

Going Global Partnerships

Guidance notes

**UK-Malaysia-Jiangsu (China) Going
Global Partnerships Grant 2026**

Grant opens: 30 September 2026

Grant closes: 11 November 2026, 12.00pm GMT

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Grant call for UK-Malaysia-Jiangsu (China) Going Global Partnerships Grant 2026

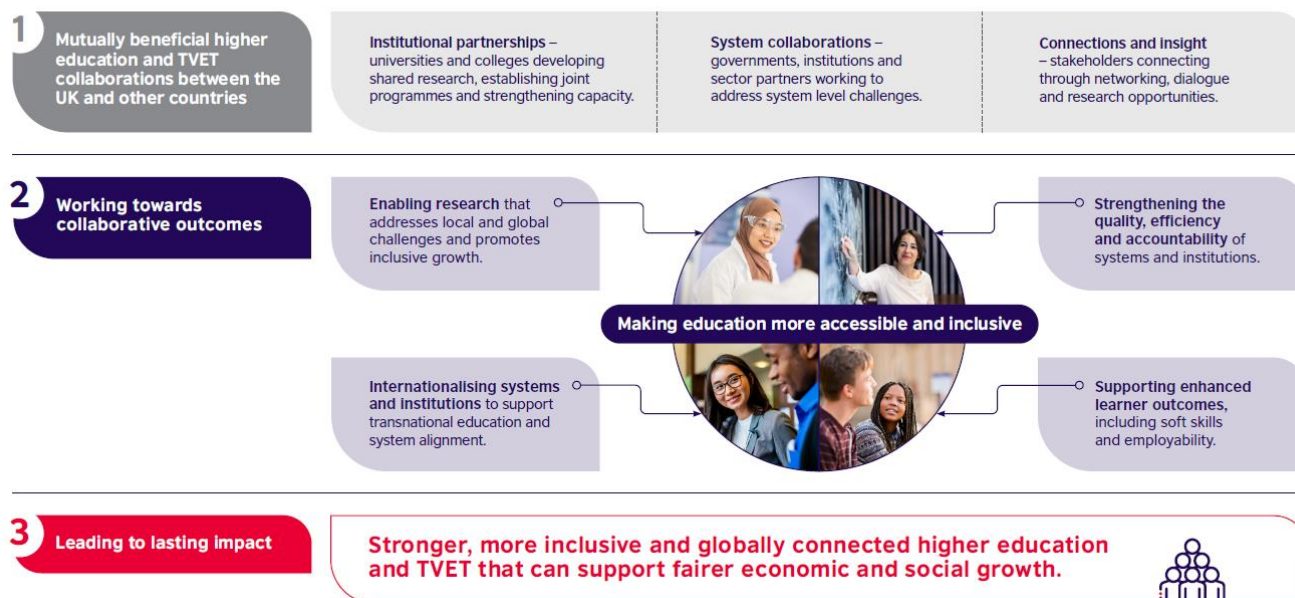
1. About Going Global Partnerships

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

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

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

How Going Global Partnerships creates impact



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

- **Enabling research** – supporting research, knowledge and innovation collaborations to address local and global challenges and promote inclusive growth.
- **Internationalising higher education and TVET** – supporting systems, institutions and individuals to benefit from internationalisation, including enabling transnational education and system alignment.

- **Strengthening systems and institutions** – improving the quality and efficiency of higher education and TVET institutions and systems.
- **Enhancing learner outcomes** – addressing the qualities of the global graduate, including soft skills, employability and community outcomes.
- **Increasing equality, diversity and inclusion** – making higher education and TVET more accessible, equitable and accountable.

See open and upcoming Going Global Partnerships [opportunities](#). Opportunities are being launched continually, so please check this page regularly.

2. The Grant Call

Call name – UK-Malaysia-Jiangsu (China) Going Global Partnerships Grant 2026

Maximum value of grant	£25,000
Number of grants expected to be funded in this call	3
Deadline for applications	11 November 2026, 12.00pm GMT
Contact for further information	MYKUL1Education@britishcouncil.org

An anticipated total grant of up to £75,000 to support three collaborative higher education projects (each project awarded up to £25,000) delivered jointly by UK, Malaysia and Jiangsu (China) Consortium member institutions. Please note that successful award will be dependent on the quality of the application and availability of funding.

Call objectives and intended outcomes

Grant Call Context

The UK-Malaysia University Consortium

The [UK-Malaysia University Consortium](#) is a flagship initiative launched in 2022 by the British Council in Malaysia, in collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia.

Part of the British Council's **Going Global Partnerships** programme, the Consortium aims to significantly broaden and deepen long-term higher education collaboration between the UK and Malaysia, while stimulating strategic engagement across the East Asia region and beyond.

The British Council has long recognised the transformative role that higher education plays in strengthening international relationships. The Consortium provides a valuable platform for UK and Malaysian institutions to collaborate through **student and staff mobility, internships, research and innovation**, and **transnational education initiatives**. The network has expanded to now include **31 UK institutions and 36 Malaysian institutions**, creating greater opportunities for knowledge exchange and multilateral partnerships.

The UK-Malaysia-China (Jiangsu) Higher Education Forum 2025

In response to increasingly complex global challenges, the British Council continues to advocate for strong, future-focused collaboration in higher education. The first [UK-Malaysia-China \(Jiangsu\) Higher Education Forum](#) held in Malaysia in 2025 underscored that commitment by producing the first trilateral Strategic Alliance for Global Excellence between the three nations embodied in a new ["Kuala Lumpur Statement of Intent"](#). The Statement of Intent outlines the mutual aspirations for cooperation, marking a major step towards securing sustainable and impactful partnership amongst partners from the three countries.

Invitation to submit joint proposals

Building on the momentum of the Forum the British Council is delighted to announce a **restricted grant call** for lead institutions within the **UK-Malaysia University Consortium and the UK-Jiangsu University Consortium**.

Consortium member institutions from UK, Malaysia and Jiangsu (China) are now invited to submit trilateral joint proposals for a UK-Malaysia-Jiangsu (China) Going Global Partnerships Grant 2025.

Grant value

An anticipated total grant of up to £75,000 to support three collaborative higher education projects (each project awarded up to £25,000) delivered jointly by UK, Malaysia and Jiangsu (China) Consortium member institutions. Please note that successful award will be dependent on the quality of the application and availability of funding.

Grant core objective

The overarching objective of the grant is to **empower higher education institutions across the UK, Malaysia and Jiangsu (China) to collaborate meaningfully** – pooling expertise, sharing resources and addressing shared challenges through innovative, cross-border solutions.

Grant themes

The projects **should focus on one** of the three thematic areas below. Ideally, we will fund one project for each theme:

Theme A: Driving research excellence

This thematic area aims to elevate the quality, relevance and impact of research by strengthening research capacity, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and promoting sustainable research ecosystems. This theme invites proposals that advance knowledge creation while addressing urgent global challenges – such as sustainability, technology and health – through collaborative, cross-border approaches.

At its core, this theme supports the development of innovative, globally informed, high-impact research. Proposals should demonstrate strong potential for long-term impact across academic, policy and societal domains.

Focus areas should include:

- **Strengthening research capacity among researchers** by encouraging collaborative, interdisciplinary projects that leverage the diverse expertise and institutional strengths across the three participating countries.
- **Promoting industry and higher education engagements** to ensure the sustainability of research outcomes and to open or create alternative funding pathways beyond traditional grants.
- **Establishing thematic network platforms** that connect researchers with experienced academics, mentors and peers – creating vibrant communities of practice that facilitate knowledge exchange, capacity building and professional growth.
- **Developing thematic Research Hubs** to serve as focal points for cutting-edge research, nurturing innovation, leadership and continuity in thematic research areas.

Theme B: Developing TNE and sustainable models of collaborations

This thematic area focuses on enhancing Transnational Education (TNE) and fostering sustainable, long-term models of international collaboration in higher education. It invites proposals that aims to build robust frameworks, networks and systems that support inclusive and impactful global engagement between institutions, individuals and sectors.

Central to this theme is the goal of supporting systems, institutions and individuals to benefit from internationalisation. This includes enabling and expanding access to high-quality TNE, aligning higher education systems across borders and cultivating multilateral partnerships that enhance educational quality, equity and innovation.

Focus areas should include:

- **TNE development** by exploring new or improved TNE models that are responsive to local contexts while maintaining global relevance and academic standards. This includes - but is not limited to - initiatives to harmonise curricula, joint programme development, dual degrees, tri- or multi-lateral TNE collaborations or shared quality assurance mechanisms.
- **Establishing and strengthening Centres of Excellence** that act as hubs for capacity building, research and training in specific thematic areas. The centres should facilitate cross-border knowledge exchange and serve as platforms for regional and global collaboration.
- **Mobility for academic and non-academic connections** by enabling the movement of students, researchers and professionals across institutions and countries to support the development of inclusive partnerships. Proposals may include activities such as staff exchanges, fellowships and mobility schemes that build both academic expertise and practical, real-world connections.

Theme C: Enhancing student outcomes

This thematic area focuses on equipping students with the skills, experiences and global perspectives they need to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world. Proposals under this theme should aim to develop inclusive, flexible and high-impact strategies that strengthen academic, professional and intercultural competencies among students from all three partner countries.

This theme is driven by the belief that higher education must go beyond academic instruction to prepare students for global careers and lifelong learning. This includes creating pathways for international engagement, improving access to diverse learning opportunities and aligning educational outcomes with evolving industry and societal needs.

Focus areas should include:

- **Expanding mobility opportunities** through student exchanges, internships and apprenticeships across the participating countries. These experiences will provide students with international exposure, enhance their employability and foster cross-cultural understanding
- **Harmonisation of entry and qualification requirements** to facilitate seamless student mobility and academic recognition across borders, enabling more inclusive participation in international education.
- **Talent upskilling** to prepare students for roles in emerging sectors and global markets through programmes that bridge academic knowledge with workplace competencies.
- **Micro-credentials and flexible learning** that enable students to tailor their educational pathways, acquire targeted skills, and demonstrate competencies in specific areas of expertise.

Please refer to Annex 2 for a list of eligible and ineligible costs that may affect the type of activities that the proposed project will include.

3. Eligibility criteria for Institutions

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

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
Each proposal must have: • one lead institution from Malaysia; and • one lead institution from the UK • one lead institution from Jiangsu (China) The UK institution must be a member the UK-Malaysia Consortium or the UK-Jiangsu Consortium. The Malaysia institution must be a member of the UK-Malaysia Consortium. The China institution must be a member of the UK-Jiangsu Consortium.

(Please refer to the list of members in Annex 1)

- The proposal must be prepared jointly by leaders from all three lead institutions but **submitted by the leader from the UK Institution**.

The UK lead institution must be one of the following **and** a member of the UK Malaysia or UK-Jiangsu University Consortium:

- Higher Education provider with [degree awarding powers](#).
 - > England - Check the 'awarding degrees' drop down section on the specific provider's entry on the [OFS register](#). The OFS register lists all institutions which offer UK degrees, not all of which have degree awarding powers.
 - > Northern Ireland – <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/universities-and-colleges-northern-ireland>
 - > Scotland – <https://www.gov.scot/policies/universities/>
 - > Wales – <https://www.gov.uk/check-university-award-degree/recognised-bodies-wales>

The Malaysia lead institution is a Higher Education provider as locally defined **and** a member of the UK Malaysia University Consortium.

The China lead institution is a Higher Education provider as locally defined and a member of the UK Jiangsu University Consortium.

The online application has been submitted on the Good Grants portal by the applicant by the published deadline **11 November 2026, 12.00pm GMT**.

The online application is completed, including all Essential Documents.

The online application form and supporting documents have been completed in English.

The lead institutions must have the capacity to administer the grant and must submit a support letter confirming their capacity to do so.

The partnership can include in their proposals other Associated Partners (from Malaysia, the UK, China or other countries) affiliated with:

- Higher Education providers
- Not-for-profit research institutions, establishment and organisations
- TVET/FE providers
- Other education organisations/charities/foundations/membership bodies
- Not-for-profit organisations, including Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)
- For-profit/commercial organisations, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs)
- Branch and satellite campuses of any Higher Education providers
- Government organisations
- Employer organisations and industry bodies

• Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Social Enterprise organisations
For-profit non-education organisations are not eligible to receive any grant funds, except to cover travel-associated costs. The proposal must clearly define their contribution to achieving call objectives.
Lead Applicant agrees to sign Grant Agreement with the British Council.
Lead Applicant confirms that Grant Agreement as stipulated in Appendix 6 of this Call proposal has been reviewed and that it agrees to sign upon receiving notification of successful application.

Please send an enquiry to MYKUL1Education@britishcouncil.org if you are in doubt about the eligibility of your organisation.

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

4. Funding

The UK-Malaysia-Jiangsu (China) Going Global Partnerships Grant 2025 expects to support three (3) projects, each with a value of up to £25,000, for a 15-month period, starting from January 2027 to March 2028. Please note that successful award will be dependent on the quality of the application and availability of funding.

Applicants may be asked by the application reviewers to adjust their budget if it does not fit within funding guidelines or is unclear.

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

For-profit associate partners

For-profit associate partners are only eligible to receive funds to cover travel-associated costs.

In some cases, the national partner will also provide funding to the partner country institution. Please note that this will not apply for all countries. Matching funds is encouraged but is not a requirement.

5. Ethics

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

In the application form, applicants must clearly articulate how any potential ethical and health and safety issues have been considered and how they will be addressed, ensuring that all necessary ethical approval is in place before the project commences and all risks are minimised.

Please refer to the Research Councils UK 'Policy and Guidelines on Governance of Good Research' (<https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/UKRI-050321-PolicyGuidelinesGovernanceOfGoodResearchConduct.pdf>), the Inter Academy Partnership report 'Doing Global Science: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in the Global Research Enterprise' (<http://www.interacademycouncil.net/24026/29429.aspx>) or contact us for further guidance.

6. Safeguarding and protecting adults at risk

The British Council is committed to safeguarding children and adults at risk and to upholding their rights in accordance with all applicable legislation and statutory guidance. As part of that commitment, we require that all staff, and those we work with, including partners and suppliers, to operate within our Safeguarding Policy which articulates our approach to protecting children and adults at risk and promoting their wellbeing.

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

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

7. Impact on the Environment

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

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

Please contact us via email (MYKUL1Education@britishcouncil.org), if you have any queries about the environmental impact section.

8. Privacy Notice

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

We may share all application data with UK partner(s) institution(s) and with our funding partner(s) in Malaysia in order to assist with management of the application process. We may share selected non personal data with agencies responsible for monitoring and evaluation of the grant.

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

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

Under UK Data Protection law, you have the right to ask for a copy of the information we hold on you, and the right to ask us to correct any inaccuracies in that information. If you want more information about this, please contact your local British Council office or see our website: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/privacy-cookies/data-protection>. We will keep your information for a period of seven years after the project.

9. Application Process and Documentation

All applications should be completed and submitted on Good Grants (<https://goingglobalpartnerships.grantplatform.com/>). It is possible to download a blank version of the application form to enable your partnership to develop your answers together before it is submitted.

The deadline for applications is **12:00 GMT on 11 November 2026**. We recommend that you submit at least an hour before to avoid any last-minute technical glitches.

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

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

Please ensure that process of seeking institutional approval required for the application submission should be initiated timely. Each Grant call remains open for 4-6 weeks, which is a sufficient time to get required approvals and documents like CV's, supporting letters etc.

Please send the application form and the other required attachments (budget sheet, CVs, etc.) as separate attachments, please do not merge them into a single file.

If you require any access adjustments or have any additional support or learning needs in order to submit the application, please contact us prior to the deadline on MYKUL1Education@britishcouncil.org.

10. Application Form

Applications must only be submitted using <https://goingglobalpartnerships.grantplatform.com/>

Word limits must be followed, as text over the word limits will not be read.

Official Development Assistance (ODA) Statement

The Grants must be ODA compliant. To be counted as ODA, all activities (research or otherwise) must qualify under rules set down by the OECD. To be ODA-eligible, the OECD states that research projects should be ***directly and primarily related to the problems of developing countries***. Please outline the economic development and social welfare impact of your work,

including how it is conducted as well as the outputs and potential outcomes. The work should be relevant to at least one of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The British Council supports peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide. Our granting opportunities are aligned to this mission and reflect it in grant purpose and eligibility criteria. Granting projects which specifically include collaboration with military or security partners will also need to align with this mission. Projects focused on particular fields may preclude any military and security aspects, or aspects which dual-use impacts or outcomes.

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

Gender and Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Statements

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

Gender Equality

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.

Gender Equality Statement

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

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

Please note that the Gender Equality Statement should clarify and enable a clear demonstration that making a contribution to addressing gender inequalities has been considered in the project development. It is expected that the approach will be reflected in other sections of the application including the project description, outcomes and outputs.

All applications are checked for an adequate Gender Equality Statement at the eligibility stage.

The following questions should be answered when writing the statement.

- What are the key gender equality issues that are relevant to your project and how it will contribute to addressing these?
Please include data and evidence to support your analysis of the relevant gender equality issues. This should include issues relevant to the theme of your project and to the team that will deliver it.
- Have measures been put in place to ensure equal and meaningful opportunities for people of different genders to be involved throughout the project? This includes the development of the project, the participants of the research and innovation, and the beneficiaries of the activities.
- Drawing on the analysis of the gender equality issues think about the barriers to participation and engagement in the project and how you will overcome these through your project plan and activities. The expected impact of the project (benefits and losses) on people of different genders, both throughout the project and beyond.
- Describe how the project will impact women, men and people with diverse gender identities. In particular show how the project will reduce the gender inequalities that have been set out in the question above.
- The impact on the relations between people of different genders and people of the same gender.
- Describe how you intend the programme to bring about change in unequal power relations. 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)?
- At what stage of the gender journey will the project start, and where you aim to be at the end of it.

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

Applicants are encouraged to check the [“Guide to addressing gender equality”](#) document.

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

Approach for Accessibility adjustments

Applicants are encouraged to take a proactive approach to consider accessibility into the design and delivery of their proposed activity, so that we can improve the experience for everyone, including in particular for disabled people. Applicants may request adjustments or additional support for their application, the funded project activities and reporting stages. Please provide details on specific requests for any support, access arrangements, or accommodation, and any costs associated with the adjustments. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis and dependent on the funding available. If you wish to discuss the requests and/or costs in your application, MYKUL1Education@britishcouncil.org.

11. Budget Sheet

Budgets must only be submitted using the Budget Sheet supplied within the Grant Call Documentation, and your application will be deemed ineligible if your budget is submitted via any other method.

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

A list of eligible and ineligible costs can be found in **Annex 2**.

Section 1 – Human Resource/Staff Costs

- There is a cap set at 30% of the total grant staff costs. .
- List all Contracting and Partnering institution staff working on the project
 - > Permanent staff are employed by the hosting institution, with a contract that will outlast the project grant and reporting period. These are permanent academic (full time staff members) employed by the institution.
 - > Project staff are employed on or temporarily assigned to the project, often on fixed term, part time or short contracts, usually with more of their time dedicated to the work related with this project
- The number of units multiplied by the unit rate will populate Column H. In Column I confirm how much of this total is it intended be covered by the grant. Be clear how any residual costs will be covered if not entirely by the grant.
- If the entire cost is not being covered by the Grant, a residual amount will populate in Column J, and you will explain how this amount is being covered in Column K.
- In Column M you confirm how staff costs are monitored/controlled for Audit purposes.

Section 2 – Expertise Costs

Sometimes Grant applicants wish to budget for non-institutional Staff costs (e.g. Consultants, Industry experts, advisors, Associate partners etc.). These costs included in Section 2.

- There is a cap set at 20% of the total grant being applied for
- The number of units multiplied by the unit rate will populate Column H. In Column I confirm how much of this total is it intended be covered by the grant. Be clear how any residual costs will be covered if not entirely by the grant.
- If the entire cost is not being covered by the Grant, a residual amount will populate in Column J, and you will explain how this amount is being covered in Column K
- In Column M you confirm how staff costs are monitored/controlled for Audit purposes

Section 3 – International Travel and Subsistence

- There is a cap set at 20% of the total grant being applied for
- Supply details of approximate costs/allocation for your travel and subsistence costs. Be clear how any residual costs will be covered if not entirely by the grant.
- Read Annex 2 for guidance on permitted costs
- As per sections 1 and 2 – clarify what portion of these costs is it intended be covered by the grant and how any residual costs are to be funded

Section 4 – Operational and Activity Costs

- In section 4 you can give the approximate costs/allocation you intend to use for specific activities. Be clear how any residual costs will be covered if not entirely by the grant.
- Read Annex 2 for guidance on permitted costs
- Domestic travel associated with the activities should be accounted for in this section
- As per sections 1, 2 and 3– clarify what portion of these costs is it intended be covered by the grant and how any residual costs are to be funded

Section 5 – Marketing and Communication Costs

- In section 5 you can give the approximate costs/allocation you intend to use for any Marketing and Communications aspects of your proposal. Be clear how any residual costs will be covered if not entirely by the grant.
- Read Annex 2 for guidance on permitted costs

- As per the previous sections– clarify what portion of these costs is it intended be covered by the grant and how any residual costs are to be funded

Section 6 – Miscellaneous and Additional Costs

- In section 6 you can give the approximate costs/allocation you intend to use for any elements not covered in sections 1-5. Be clear how any residual costs will be covered if not entirely by the grant.
- Read Annex 2 for guidance on permitted costs
- Typically applicants use this section to show administrative costs e.g. international bank transfer costs associated with grant disbursements to partners etc

Budget Summary

After Section 6 a summary of the sections above will self-populate.

Column I shows a section-by-section summary of the costs you have indicated will be covered by your grant if you application is successful.

Column J will flag any issues. If for sections 1-3 the box turns **green** and displays “This is within the funding rules” then no action is required.

If, however, the box turns **red** it will give a message to highlight what the issue is e.g. “This is outside the 30% funding rules” or “This is outside the 20% funding rules” and you must return to the appropriate section and revisit your proposed budget.

Any budget sheet submitted that contains red warnings will be returned and may jeopardise your application.

The last row of the Budget Sheet will show in Column G, the grant amount you are applying for and in Column I the total budget you are intending to submit.

- If your planned budget exceeds the grant you are applying for you will see a warning message stating, “Your budget exceeds the grant you have requested – please review your budget before submitting”
 - > You cannot budget for more than the value of the grant and if your budget sheet is submitted with this warning it will be returned and may jeopardise your application
- If your planned budget is lower than the grant you are applying for you will see a warning message stating, “Your planned budget is less than the grant you have requested – do you need to review your budget to ensure everything has been included”

- > If this is the case, you could either revisit the grant you are claiming and reduce it to your planned budget; or revisit your budget to ensure you haven't miscalculated
- > If you submit your application with this message your application will still be considered – but based on your proposed budget and not the grant figure so please ensure you are happy that you have not missed anything.

12. Selection Process

- All applications received by the deadline will be logged and acknowledged – if you have not received an acknowledgement within seven days, please check your spam folder for messages from MYKUL1Education@britishcouncil.org. If you have not received any acknowledgement of receipt of application, please contact us with details.
- Applications will be reviewed for completeness – if we do not have everything requested in the Pre-submission Checklist your application may be declared ineligible and not proceed to next stage. We receive large volumes of applications so we may not be able to notify you of this outcome at this stage.
- **Applications will be assessed by a panel of subject experts, on the basis of assessment criteria specified in the next section**
- Top ranked applications will be selected and will be notified about their selection for contracting and disbursement of grants
- Unsuccessful applications will be notified at a later stage. **You can ask for feedback to your application by writing to MYKUL1Education@britishcouncil.org.**

13. Pre-Submission Checklist

This application has been discussed and agreed between all three lead partners who are aware of this project.
The application form and supporting documents have been completed in English.
The applicants have included supporting letters from each of the Contracting and Lead Institutions , on headed paper, signed by the Head of Department or other person with appropriate delegated authority, giving specific commitment to the project. Supporting letters must be in English and not be signed by Lead Applicant(s). As stated in these guidelines, email versions of letters are acceptable.

Lead Institutions must have the capacity to administer a grant and satisfy British Council requirements to prevent bribery, fraud and professional misconduct. Applicants confirm that they comply with British Council requirements by responding to Pre-submission Confirmation in the application form.
Applicants have submitted a detailed budget request using the budget spreadsheet provided with the grant call documents on our funding call page.
Applicants have submitted a CV for the UK, Malaysia and Jiangsu Lead Applicants.
Where relevant, Associated Partner letters have been uploaded.
Human resource costs: Staff costs for personnel working directly on the grant funded project limited to 30% of the grant to be awarded.
UK expertise costs: Limited to 20% of grant to be awarded.
Travel costs: Limited to 20% of the grant.

14. Assessment Criteria

Project quality and relevance	Score	Range
	30%	0–20
• The Lead Applicants have sufficient relevant experience to lead the proposed projects and achieve the stated objectives. • The collaborating institutions are of appropriate academic standing. • The proposed activities clearly meet the priorities and capacity strengthening needs of UK, Malaysia and Jiangsu (China) partner. • The proposal clearly states how the proposed activities contribute to impact via the consortium and could be relevant at a local/regional/national level. • The benefits and relevance of the collaboration with the UK, Malaysian and Jiangsu institutions, and to the capacity strengthening activities, are clearly described. • The proposal includes plans to share impactful stories and exchange best practices. • The proposal outlines how it will explore new opportunities for collaboration and growth.	20 points: Meets all criteria to an exceptional level 16 to 19 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level 11 to 15 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level 6 to 10 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level 1 to 5 points: Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level 0 points: Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.	
Methodology and Design	Score	Range
	30%	0–20

• The description of the activity(s) includes clear, feasible and realistic objectives and outputs. • The activities are well planned and defined. The proposal contains clear, feasible, and realistic objectives, as well as potential for long term impact. • Applicants clearly articulate specific outputs anticipated from the collaboration and objectives likely to be achieved • The methodology has been clearly articulated and is achievable within the given timeframes. • The proposal's aims are commensurate with the experience of the individuals involved in the project. • The proposal represents value for money and all costs are fully justifiable. • The timelines are realistic and there is an effective monitoring framework in place. • There is a clear definition of roles and responsibilities. • Risks and any mitigation strategies have been clearly defined. • The description of the projects includes clear, feasible and realistic objectives and outputs. • There is clear evidence that the proposed projects support new links or significantly extends and develops existing links. • The benefits and relevance of the collaboration to the UK, Malaysian and Jiangsu (China) partner are clearly described. • There is strong evidence of support from both the home and host institutions.	20 points: Meets all criteria to an exceptional level 16 to 19 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level 11 to 15 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level 6 to 10 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level 1 to 5 points: Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level 0 points: Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.	
Sustainability and Impact	Score	Range
	30%	0–20
• The proposal includes a clear and feasible description of how the Lead Applicants institutions intend to sustain their collaboration over the longer term. • The proposal includes a clear and feasible description of how the Lead Institution intends to ensure the outcomes are achieved beyond the funding period. • There is a clear plan for how the benefits of the activity(s) will be developed beyond the institution, whether at a local/regional/national level. • There is involvement of Associated Partners who will aid in sustaining the activity outcomes (if applicable). • There is a planned mechanism for the dissemination of the results of the activities. • The proposal addresses how it benefits to the wider members of the UK-Malaysia and UK-Jiangsu consortia and/or HE sectors. • The initiatives may involve capacity development, exchanging knowledge and best practices, fostering research and innovation, supporting student and academic mobility, exploring innovative models for trilateral and multilateral partnerships and facilitating endeavours to secure sustainable funding.	20 points: Meets all criteria to an exceptional level 16 to 19 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level 11 to 15 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level 6 to 10 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level 1 to 5 points: Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level 0 points: Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.	

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)	Score	Range
	10%	0–20
- Measures must be in place to ensure equal and meaningful opportunities for people of different backgrounds, race, faith, ages, gender, sexual orientation, and dis/ability throughout the project. This includes those running the project, activity participants, and beneficiaries. - 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.	20 points: Meets all criteria to an exceptional level 16 to 19 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level 11 to 15 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level 6 to 10 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level 1 to 5 points: Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level 0 points: Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.	
Total score	100%	

15. Key Milestone Dates

Milestone	Timelines
Call opens	30 September 2026
Clarification questions submitted by applicants and response from British Council	16 October 2026
Deadline for applications and to submit amendments to Terms of Contract (if any)	11 November 2026
Proposal assessments and due diligence	12– 23 November 2026
Results announcement	w/c 23 November 2026
Contracts signed	December 2026
Allocation of funding	December 2026
Project implementation	January 2027 – March 2028

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

16. Applicant screening

To comply with UK government legislation, the British Council may at any point during the application process, carry out searches of relevant third-party screening databases to ensure that neither the applicant institutions nor any of the applicants' employees, partners, directors, shareholders are listed:

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

If the applicant or any other party is listed in a Screening Database for any of the reasons set out above, the British Council will assess the applicant as ineligible to apply for this 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.

17. Granting Process

When a decision has been made on applications the British Council will send out a notification to all successful applicants with a timeline to accept the Grant. This will be followed by sharing of the British Council standard Grant Agreement for signatures. Funds will be disbursed only upon the British Council receiving an acceptably signed copy of the Grant Agreement. It will be expected that the Grantee is able to return a signed copy of agreement within the stipulated timelines given by the British Council, and the funding may be at risk if the stipulated timelines are not adhered to.

British Council will also ask for a copy of the Contracting Institution's most recent Bank Details.

18. British Council contractual requirements

- The contracting authority is the British Council which includes any subsidiary companies and other organisations that control or are controlled by the British Council from time to time
> (see: www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/structure/status).
- The Contracting Institution for the partnership will sign the Grant Agreement with the British Council. Other key partners are names in the Grant Agreement. The Contracting Institution is responsible for flowing down the relevant clauses to the other partners.
- The successful applicants will be expected to undertake activities in the UK and in the overseas countries listed in these guidelines.
- The British Council is subject to the requirements of the UK Freedom of Information Act, (“FOIA”). Please indicate in your application whether FOIA also applies to your organisation, so that we can reflect this in the Grant Agreement should you be successful in your application.
- A copy of the Grant Agreement is available with the call document.
- Terms and Conditions of the Grant Agreement: **By submitting a response to this call for applications, you are agreeing to be bound by the terms of these guidelines and the Grant Agreement without further negotiation or amendment.**
- If you have any concerns or queries in relation to the Grant Agreement, you should submit a clarification request to MYKUL1Education@britishcouncil.org in accordance with the provisions of this call for applications by the application deadline

19. Monitoring and Reporting

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

Annex 1 – List of Eligible Institutions

List of UK-Malaysia University Consortium Members

Consortium member institutions from UK

- University of Portsmouth
- Bournemouth University
- University of York
- Coventry University Group
- Cardiff University
- University of East Anglia
- University of Suffolk
- University of Glasgow
- University of Nottingham
- Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU)
- University of Surrey
- Cardiff Metropolitan University
- University of Gloucestershire (UoG)
- Lancaster University
- Newcastle University
- University of Dundee
- Brunel University of London
- Birmingham City University
- The University of Derby
- The University of Edinburgh
- Swansea University
- Teesside University
- University of the West of England, Bristol
- University of Liverpool
- Keele University
- University of St Andrews
- University of Birmingham
- Queen's University Belfast
- University of Reading
- University of Strathclyde
- Arts university Bournemouth

Consortium member institutions from Malaysia

- Universiti Malaya (UM)
- Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)
- Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)
- Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)
- Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)
- Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia (UIAM)
- Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM)
- Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)
- Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS)
- Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI)
- Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM)
- Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)
- Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT)
- Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM)
- Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM)
- Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah (UMPASA)
- Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP)
- Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA)
- Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK)
- Universiti Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia (UPNM)
- UCSI University
- Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR)
- INTI International University
- University of Southampton Malaysia
- Reading University Malaysia
- Heriot Watt University Malaysia
- Nottingham University Malaysia
- Newcastle University of Medicine Malaysia
- Taylor's University
- Sunway University
- YPC International College
- UCYP University
- SEGI University
- Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP)
- Multimedia University (MMU)
- Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL)

List of UK-Jiangsu University Consortium Members

Consortium member institutions from the UK

- University of Cambridge
- University of Coventry
- Cranfield University
- University of Derby
- University of Hull
- King's college London
- University of Lancaster
- University of Leeds
- University of Leicester
- **University of Liverpool (UK secretariat)**
- University of Oxford
- University of Plymouth
- Queen's University of Belfast
- University of Reading
- Swansea University
- University of York

Consortium member institutions from Jiangsu (China)

- Changzhou University
- China University of Mining and Technology
- China Pharmaceutical University
- Hohai University
- Jiangnan University
- **Jiangsu University (China secretariat)**
- Jiangsu Normal University
- Jiangsu University of Science and Technology
- Nanjing University
- Nanjing University of the Arts
- Nanjing Agricultural University
- Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics
- Nanjing Forestry University
- Nanjing University of Information Science & Technology
- Nanjing Medical University
- Nanjing Normal University
- Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications
- Nanjing University of Science and Technology
- Nanjing Technology University

- Nantong University
- Soochow University
- Southeast University
- Yangzhou University
- Nanjing University of Finance & Economics
- Nanjing Audit University
- Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University
- Duke Kunshan University
- Changshu Institute of Technology
- Huaiyin Institute of Technology
- Yancheng Institute of Technology
- Xuzhou Medical University
- Nanjing Vocational University of Industry Technology

Annex 2 – Eligible and ineligible costs

Eligible costs

The following costs are eligible for funding:

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

Ineligible costs

The following costs are ineligible for funding:

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