
NEWTON-BHABHA FUND RESEARCHER LINKS INDIA WORKSHOPS GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS APRIL 2020 VERSION 2

Overview of Change(s) From Previous Version:

Change	Page in version 1	Page in version 2
Rewording of Newton Fund to Newton-Bhabha Fund	1-15	1-15
Selection Process to include Department of Biotechnology (DBT)	13	13

Country included in this call: India

Call opens: 20 April 2020

Call closes: 12 June 2020, 16:00hrs UK time

CONTENTS

1. Background.....	3
2. Overview of the funding opportunity.....	3
3. Relevance to global development	4
4. Gender Equality Statement	5
5. Eligibility	6
6. Location of the workshops	7
7. Duration of the workshops	7
8. Timing of the workshops	7
9. Language	8
10. Thematic focus of the workshops.....	8
11. Content of the workshop	8
12. Recruitment of participants	9
13. Funding	9
14. Reporting	11
15. Ethics and research governance.....	11
16. Diversity	11
17. Application process	12
18. Application assessment and notification of results	13
19. Selection process.....	13
20. Call deadline	14
21. Data protection.....	14
22. Applicant screening.....	14

23. Contractual requirements.....	15
24. Find a UK collaborator for your Newton Fund application	15

1. Background

The Newton Fund builds research and innovation partnerships with 17 active partner countries to support their economic development and social welfare, and to develop their research and innovation capacity for long-term sustainable growth. It has a total UK Government investment of £735 million up until 2021, with matched resources from the partner countries. The UK works in partnership with India under the Newton-Bhabha Fund to deliver global development impact as its primary benefit.

The Newton Fund is managed by the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), and delivered through 7 UK delivery partners, which includes UK Research and Innovation (comprising the 7 research councils and Innovate UK), the UK Academies, the British Council and the Met Office.

For further information visit the Newton Fund website (www.newtonfund.ac.uk) and follow via Twitter: [@NewtonFund](https://twitter.com/NewtonFund)

Tackling global challenges – such as extreme weather conditions, urbanisation, access to affordable health care, food and energy security, and meeting the social and economic needs of a growing population – requires an integrated research and innovation approach, bringing together communities from different disciplines, sectors, and countries in high-quality collaborations.

All Researcher Links-funded workshops will have the following three overarching objectives:

- **Support international development-relevant research** – Workshops under the Newton-Bhabha Fund are intended to support research areas relevant to address development needs that are global.
- **Contribute to capacity building of early career researchers** – The proposal must include a description of how the workshop will contribute to the personal and professional development of the participants. Principal Applicants should indicate how they envisage this occurring, including any plans for long-term mentoring of early career researchers (either within each country, or cross-nationally).
- **Establish new research links or significantly develop existing links, with the potential for longer term sustainability** – Principal Applicants must outline the specific outputs anticipated from the workshop. The aim of the workshop is to stimulate longer term links between the UK and India, as well as to contribute to the personal and professional development of the participants. The workshop proposal should include an explanation of the mutual benefits to the UK and Indian researchers and institutions. They should also explore any potential longer term benefit that might arise, thinking about who might benefit and how they might benefit and describing the actions that will be taken to ensure that potential impact is realised.

2. Overview of the funding opportunity

Researcher Links Workshop grants are designed to provide financial support to bring together a UK/India bilateral cohort of early career researchers to take part in workshops to meet the overarching objectives. The programme is supported by UK government and partner country funding and forms part of the Newton Fund: (<http://www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/researcher-links>).

Each workshop will be co-ordinated by two Leading or Established Researchers¹, (Principal Applicants), one from each country, and will focus either on a specific research area or on an interdisciplinary theme (for example ‘Sustainable Cities’). Principal Applicants can identify up to four additional Leading or Established Researchers¹ (two from each country) to be involved in the workshop and act as mentors, but the remaining participants must be researchers at an earlier stage in their career (either Recognised or early-stage Established researchers¹).

Proposals in any discipline/multidisciplinary area will be accepted (including the natural sciences, social sciences, and arts and humanities). However, some countries have specified priority research areas (see Appendix 1 for country specific guidance).

Not-for-profit higher education institutions or publicly-funded research organisations can participate in Researcher Links workshops. For-profit organisations and not-for-profit organisations can participate but are usually **not** eligible to apply for Workshop grants. **For-profit organisations are not eligible to receive any grant funds.** Please see list of eligible UK research institutions [here](#). Please contact us at UK-Researcherlinks@britishcouncil.org if you are in doubt about the eligibility of your institution.

In the April 2020 call the following country is inviting proposals for Researcher Links workshops:

- **India**

3. Relevance to global development

For the purpose of the Researcher Links programme under the Newton Bhabha Fund, we define activities leading to global impact with development relevance as activities that have the potential to contribute to economic development and social welfare which benefits low income and/or vulnerable parts of the population around the world.

In order to be considered for funding under the Researcher Links programme, **all proposals must clearly demonstrate a primary focus on development and articulate a plausible route to positive impact within a short to medium term timeframe (within 10 years). Applications which do not meet this criterion cannot receive support under the Researcher Links programme.**

In some disciplines, development relevance can be longer term and less direct than in other areas. In all cases, it is the responsibility of the applicant to articulate within the application how the proposed activities will meet these criteria.

Applicants must complete the development impact compliance section of the application form and should not expect reviewers to make assumptions about development impact that is not clearly described within the proposal.

Failure to demonstrate compliance will render your application ineligible, regardless of other success criteria. Please make sure you consider the development relevance of your application. Applicants are encouraged to refer to specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs; <https://www.globalgoals.org/>) where possible.

In order to show development relevance within the context of their proposed project, applicants are advised to include within their application reference to any local, national or international

¹ For an indication of profiles for the different categories of participants, we suggest applicants refer to the European Commission's "Towards a European framework for Research Careers" https://cdn5.euraxess.org/sites/default/files/policy_library/towards_a_european_framework_for_research_careers_final.pdf ". Principal Applicants and mentors should be at 'R4 – Leading Researcher' level or 'R3 – Established Researcher' level, and early career participants at 'R2 –Recognised Researcher' level or at the beginning of R3 level.

consultation, links to government policies, and existing links with government institutions and must clearly articulate the importance to relevant global challenges.

Agreements for ownership and exploitation of intellectual property generated through project activities must be consistent with the primary aim of addressing development issues.

Transparency and reporting

As part of the government's commitment to transparency and in line with DFID reporting requirements, there is a requirement to publish information about grants including project titles and summaries via the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) registry and via DFID's national statistics.

The purpose of publishing information via the IATI registry is to make information development related research easily accessible to governments, stakeholders and other relevant groups in beneficiary countries. All funded projects from this programme will be published in this way. Please therefore write your project title and summary in such a way that they are meaningful and accessible to non-specialist audiences, following publication.

It is expected that the project title and summary are written in plain English and avoid the use of jargon, acronyms, puns and plays on words. **Please also make clear in your project title and summary how your project is relevant to global development**, for example by identifying the development challenge(s) or relevant SDGs being addressed, the aims of the project and its beneficiaries.

4. 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. This should be about the project specifically – the outputs and outcomes; the make-up of the project team; participants, stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project; and the processes followed throughout the research programme. 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. The Gender Statement must **address the below criteria**, with an understanding that, depending on the nature of the research and innovation, not all questions will be applicable. **If a question is not applicable, you will need to articulate the reasons why.**

- 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 research and innovation.
- 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)?

UKRI provide useful guidance on Gender Equality Statements for their grant applications. You can find this at: <https://www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/gender-equality-and-international-development-research-and-innovation/>

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.

5. Eligibility

Leading or Established Researchers may apply to be workshop Principal Applicants and must propose a theme for the workshop using the online application form (See Section 17. Application process). The proposal must be a joint application, with one Principal Applicant based at a UK institution and one based in the partner country (India). Applications must have the support of the Indian and UK institutions, confirmed by supporting letters uploaded in the online application. In this round, only one application may be submitted per Principal Applicant, but there is no limit to the number of applications submitted per institution.

Proposals must fulfil the following criteria in order to be eligible for funding under this Programme:

- Each proposal must have one Principal Applicant from the UK **and** one Principal Applicant from India, the partner country
- Both Principal Applicants must be Leading Researchers or Established Researchers
- Principal Applicants cannot assume role of workshop Mentors
- Principal Applicants must be permanent employees of one of the following (this means that Emeritus and Honorary Professors may not apply as lead):
- A not-for-profit higher education institution unless specified otherwise in Appendix 1
- A UK higher education institution (all UK higher education institutions are eligible)
- A not-for-profit research organisation. A Catapult Centre (in the case of the UK Principal Applicant).
- Both of the Principal Applicants' institutions (the 'Lead Institutions') must have the capacity to administer the grant where contracting requires
- Individual departments within a single institution can make multiple applications per call provided that the proposed activities are clearly different
- Principal Applicants may only submit one Researcher Links application per Researcher Links call.
- Principal Applicants that have received Researcher Links grants **in previous years** can submit further applications for Researcher Links provided the proposed activities are clearly distinct from, or build on, any already funded through the Newton Fund. In all cases the additionality must be clearly articulated in the application.
- Organisations affiliated to higher education institutions in the UK or any other country and based in India, the partner country, (e.g. an overseas campus) are not eligible for Newton Fund awarded grants. (ECRs or early career researchers from affiliated organisations however are eligible as workshop participants).

Not-for-profit higher education institutions or publicly-funded research organisations **are eligible** to apply as Lead Institutions. For-profit organisations and not-for-profit organisations can participate in but are usually **not** eligible to apply for Researcher Links grants. Furthermore, **for-profit organisations are not eligible to receive any grant funds.**

If you are unsure about your organisation's eligibility, for UK see the link at <https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/current-opportunities/newton-fund-researcher-links-workshops>

For partner countries, please contact the local British Council office.

Eligibility checks will be applied to all proposals on receipt. Proposals which are not led by a recognised not-for-profit higher education institution or a publicly-funded research organisation (unless specified otherwise in Appendix 1) will be rejected during these checks. Please see Appendix 2 for a full list of eligibility criteria.

6. Location of the workshops

It is expected that most workshops will take place in India, the partner country, (i.e. outside of the UK) unless indicated otherwise in Appendix 1. However, if there is a compelling reason for the workshop to take place in the UK, then this should be detailed in the proposal and agreed with the British Council.

7. Duration of the workshops

The minimum duration of a workshop is three (3) days and the maximum duration is five (5) days.

8. Timing of the workshops

Workshops must take place between **01 February 2021 and 31 January 2022.**

Participation in the workshops:

The two Principal Applicants must identify up to 4 Leading/Established Researchers (see footnote on page 3 for a definition), two from each country, to act as mentors, but the remaining participants must be researchers at an earlier stage in their career. (Principal Applicants cannot be identified as mentors as well). The maximum number of participants per workshop is 40 (including Principal Applicants, mentors and early career researchers). Participants must be based in the UK or in the partner country.

Workshop places must be allocated to early career researchers through an open call once the British Council has notified the applicants that their proposal has been successful. Criteria for the selection of early career researchers will be made available to Principal Applicants. However, we would expect early career researchers to have been awarded their PhD not more than 10 years prior to the workshop (or to have equivalent experience), but allowances can be made for career breaks or other extenuating circumstances. If a researcher does not hold a PhD but has research experience equivalent to a PhD holder and works in a field where a PhD is not a prerequisite for established research activity, they can still be considered eligible. Participants from for-profit organisations cannot be funded.

Role of the Principal Applicants: Principal Applicants submit the online application form along with a budget request, determine the workshop theme and shape the content/agenda of the workshop. Principal Applicants – overseen by the relevant British Council country office and in-country partners, if appropriate – will also be responsible for selecting early career researchers to participate in the workshop if the proposal is successful.

Under this call for proposals, Principal Applicants will be responsible for all organisational aspects of the workshop logistics (including travel arrangements for participants and booking of the workshop venue).

In most cases, the grant agreement will be signed by the UK Principal Applicant's home institution which will be responsible for the management of the grant (including financial reporting). However, in some countries this is subject to change and the final terms will be communicated to successful applicants.

Role of the Mentors: Established Researchers can give a limited number of keynote lectures but must also act as mentors to the early career researchers during the workshop. Ideally, they would also remain in contact with the early career researchers after the workshop has finished.

9. Language

Workshops will be held in English. It is expected that all participants will have a sufficient standard of English to engage fully in discussion. However, consideration should be given to non-native speakers.

10. Thematic focus of the workshops

Workshops may be specific to a particular field of research or interdisciplinary in nature. Any relevant field of research can be covered, except where partner countries have indicated specific priority areas (please see Appendix 1 for country priority areas).

11. Content of the workshop

Principal Applicants are expected to lead on developing the research content of the workshops. However, workshops are intended to be a career development opportunity with a focus on promoting international collaboration, and there are specific guidelines to facilitate this. The following is a brief overview, and more detailed guidance will be provided to successful applicants:

Sessions should be as interactive as possible, and all participants encouraged to share knowledge, experience and ideas. Principal Applicants and mentors should share their expertise.

Suggested sessions:

- Formal keynote lectures by the Principal Applicants and mentors. These must take up no more than a half-day in total (ideally spread over the workshop).
- Principal Applicants or Mentors are also encouraged to deliver a Public Lecture open to all interested audiences in the university.
- Research sessions where the early career researchers are able to share their current research. This could be in poster format or oral presentations.
- Networking sessions where researchers are able to interact and explore opportunities for collaboration, (e.g. speed-networking sessions). These could be organised as Breakout sessions where sub-theme specific sessions can happen for small group interactions. Idea is to identify key future directions on the subject of study.
- At least one open brainstorming session to discuss and highlight the future of the field, current status in UK/India/Internationally and opportunities for partnering countries.
- Overview of the research base and funding opportunities: a brief introduction to the research base in the UK and partner country – how research is funded, size, strengths, international collaborative activity and links with industry.
- Career development opportunities in the UK and partner country. This could be an informal discussion amongst the researchers or a more structured look at career development.
- How to form international collaborations (intercultural skills, challenges, opportunities, best practice, etc.).
- Optional content within workshops (where appropriate, these sessions would be welcomed and are encouraged):
 - Depending on the research field or theme of the workshop, Principal Applicants may wish to include a session which invites industry or other non-academic partners to talk about cross-sector collaboration.
 - Public engagement activity or a field-visit to a relevant research facility.

12. Recruitment of participants

Following the selection process, successful Principal Applicants will be responsible for recruiting participants to the workshops. Participants must be based in the UK or in the partner country.

Early career researchers recruited to participate in the workshop must have a PhD or equivalent research experience. There must be an open call for participants which must be disseminated through various defined channels² (so that workshops are advertised as widely as possible). **No more than a fifth** of early career researchers from each country may be recruited from within the institutions of the Principal Applicants and mentors.

The selection of early career researchers to participate in the workshop must be fair and transparent. The British Council will provide a template application form for participants which Principal Applicants can adapt as appropriate, and British Council in-country teams will be available to offer advice and oversight where necessary.

The maximum number of participants per workshop is 40 (including Principal Applicants, mentors and ECRs).

Equal opportunities and diversity are at the heart of the British Council's cultural relations ambitions. Principal Applicants are encouraged to work towards as equal a gender balance as possible, promote diversity, and ensure that no applicants are excluded from participation on the basis of ethnicity, gender, religious belief, sexual orientation or disability.

13. Funding

The level of grant funding available from the Newton-Bhabha Fund depends on funding partner: please see Appendix 1 for country-specific limits.

A condition for accessing funds from the Newton-BhaBha Fund Researcher Links programme is that match funding is secured from partners in some countries. For the April 2020 call, the British Council has secured match funding from most national funding agencies or other partners in each participating country. Please see Appendix 1 for more details for each country.

The grant contribution given to support the organisation of the Researcher Links workshops is calculated using a combination of flat unit rates per person and accountable costs.

Researchers and their institutions will be asked to keep and submit receipts and invoices to demonstrate their spend until 31 December 2029.

Full checks of supporting documentation will be carried out on a proportion of the grants.

Further monitoring and evaluation will also be carried out, to be specified in the grant agreement.

There are five budget categories: International travel, Domestic travel, Subsistence, Event costs per day and Additional workshop costs.

Please see Appendix 1 for maximum amounts that can be requested in each budget category. Applicants are required to provide a budget request upon submission of their proposal.

International travel

This is a contribution towards: travel costs to the country of the workshop visa costs, travel insurance and local transport to the workshop venue for international participants. It is calculated

² Examples of dissemination channels:

- Euraxess: <https://www.euraxess.org.uk/>
- UK Research Staff Association: <https://www.vitae.ac.uk/doing-research/research-staff/uk-research-staff-association>
- British Institute at Ankara website: <http://www.biaa.ac.uk/home/>
- British Academy Africa Desk: <http://www.africadesk.ac.uk/pages/home/>

using a unit cost for each workshop participant, at the travel rate stated for the country where the workshop takes place.³ International economy class airfares should be booked as far in advance as possible to minimise costs.

All workshop participants must take out adequate insurance. The British Council cannot take responsibility for any issues which occur when the participants are in-country.

Domestic travel

This covers costs of domestic travel to the venue for all workshop participants based in the country where the workshop takes place. The domestic travel contribution is calculated using a unit cost for each workshop participant and is specific to the country where the workshop takes place.

Subsistence

This covers the costs of accommodation, medical insurance and daily expenses such as phone and local transport. Subsistence is calculated using a unit cost for each workshop participant multiplied by the number of days of the workshop and is specific to the country where the workshop takes place.

Event costs

This covers the costs of venue hire and meals. The event rate grant contribution is calculated using a unit cost for each workshop participant multiplied by the number of days of the workshop and is specific to the country where the workshop takes place.

Contribution to additional workshop costs

Principal Applicants can request a sum to cover:

- Additional event costs not already covered, e.g. projector, flip charts and other materials needed for the organisation of the workshops (including networking and social activities).
- Administrative costs such as communications cost, printing costs and stationery.

Staff costs and honoraria cannot be covered by the Researcher Links grants.

Payment of the grant

The Newton-Bhabha Fund grant for Researcher Links workshops will be paid in 2 instalments: a 90% pre-financing payment will be paid within 30 days of signature of the Grant Agreement, and 10% post-workshop payment, or a recovery, on approval by the British Council of a final report based on actual expenditure submitted by the Principal Applicants. If the workshop has not been delivered as planned, or if fewer participants attended than originally envisaged, resulting in a reduction in costs, the final payment may be withheld and if necessary, a proportion of the grant recovered.

The Researcher Links Grant Agreement will be signed by and the grant paid to one of the Principal Applicant's home institutions, usually the UK. The grant recipient institution that signs the agreement will then be responsible for the management of the grant (including financial reporting). The final terms will be communicated to successful applicants.

Funding offered under the Researcher Links programme is intended as a **contribution** towards the costs of the workshops. Principal Applicants are expected to add a contribution in-kind towards the overall cost of the workshop by dedicating their time to the planning and delivery of the workshops.

³Costs of any additional travel during the workshop – for international and domestic participants – may be covered using the subsistence budget.

Underspend

In cases where beneficiaries have spent less than the budget awarded, the underspend cannot be used for further research activity unless agreed by the British Council. Requests to utilise the underspend should be sent to UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org before additional expenditure occurs. Please note that you cannot request to repurpose the final 10% of the Grant where it is unspent at the time of preparing your final report. Requests to repurpose funding should be emailed along with your Final Report submission before the deadline of 31 January 2022.

14. Reporting

Principal Applicants must submit a final report within 30 days after the workshop as a condition of the grant. The final report template will be sent to successful applicants as part of the grant agreement and will include financial and narrative sections. Further details will also be provided to successful applicants in the detailed workshop guidelines.

Individual workshop participants will be asked to complete an online baseline survey, a baseline follow up survey six months after the workshop and a post workshop feedback questionnaire. Principal Applicants will be asked to send the link to the baseline survey to their participants and also to administer the post-workshop questionnaire.

15. Ethics and research governance

It is essential that all legal and professional codes of practice are followed in conducting work supported under this Programme. Applicants must ensure the proposed activity will be carried out to the highest standards of ethics and research integrity. Specifically, applications that involve research on animals, human participants, human tissue or patient/participant data must be accompanied by necessary permission certificates from the relevant local ethical review committees/authorities in the UK and the partner country, or an undertaking to obtain this permission in advance of the activity commencing. Failure to do so will result in applications being rendered ineligible and any funding already committed through this Programme being rescinded.

Please refer to the Research Councils UK 'Policy and Guidelines on Governance of Good Research Conduct' (<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/Publications/researchers/grc/>), the InterAcademy 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 at UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org for further guidance.

Applicants are highly encouraged to use eco-friendly materials and practices to limit wastages, avoid single-use plastics and contribute to reducing carbon footprint for these workshops.

16. Diversity

The British Council is committed to equal opportunities and diversity in all our activities. This includes avoidance of bias due to gender, disability, racial or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or religious belief.

Principal Applicants are encouraged to work towards as equal a gender balance as possible and promote diversity and must ensure that no applicants are excluded from participation on the basis of ethnicity, gender, religious belief, sexual orientation or disability.

Applicants may apply for funding to cover extra costs for such participation. Please email UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org with requested costs to cover the inclusion of under-represented groups for consideration, after you have submitted your application and quoting your unique application reference number.

Please contact us at UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org for further information on funding and for more on the British Council's approach, see our Equality Policy at <https://www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/transparency/policies/equality-diversity-inclusion>.

17. Application process

Applicants must submit a **completed application form via the [British Council online application system](#)**.

Email submissions will not be accepted. The online form and a word version can be found on the opportunity webpage (<https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/current-opportunities/newton-fund-researcher-links-workshops>). Word versions are for information only. Your application must be submitted using the online process.

Online application form: <https://apply.gmt.britishcouncil.org/outreach/workbench.ofml>

To commence your online application you will be required to register as a new user or if you registered in a previous call, simply log into your existing account with your login and password. As a new registrant, please refer to our Step by Step Guide <https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/current-opportunities/newton-fund-researcher-links-workshops>. You will receive a password enabling you to log on to the application system. There are British Council application forms for several different programmes available.

Please ensure you select “Apply for Researcher Links Workshop Grant 2020”. (The system will only allow you to select one application so it is particularly important to select the correct application at this time).

The online application form allows applicants to enter information and save it for a later date until final submission. There are strict character limits for each section which cannot be exceeded.

In addition to filling in the online form, applicants are required to upload the following documents, as described, by the deadline. **Late submission of supporting documents, or submission of documents which do not comply with these requirements, will render the application ineligible.** Appeals against this decision will not be accepted. The documents are:

- Two statements of support for the workshop from the Head of Department (or equivalent). One statement from the UK institution and one from the partner institution. The statements of support must consist of approximately 400-500 words and be written either on headed paper and signed (Word or pdf format) or in a formal email from the Head of Department (or equivalent) (pdf format), and has to be submitted online together with the application form. If the applicant is a Head of Department, another senior academic should sign the supporting letter).

The statements of support from the two Heads of Department must include reference to the Principal Applicants and comments on the following questions:

- Why is this research area important?
- Why do you want to contact the proposed partner institution?
- How will the link be sustained?

For the supporting statement from the home institution: if a researcher is not on a long term contract, please confirm that the research visit will result in a longer term collaboration

Please ensure the combined size of the documents does not exceed 5MB.

Any problems with the online submission system should be reported to the following email address: UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org.

Applicants must confirm on the online form that:

- Applicants have obtained **permission to submit the application on behalf of the UK and partner country institutions**
- The UK or partner country Principal Applicant's institution **is willing to receive the funds and to sign a grant agreement with the British Council.**
- Complied with British Council policies on prevention of fraud, bribery, money laundering and addressed any other financial and reputational risk that may affect a transparent and fair grant award process. See:
<https://www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/transparency/policies/anti-fraud-and-corruption>

Important: Once you submit, you will be able to edit your application up until the deadline (email UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org to request for your application to be re-instated). However, after the deadline you will not be able to edit your application in any way. Please also be advised that the UK Researcher Links Team do not have permission to make changes to your application. Any other documents sent late or separately will not be considered.

Once the online application is submitted, applicants will receive a confirmation email containing the application reference ID number and a pdf copy of the application and supporting documents. This acts as acknowledgement of receipt by the British Council system. This reference number must be used in all communications with the British Council. Applicants who have not received an automated email confirmation should contact the British Council at UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org.

18. Application assessment and notification of results

Applications will be assessed by the British Council and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) against the eligibility and quality criteria (Appendix 2 and 3). Applicants whose application is rejected at the eligibility stage will have one week to appeal against the decision.

19. Selection process

Selection begins with an eligibility check against the eligibility criteria given in these Guidelines, including Appendix 1 and the Eligibility Checklist at Appendix 2.

Eligible proposals then undergo independent external quality review by the British Council and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) on the basis of quality, fit to development needs and country priorities and the overarching Researcher Links Workshops objectives.

Eligible workshop proposals will be assessed in the UK and India by one of five Review Panels:

- **Arts and Humanities**
- **Biological and Medical Sciences**
- **Engineering and Physical Sciences**
- **Environment, Agriculture and Food Sciences**
- **Social Sciences.**

Principal Applicants must indicate in their online application form which Review Panel their proposal should be assessed by, and the subject(s) their research covers. Up to 3 subject areas can be selected in priority order, but the applicant can indicate only one Review Panel.

In the UK and India, Workshop proposals will be assessed by two reviewers against the quality criteria in Appendix 3. Each review results in a total score between 0 and 60. The final score will be decided by the Review Panel. Applications scoring less than 30 points will be considered not fundable. However, please note that achieving an average score of 30 or above does not imply that the proposal will be funded.

The final selection decision will be made in-country in collaboration with national stakeholders and partner funding organisations (DBT). National and partner research priorities will be considered in the final decision in addition to the general assessment criteria under this programme. Please see Appendix 1 for priority areas by country.

As detailed previously in this guideline, only those proposals will be considered for funding that have clearly articulated relevance to the economic development and social welfare of low and middle-income countries, benefitting poor and vulnerable populations in these countries.

Successful applicants will be notified approximately 4 months after the call deadline.

20. Call deadline

The submission deadline is **16:00hrs UK time on 12 June 2020**. Proposals submitted after the deadline **will not be considered for funding**.

The deadline applies to all parts of your application, including upload of fully completed supporting documentation. Any applications which are not submitted *in full* by the deadline, with all required supporting documents, will be considered *ineligible*. Appeals against this decision will not be accepted.

21. Data protection

How we use your information

The British Council will use the information that you provide for the purposes of processing your application, making any awards, monitoring and review of any grants.

We may share all application data with UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), the Academy of Medical Sciences, the British Academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Royal Society and with our funding partners in the partner country in order to assist with management of the application process. We will share anonymised aggregated information with the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). Any decisions on successful grants will be made in collaboration with them.

The British Council comply with the General Data Protection Regulations 2016/679 (EU) GDPR). We process and handle personal information according to these regulations. The personal information that you provide on this form will only be used for the processing of your application. The information will be viewed by British Council and those who are part of the decision-making process. Your information will not be used/shared beyond the partners listed above for any other purpose without your specific consent. British Council reserve the right to publish and share anonymized 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 the Data Protection Team inforgovernance@britishcouncil.org or see our website: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/privacy-cookies/data-protection>

22. 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 nor any of the applicant's employees, partners, directors, shareholders is listed:

- as an individual or entity with whom national or supranational bodies have decreed organisations 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 grant call.

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.

23. 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 (see: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/structure/status>).
- The successful applicants will be expected to undertake activities in the UK and in the Newton Fund countries listed in section 2 of the 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.
- The British Council’s contractual approach in respect of the grant (Terms and Conditions of the Grant Agreement) (“Grant Agreement”) is set out here: (<https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/current-opportunities/newton-fund-researcher-links-workshops>). 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.
- In the event that you have any concerns or queries in relation to the Grant Agreement, you should submit a clarification request to UK-ResearcherLinks@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.

24. Find a UK collaborator for your Newton Fund application

Prospective applicants to an open Newton Fund call should note that [Universities UK International](#) (UUKi) offers a partner matching service to help connect Newton Fund partner country researchers to potential UK collaborators. Applicants in Newton Fund partner countries wishing to use this service should complete UUKi’s [Partner Request Form](#), ideally as soon as possible after the launch of the call and at least four weeks ahead of the call deadline.

UUKi is then able to suggest UK researchers or research groups which have similar research interests and expertise and may therefore be interested in collaborating. Partnership requests will also be included on UUKi’s [Opportunities for Collaboration webpage](#).

APPENDIX 1: COUNTRY-SPECIFIC GUIDANCE AND GRANT RATES

Please note that the unit costs given below constitute the maximum mounts that can be requested in each category and that all budget requests will be assessed for feasibility and appropriateness. While the maximum contribution cannot be exceeded, applicants can request less in which case the amount requested cannot be increased at a later stage.

Calculating your budget request

To calculate the budget contribution that can be requested in each category, applicants should use the unit costs for each country where the workshop takes place, please refer to country specific grant rates tables in this Appendix 1. **Budget costs must be rounded to the nearest £ value on the British Council online system.**

International travel unit rates and visa costs should be multiplied by the number of international participants.

Domestic travel unit rates should be multiplied by the number of domestic participants.

Subsistence should be multiplied by the combined number of International and domestic participants and by the number of days the workshop lasts.

Additional workshop costs should be a maximum of £2200.

EXAMPLE: The budget for a workshop lasting 4 days and taking place in a partner country attended by 20 UK-based researchers and 20 researchers based in the partner country would be calculated as follows:

20 X £1000 (international travel) = £20000

20 X £100 (domestic travel) = £2000

40 X £45 (subsistence costs) = £1800 X 4 days (duration of the workshop) = £7200

40 X £30 (event rate) = £1200 X 4 days (duration of the workshop) = £4800

£1500 (additional workshop costs)

= £35,500 total maximum contribution that can be requested.

1. INDIA	
National co-funder	<p>Department of Biotechnology (DBT)</p>  <p>जैव प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग Department of Biotechnology Ministry of Science & Technology Government of India</p> <p>सत्यमेव जयते</p>
Research priorities	<p>A. Agriculture and allied areas: Focus on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-harvest processing and handling, (e.g. sustainable packaging, increasing shelf life, etc.) • Farm animal and aquaculture diseases • Offshore farming technologies

	<p>B. Environment and Circular Bio-economy: Focus on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of climate change on health/wellbeing; biodiversity loss • Carbon sequestration • Plastic alternatives • translating academic innovations • Bio-hybrid solar cells <p>C. Biotechnology-education: research/policy for accelerated development of the sector</p> <p>D. Health: Focus on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerated vaccine development • Advanced biomaterial applications, nano/micro-motors • Brain research, neurobiology, brain-computer interphase • Aging and age-related disorders • Immuno-engineering • Metabolic engineering for pharmaceutical production <p>E. Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health (epidemic predictions, medical risk prediction, and reduction during humanitarian disasters/emergencies) • Agriculture, Aquaculture, Marine and Animal products (post-harvest supply chain management) • Genomics and personalized medicine
<p>Additional eligibility criteria</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Not-for-profit higher education institutions or publicly-funded higher education institutions (HEI) like Central or State Universities or Research organisations in India that have lead researchers (in full time employment) and meet the quality criteria for the Call can apply. 2) No more than 1/5th of participants from each country may be recruited from within the same institutions of the principal applicants and mentors. 3) Previous successful Newton Fund recipients are not eligible to apply as an applicant but would be welcomed as a mentor in an application. 4) Proposal must have clear sustainability plans and demonstrate how it will be imbedded post the workshop.

Grant Rates	
International travel:	£1000 per UK participant
Domestic travel:	£100 per Indian participant
Subsistence costs per person per day:	£45
Event costs per person per day:	£30
Additional workshop costs:	£1500

APPENDIX 2: ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA CHECKLIST

Eligibility criteria checklist	
The application has been submitted by the applicant by the published deadline	
The applicants have uploaded letters of support from each of the Principal Applicants' home institutions	
The application form is completed in full and complies with instructions given	
The application form has been completed in English	
Only one application per Principal Applicant has been submitted in this round (please note that there is no limit on the number of applications submitted per institution)	
The workshop will take place between 01 February 2021 and 31 January 2022	
The institutions where the Principal Applicants are based are recognised publicly funded research establishments or Higher Education Institutions (can include private universities)	
Applicants must have the capacity to administer a grant and satisfy British Council requirements to prevent bribery, fraud and professional misconduct. Applicants will confirm that they comply with British Council requirements by responding to pre-submission questions in the online application form	

APPENDIX 3: QUALITY REVIEW SCORING SYSTEM

Assessment of the quality and development relevance of the proposals will be performed by panel members in the UK, and the final funding decisions will be made in discussion with British Council country office and in-country partners, if applicable. Proposals with an average score of less than 30 points are considered not fundable. Equally, only proposals that have clearly articulated relevance to economic development and social welfare of the partner country will be considered for funding.

Section 1: Relevance to global development impact	Score	Range
<p>The proposal clearly articulates a plausible route for the research to lead to positive global impact on the lives of people on low income and contribute to the economic development and social welfare within a reasonable timeframe (10 years).</p> <p>Please see guidance for applicants for further details.</p>		YES/NO

Section 2: Relevance to gender equality	Score	Range
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures are 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 research and innovation. The project will have a positive impact on people of different genders, both throughout the project and beyond. The potential impact on the relations between people of different genders and people of the same gender is clearly described. For example, changing roles and responsibilities in households, society, economy, politics, power, etc. Risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality will be monitored, avoided or mitigated against. Relevant outcomes and outputs will be measured with disaggregated data by age and gender (where disclosed). 		Sufficient/ Insufficient
Section 3: Research quality and relevance	Score	Range
		0–20

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The academic importance and timeliness of the research topic is clearly demonstrated. • The Principal Applicants have sufficient relevant experience to lead the proposed workshops and achieve the stated objectives. • The collaborating institutions are of appropriate academic standing. 	<p>20 points: Meets all criteria to an exceptional level</p> <p>16 to 19 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level</p> <p>11 to 15 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level</p> <p>6 to 10 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p>1 to 5 points: Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p>0 points: Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.</p>
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Section 4: Workshop proposal	Score	Range
		0–20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The description of the workshop includes clear, feasible and realistic objectives and outputs. There is clear evidence that the proposed workshop supports new links or significantly extends and develops existing links. The benefits and relevance of the collaboration to the UK and partner country institution, and to the research itself, are clearly described. There is strong evidence of support from both the home and host institutions. The workshop is justified as a standalone activity, or as part of a larger programme. The agenda of the workshop is will structured with interactive sessions. Certain areas are excluded from funding under the Newton scheme, including any activity that could be related to defence, security, or military dual use. If in doubt, please email UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org to check the eligibility of your proposal. 	<p>20 points: Meets all criteria to an exceptional level</p> <p>16 to 19 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level</p> <p>11 to 15 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level</p> <p>6 to 10 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p>1 to 5 points: Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p>0 points: Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.</p>	

Section 5: Sustainability and capacity building	Score	Range
		0–20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential in terms of professional development and training for early career researchers taking part in the workshop, and for other potential beneficiaries, is clearly described. The proposal includes a clear and feasible description of how the Principal Applicants’ institutions intend to sustain their collaboration over the longer term. 	<p>20 points: Meets all criteria to an exceptional level</p> <p>16 to 19 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level</p> <p>11 to 15 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level</p> <p>6 to 10 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p>1 to 5 points: Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p>0 points: Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.</p>	
Total score for quality assessment (Section 2 + Section 3 + Section 4)	Score	Range
		0–60