats should not be used without the prior written approval of the British Council).

- All attachments/supporting documentation should be provided separately to your main tender response and clearly labelled to make it clear as to which part of your tender 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 tender response.
• Unless otherwise stated as part of this RFP or its Annexes, all tender responses should be in the format of the relevant British Council requirement with your response to that requirement inserted underneath.

• Where supporting evidence is requested as ‘or equivalent’ you must demonstrate such equivalence as part of your tender response.

• Any deliberate alteration of a British Council requirement as part of your tender response will invalidate your tender response to that requirement and for evaluation purposes you shall be deemed not to have responded to that particular requirement.

• Responses should concise, unambiguous, and should directly address the requirement stated.

• Your tender responses to the tender requirements and pricing will be incorporated into the Contract, as appropriate.

13 Clarification Requests

13.1 All clarification requests should be submitted to UK-PDE@britishcouncil.org by the Clarification Deadline, as set out in the Timescales section of this RFP. The British Council is under no obligation to respond to clarification requests received after the Clarification Deadline.

13.2 Any clarification requests should clearly reference the appropriate paragraph in the RFP documentation and, to the extent possible, should be aggregated rather than sent individually.

13.3 The British Council reserves the right to issue any clarification request made by you, and the response, to all potential suppliers unless you expressly require it to be kept confidential at the time the request is made. If the British Council considers the contents of the request not to be confidential, it will inform you and you will have the opportunity to withdraw the clarification query prior to the British Council responding to all potential suppliers.

13.4 The British Council may at any time request further information from potential suppliers to verify or clarify any aspects of their tender response or other information they may have provided. Should you not provide supplementary information or clarifications to the British Council by any deadline notified to you, your tender response may be rejected in full and you may be disqualified from this Procurement Process.

14 Evaluation Criteria

14.1 You will have your tender response evaluated as set out below:

Stage 1: Tender responses will be checked to ensure that they have been completed correctly and all necessary information has been provided. Tenders responses correctly completed with all relevant information being provided will proceed to Stage 2. Any tender responses not correctly completed in accordance with the requirements of this RFP and/or containing omissions may be rejected at this point.
Where a tender response is rejected at this point it will automatically be disqualified and will not be further evaluated.

**Stage 2:** If a bidder succeeds in passing Stage 1 of the evaluation, then it will have its detailed tender response to the British Council’s requirements evaluated in accordance with the evaluation methodology set out below. Information provided as part of Qualification Questionnaire (if used) responses may also be verified as part of this stage.

14.2 **Award Criteria** – Responses from potential suppliers will be assessed to determine the most economically advantages tender using the following criteria and weightings and will be assessed entirely on your response submitted:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge &amp; Experience</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodology and Approach</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporting, Monitoring and evaluation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

14.3 **Scoring Model** – Tender responses will be subject to an initial review at the start of Stage 3 of the evaluation process. Any tender responses not meeting mandatory requirements or constraints (if any) will be rejected in full at this point and will not be assessed or scored further. Tender responses not so rejected will be scored by an evaluation panel appointed by the British Council for all criteria other than Commercial using the following scoring model:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Interpretation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>Excellent</strong> – Overall the response demonstrates that the bidder meets all areas of the requirement and provides all of the areas evidence requested in the level of detail requested. This, therefore, is a detailed excellent response that meets all aspects of the requirement leaving no ambiguity as to whether the bidder can meet the requirement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Good</strong> – Overall the response demonstrates that the bidder meets all areas of the requirement and provides all of the areas of evidence requested, but contains some trivial omissions in relation to the level of detail requested in terms of either the response or the evidence. This, therefore, is a good response that meets all aspects of the requirement with only a trivial level ambiguity due the bidder's failure to provide all information at the level of detail requested.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Adequate
- Overall the response demonstrates that the bidder meets all areas of the requirement, but not all of the areas of evidence requested have been provided. This, therefore, is an adequate response, but with some limited ambiguity as to whether the bidder can meet the requirement due to the bidder’s failure to provide all of the evidence requested.

### Poor
- The response does not demonstrate that the bidder meets the requirement in one or more areas. This, therefore, is a poor response with significant ambiguity as to whether the bidder can meet the requirement due to the failure by the bidder to show that it meets one or more areas of the requirement.

### Unacceptable
- The response is non-compliant with the requirements of the RFP and/or no response has been provided.

#### 14.4 Commercial Evaluation
- Your “Overall Price” (as calculated in accordance with requirements of Annex 2 (Supplier Response) for the goods and/or services will be evaluated by the evaluation panel for the purposes of the commercial evaluation. Prices must not be subject to any pricing assumptions, qualifications or indexation not provided for explicitly by the British Council as part of the pricing approach. In the event that any prices are expressed as being subject to any pricing assumptions, qualifications or indexation not provided for by the British Council as part of the pricing approach, the British Council may reject the full tender response at this point. The British Council may also reject any tender response where the Overall Price for the goods and/or services is considered by the British Council to be abnormally low following the relevant processes set out under the EU procurement rules. A maximum offer score of 10 will be awarded to the tender response offering the lowest “Overall Price”. Other tender responses will be awarded a mark by application of the following formula: \((\text{Lowest Overall Price}/\text{Overall Price being evaluated}) \times 10\) (rounded to two decimal places) = commercial score.

#### 14.5 Moderation and application of weightings
- The evaluation panel appointed for this procurement will meet to agree and moderate scores for each award criteria. Final scores in terms of a percentage of the overall tender score will be obtained by applying the relevant weighting factors set out as part of the award criteria table above. The percentage scores for each award criteria will be amalgamated to give a percentage score out of 100.

#### 14.6 The winning tender response
- The winning tender response shall be the tender response scoring the highest percentage score out of 100 when applying the above evaluation methodology, which is also supported by any required verification evidence (to include, without limitation, any updated information or references relating to any Qualification Question responses) obtained by the Authority relating to any self-certification or other requirements referred to in the Qualification Questionnaire (if used). If any verification evidence requested from a supplier, or a relevant third party as may be referred to by the supplier in the Qualification Questionnaire (if used) as a party prepared to provide such information, is not provided in accordance with any timescales specified by the British Council and/or any evidence reviewed by the British
Council (whose decision shall be final) does not demonstrate compliance with any such requirement, the British Council may reject that tender response in full and disqualify the potential winning supplier from the Procurement Process at that point.

**List of Annexes forming part of this RFP (issued as separate documents):**

- Annex 1 - Terms and Conditions of Contract
- Annex 2 – Supplier Response