

# Human-Nature: Delegation to Malaysia/Borneo - Open Call

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## Introduction

“Human-Nature” is our Malaysian 3-year programme of collaborations and partnerships between the UK and Malaysia Civil Society Organisations and arts sectors, to explore:

- Malaysia’s cultural diversity and biodiversity, the alternative values system and ancestral knowledge,
- the threats and challenges climate change represents for cultural rights and practice,
- and to develop creative responses to climate adaptation that would benefit communities,
- and enable connections and collaborations to investigate climate change through arts, science and technology.

We are looking for seven (7) UK artists, arts organisation representatives, arts tech creatives and or producers, curators, to be selected over an **Expression of Interest** (EOI), to visit Kuala Lumpur, Sabah and Sarawak (Borneo States) over a 10-day period in March 2024. This immersion in the Borneo context and communities will be a unique chance for the group to participate in a research trip focussed on exploring and addressing climate change through arts, science and technology, to ignite conversations and inspire change. It will involve opportunities for the group to learn and increase their knowledge about climate change and adaptation in Borneo alongside building cultural connections with the Malaysian creative sector.

We are looking for a cross discipline, cross skills group of individuals who have a strong interest in developing their knowledge in this area, making new connections and have a special interest in Malaysia’s cultural diversity and biodiversity. We are particularly interested in candidates who are keen to raise awareness and explore creative solutions for addressing climate change through the arts, technology and science which fore-front lived experience. We are also looking for participants who can create further legacy with the knowledge and experience gained through the research trip.

## Objectives and Outcomes

The objectives of the delegation are 2 folds:

- Increase knowledge, understanding and interest of UK stakeholders about Malaysia’s potential and opportunities for creative responses to climate adaptation.

- Generate new connections and the premises for long-term collaboration pathways (creative works, network...) and generate long-term partnerships.

## **The Opportunity: Delegation to Malaysia/Borneo**

The delegation will be a curated study tour to enable UK delegates to better understand Malaysia's:

- Cultural and bio diversities, and more specifically its communities, their practices and knowledge.
- Impacts and issues, challenges, needs and opportunities caused by climate change.
- Stakeholders who work at the intersection of arts and climate in Malaysia.

### **Programme will be a combination of:**

- meetings with artists, NGOs and CSOs, academics and sector experts, to understand their work and challenges in 3 locations.
- visits of cultural assets, biodiversity, and climate change centres.
- 2 rural communities' day-visits to meet with communities and understand the landscape and challenges.
- dialogues, brainstorming workshops and networking events with local artists, scientists, NGOs, officials.
- Alone times for reflections.

### **Dates: 29 February 2024 - 10 March 2024 (1 travel day + 10 days visit total)**

- 29 February: Depart the UK
- 1 March: Arrive in KL
- 1 – 4 March: Programme in KL
- 4 – 7 March: Programme in Sarawak
- 7 – 10 March: Programme in Sabah
- 10 March: Depart for the UK

### **The participants will be expected to:**

- be able to travel to Malaysia for a period of 10 days between 29 February and 10 March 2024 and fully take part in the programme.
- commit time before the project for preparation and research, including online briefing/preparation sessions with British Council and local stakeholders.
- document their experience and submit an essay/thought piece to be published on the British Council website.
- participate in the documentation, communication, wrap-around activities, and evaluation of the programme.

## Who Can Apply?

We are looking for seven (7) UK artists, curators, creative producers, creative technologists who;

- are interested in developing collaborative opportunities with talents in Malaysia.
- have substantial professional experience and work at the intersection of arts and climate.
- have interest to integrate, study, broaden their understanding of indigenous practices in Malaysia, specifically Sabah and Sarawak.
- are highly creative and willing to collaborate with others.
- have strong network in the UK that can be activated to amplify the awareness and impact of the overall programme's activities and objectives.

## Eligibility Criteria

Applications must be made by UK artists, curators, creative producers, creative technologists and cultural organisation representatives who:

- are based/living inside of the United Kingdom unless temporarily living but retaining a home address in the United Kingdom and defined by His Majesty's Revenue & Customs as 'resident the in the UK' for tax – see here.
- are able to travel to Malaysia for a period of 10 days between 29 February and 10 March 2024 and fully participate in the programme.
- Share the British Council's commitment to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) and will embed best EDI practices into your activity. (Read the British Council's EDI Strategy and Policy here).

## What Will You Get?

The delegation will be an unprecedented opportunity to:

- Return Economy flights.
- Hotel accommodation.
- Selected working lunches and dinners.
- Local transport in Malaysia: From and to airports, to organised meetings and visits.
- A grant of £1,200 as honorarium/per-diem to cover meals and your time during the delegation.
- Gain knowledge on Malaysia's arts sectors, its cultural diversities, and its biodiversity over a 10-days bespoke, curated programme.
- Make new connections with Malaysian stakeholders.
- Live an amazing cultural experience.
- Learn and share best practices.

- Network, think creatively and be inspired.

## Selection Criteria

Criteria	Weightage %
<b>Experience</b> You need to demonstrate how your experience is relevant and will contribute positively to the delegations' objectives.	40
<b>Vision and Legacy</b> You will need to demonstrate how you will apply your learnings and experience into your current and future work/practice.	25
<b>Collaboration</b> You will need to share your experience and approach towards international collaboration(s).	25
<b>Equality Diversity Inclusion (EDI)</b> You will need to demonstrate your approach towards EDI in your practice.	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

## How To Apply?

To apply, please carefully read this Open Call Briefing Document - Human-Nature Delegation to Malaysia-Borneo in its entirety, and complete an [Expression of Interest form via Submittable](#) by **Sunday, 21 January 2024 23:59 GMT**.

Please note that you will need to create an account on Submittable in order to start and complete the application process. Applications must be in English.

## Key Dates

- Open call for applications: Wednesday, 20 December 2023
- Information session: January 2024
- Application deadline: Sunday, 21 January 2024, 23:59pm (GMT)
- Selection announcement: Monday, 29 January 2024
- Preparation/logistics/travel bookings: February 2024
- Delegation: 29 February -10 March 2024
- Submission of essay: 31 May 2024

### **Access support for writing your application:**

If you identify as disabled, you are welcome to contact us at [Florence.Lambert@britishcouncil.org](mailto:Florence.Lambert@britishcouncil.org) and [Erica.Choong@britishcouncil.org](mailto:Erica.Choong@britishcouncil.org) for possible support we may offer to assist with making your application.

If you would like information contained in this invitation letter or **Expression of Interest** form in any other format, please contact the British Council Malaysia Arts team by email [Florence.Lambert@britishcouncil.org](mailto:Florence.Lambert@britishcouncil.org) and [Erica.Choong@britishcouncil.org](mailto:Erica.Choong@britishcouncil.org).

### **More Information on Accessibility and Equality Diversity and Inclusion**

The nature of this journey, visiting remote areas and engaging with rural communities, mean that it is not as accessible as we would like. The delegation will be a physically taxing journey and candidates will experience long haul travels (flights and car rides), and a tight schedule of meetings and visits over 10 days. Due to the climate and remoteness of some locations, it is important to note that adaptability / flexibility will be required to meaningfully engage with this study trip. There may be times when basic comfort and utilities will not be available: in remote areas, access to clean toilets, electricity, Wi-Fi, air conditioning, will be limited. There may be long walks under uncomfortable climate conditions (rain, thunderstorms, heat, and humidity and mosquitoes). Malaysia's infrastructures, generally, do not provide much access to the disabled community: wheelchairs access is limited in most buildings, street sidewalks and public transport, and services and expertise to support disabled people are not available in remote areas where the delegation will take place.

We can cover the costs of accompanying access workers such as sign language interpreters for the selected delegates.

We welcome applicants from all ethnic backgrounds and origins, and from all parts of the UK and 4 Nations.

Please email [Florence.lambert@britishcouncil.org](mailto:Florence.lambert@britishcouncil.org) and [Erica.Choong@britishcouncil.org](mailto:Erica.Choong@britishcouncil.org) should you have any questions about accessibility.

Please check this link for Malaysian travel advisory: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/malaysia>.

We will be briefing the delegates prior to and upon arrival in Malaysia. However, we highly recommend minimum research be conducted in order to better understand the context, history and cultural diversity and sensitivities of Malaysian cultures and ethnic groups.

Delegates will be required to follow an **Engagement Guide** that will be shared prior to the research trip.

## About Human Nature

“Human-Nature” is our Malaysian 3-year programme of collaborations and partnerships between the UK and Malaysia Civil Society Organisations and arts sectors, to explore:

- Malaysia’s cultural diversity and biodiversity, the alternative values system and ancestral knowledge,
- the threats and challenges climate change represents for cultural rights and practice,
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The programme’s main activities and timeline will be as follow:

1. Development of a community engagement guide by January 2024.
2. A research to map stakeholders (and initiatives) that work at the intersection of arts and climate adaptation in Malaysia and the UK, and identify future creative and artistic collaborations pathways that would create creative responses to climate adaptation and benefit communities in both regions.
3. Appointment of Malaysian delegation partners by December 2023: [Forever Sabah](#) and [Borneo Bengkel](#).
4. UK Delegation to Malaysia 29 February – 10 March 2024.
5. A creative collaboration open call (2024 – Date TBC).
6. Showcasing and advocacy events in 2025.