

Going Global Partnership

Guidance Notes for Grant Calls

1 July 2026

Contents

Guidance Notes for Grant Calls	1
About Going Global Partnerships	3
Key Information about this Grant Call.....	3
Springboard Programme for bilateral UK-France, UK-Germany, or UK-Spain partnerships ...	3
Call objectives and intended outcomes	4
Key Milestones	4
Eligibility Criteria for Institutions and Projects.....	6
Eligibility Criteria for Institutions	6
Eligibility Criteria for Projects	7
Funding.....	7
Ethics	8
Safeguarding and Protecting Adults at Risk.....	9
Privacy Notice	9
Application Process, Documentation and Pre-Submission Checklist.....	10
Impact on Environment.....	11
Gender Equality Statement.....	11
Equality Diversity and Inclusion Statement.....	12
Accessibility and Adjustments	13
Budget	14
Selection Process	14
Assessment Criteria.....	15
Applicant Screening	16
Granting Process	17
British Council Contractual Requirements	17
Monitoring and Reporting.....	18
Annex 1: List of eligible not-for-profit research institutions, establishment, and organisations.....	19
Annex 2 – Eligible and ineligible costs	23
Eligible costs	23
Ineligible costs.....	24
Annex 3: Frequently asked questions	25

Grant Call for Springboard Programme for bilateral UK-France, UK-Germany or UK-Spain partnerships

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.

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.

If you are interested in our work in this area and want to get involved, please regularly visit our [Opportunities and insights webpage](#), where we open all our funding calls and other opportunities.

Key Information about this Grant Call

Springboard Programme for bilateral UK-France, UK-Germany, or UK-Spain partnerships

Maximum value of grant in GBP	£ 10,000
Minimum number of grants expected to be funded in this call	15 UK-France grants, 15 UK-Germany grants and 8 UK-Spain grants
Deadline for applications	30 September 2026 at 16:00 GMT

Contact for further information	education@britishcouncil.fr for UK-France partnerships educationgermany@britishcouncil.de for UK-Germany partnerships Education@britishcouncil.es for UK-Spain partnerships
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Call objectives and intended outcomes

The British Council aims to **facilitate exchanges** between researchers of the UK and other countries. This bilateral programme call is designed to help UK and French, German, Spanish Universities strengthen capacity for international collaborative joint research and aims for tangible objectives:

- **Enabling research:** supporting research, knowledge and innovation collaborations to address local and global challenges and promote inclusive growth.
- **Developing international networks** and ideally **preparing joint bids** to relevant funding organisations, **with a special focus on the Horizon Europe programme.**
- New collaborative excellent research outputs created and knowledge exchanged
- **Early career researchers** strengthen their skills and collaboration with a partner country as a first step towards deeper collaboration
- Institutions strengthen capacity for international collaborative research

Expected outcomes of the grants include:

- Development of international research collaborations and capacity building among early career researchers (ECRs), including laboratory placements, researcher exchanges, and workshop participation.
- Submission of joint applications to Horizon Europe and other UK and international funding programmes.
- Development of joint research outputs, including publications and patent applications.
- Establishment of sustainable partnerships, such as joint PhD programmes and co-funded research positions (e.g. postdoctoral fellowships).

Applicants should clearly describe how the proposed activities will contribute to these outcomes, as progress towards them will form a key part of the final reporting requirements.

Key Milestones

Milestone	Timelines
Deadline for applications	30 September 2026 at 16:00 GMT
Results announcement	First week of January 2027
Contracts signed	Before end of January 2027
Period of grant payments	Feb-March 2027

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

What does the Springboard programme include?

The Springboard Programme is designed as an **à la carte** scheme, allowing research teams to tailor the support they receive based on their project needs and priorities. It includes:

1. Compulsory element – One Springboard Meeting

A two-day in person meeting between the French, German or Spanish and UK team members (max 10 participants) to initiate or reinforce collaboration, exchange ideas and define priorities for **launching a joint project**. Priority will be given to projects aligned with the [Horizon Europe](#) thematic areas:

- Health
- Culture, creativity and inclusive society
- Civil security for society
- Digital, industry and space
- Climate, energy and mobility

1. Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment

Meetings will be held in one of the partner's institution or in a free location of their choice.

For the French call only:

Meetings can be held:

- in one of the partner's institutions,
- or at the British Council premises in central Paris,
- or at the Higher Education, Research and Innovation Department of the French Embassy in London. Meetings which include Scottish universities and French partners can be held at the Institut Français d'Ecosse in Edinburgh.

2. Optional element – Online Communication Skills Training

An online training course under the British Council [Researcher Connect](#) Programme for PhD students and postdoctoral researchers with less than 2-year experience. There will be 8 modules covered in the course of which you'll have to attend at least 6 – with "Foundation" on Day 1 being compulsory. It is likely to take place during the weeks of 8th and 15th March 2027 (to be confirmed). Two training places are available per selected project.

Important: If this option is selected during the application phase, **attendance becomes mandatory** for the nominated participants.

3. Optional element – Research Placements

One week **research placements** in the partner's lab or team for up to 2 PhD students and postdoctoral researchers per country.

This component aims to deepen collaboration and upskill early career researchers through hands-on international research experience and may be included at the discretion of the project team.

This call is aimed at teams working on a **practical strategy and/or preparing applications for international scientific collaborations** with a special emphasis on [Horizon Europe](#) (Other possible funding streams: [ANR](#), [DFG](#), [UKRI](#), [RSE Saltire awards](#), etc.).

Eligibility Criteria for Institutions and Projects

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

Eligibility Criteria for Institutions

2. Each proposal must have both:
 - one Lead Institution from the UK; and
 - one Lead Institution from the overseas country (France, Germany, Spain)
3. Each Lead Institution must have the capacity to administer a grant.
4. The proposal must be prepared jointly by leaders from all institutions involved in the project but must be submitted by the UK Lead Institution on behalf of the partnership.
5. The leaders of each lead institution must be leaders of established research groups/ laboratories with a proven track-record in research in France, Germany or Spain, and the UK.
6. The Contracting Institution is the UK Lead Institution that has submitted the application, and if the application is successful, will sign the Grant Agreement with the British Council. A grant can only be awarded if the Contracting Institution is in good standing with the Going Global Partnerships programme, with no outstanding funds to be recovered from a previous grant or activity.
7. Each application can include up to a maximum of 10 participants, with a minimum of 6 ECRs (researchers who have obtained their PhD less than 10 years ago). There is no limit on the number of Springboard meeting participants; however, the grant will reimburse costs for up to 10 participants only.
8. The UK Lead institution must be one of the following:
 - 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](#)
 - [Scotland](#)
 - [Wales](#)
 - Not-for-profit research institutions, establishments and organisations. (See [Annex 1](#) for a complete list of these in the UK).
9. The France/ Germany/ Spain Lead Institution must be one of the following:
 - Higher Education provider, as locally defined,
 - Not-for-profit research institutions, establishments and organisations, as locally defined.

10. The project can include Associated Partners (from France, Germany or Spain, and the UK). Associate Partners can be included in a partnership as long as they bring necessary expertise, demonstrable added value, and/or access to relevant target groups to the partnership. They will play a lesser role in the proposed project, and the funding they are eligible to receive reflects this. As they are already included in the partnership, you cannot name additional staff or personnel of any of the named Lead Institutions as Associate Partners. Associate Partners may be affiliated with:

- 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 UK Higher Education providers
- Government organisations
- Employer organisations and industry bodies
- Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Social Enterprise organisations

Please send an enquiry to your relevant British Council office (education@britishcouncil.fr for UK-France partnerships; educationgermany@britishcouncil.de for UK-Germany partnerships Education@britishcouncil.es for UK-Spain partnerships) if you are in doubt about the eligibility of your organisation.

Eligible institutions are free to submit more than one application.

Eligibility Criteria for Projects

The British Council supports peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide. To align our granting to this mission, we are unable to support projects with military or security partners, or with military, security or dual-use impacts or outcomes. All applications will be checked to ensure alignment with this policy at the eligibility stage.

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

All disciplines are welcome (medicine, biology, social sciences, arts and humanities, physics, chemistry, environmental sciences ...) and priority will be given to **multidisciplinary** proposals.

Funding

The Springboard Programme supports selected projects between the UK and either France, Germany or Spain, for up to £10,000 in value each, for a 12-month period, starting from 1st February 2027.

Applications from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are particularly encouraged, with the following grant repartition:

- At least 14 grants for France-UK collaborations
- 1 grant for France-Northern Ireland/ Scotland/ Wales collaborations
- At least 14 grants for Germany-UK collaborations

- 1 grant for Germany- Northern Ireland/ Scotland/ Wales UK collaborations
- At least 7 grants for Spain-UK collaborations
- 1 grant for Spain-Northern Ireland/ Scotland/ Wales UK collaborations

Applicants may be asked to adjust their budget if their request does not fit within funding guidelines or if this is considered not appropriate by the application reviewers.

Eligible expenses are listed at Annex 2.

For successful partnerships, funds will be disbursed directly to the Contracting Institution according to the approved final budget and after signing of the Grant Agreement. 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 in advance their internal mechanisms that will enable the budget transfer between countries.

What does the grant cover?

The grant for the selected projects will be transferred to the UK partner institution and can be used to cover the following expenses:

- Travel, accommodation, and meals for **one two-day meeting** for all team members (up to 10 people) in either the UK-France, UK-Germany or UK-Spain.
- Travel, accommodation and meals for up to 2 French/German/Spanish and 2 UK PhDs or postdoctoral researchers for **one-week research placements** - only if this option was selected in the application form.
- The **Researcher Connect Online training** costs will be covered by the British Council.

A maximum of **£ 10,000** can be requested for each project.

You will find guidelines on eligible costs in the Annex 2 – Eligible and ineligible costs.

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](#)', the Inter Academy Partnership report '[Doing Global Science: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in the Global Research Enterprise](#)', or contact us for further guidance.

Safeguarding and Protecting Adults at Risk

The British Council is committed to safeguarding children and adults at risk and to upholding their rights in accordance with all applicable legislation and statutory guidance. As part of that commitment, we require all organisations - and by extension the staff who work for them - who contract with us, plus any other Associated Partners and suppliers, to operate within and adhere to our Safeguarding Policy which articulates our approach to protecting children and adults at risk, and ensures their wellbeing. By completing and submitting an application to this call, you are accepting and agreeing that the partnership and all associated organisations and persons will comply with and uphold all aspects of our Safeguarding Policy.

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.

Visit [Safeguarding](#) webpage for more information.

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 our reviewers and partners in France, Germany or Spain who will be undertaking assessment or form part of the selection panel, 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 Springboard Programme for bilateral UK-France, UK-Germany, or UK-Spain partnerships.

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 [Visit our project website](#). We will keep your information for a period of seven years after the project.

Application Process, Documentation and Pre-Submission Checklist

Applications must only be completed and submitted via the [Good Grants online platform](#)

Any applications submitted via any other channel will be ineligible and will not be considered for funding. 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 Good Grants platform will not allow submission where any specified word limits are exceeded or questions missed.

Accessibility

The Good Grants platform offers a wide range of accessibility support, and is fully compliant with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) WCAG 2.2 AA standards, the Revised Section 508 ICT standards from the U.S. Access Board, and the European Union's

EN 301 549 Accessibility requirements for ICT products and services.

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.

Deadline

The deadline for applications is 16:00 (UK time) on 30/09/2026. 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**.

Documentation

All supporting documents (CVs, supporting letters) must be uploaded on to the Good Grants platform prior to the deadline.

Ensure you have included all of the documentation listed in the Pre-Submission Checklist below 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 a resubmission process should your application be deemed ineligible.

Pre-Submission Checklist

1. This application has been discussed and agreed between both Lead Institutions.
2. The application form and supporting documents have been completed in English.
3. 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.
4. Applicants have included supporting letters from each of the Lead Institutions, on headed paper, signed by the Head of Department or more senior person, giving specific commitment to the project on behalf of the institution. Supporting letters must be in English and not be signed by Lead Applicant(s).
5. Applicants have submitted a CV for both Lead Applicants. The CV should not be more than three pages.
6. The project team is made up of up to 10 people, with a minimum of 6 ECRs (or a 3/5 ratio).

Impact on Environment

The British Council is committed to minimising its environmental impact. For this call, 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 international plane travel such as train travel), 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.

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 equality 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, including methodologies and sampling processes;
- 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 contributing 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.

Analysis

- 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.

Measures

- 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.

Impact

- Describe how the project will impact women, men and people with diverse gender identities, both throughout the project and beyond. Specifically, show how the project will address the barriers that have been set out in the question above.
- Consider also the potential impact of the project on relations between men and women e.g. changes in voice, decision making, leadership, etc Please refer to the examples shared in the application form for more information.

Risks

- How will any risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality be avoided or mitigated against, and monitored?

Outcomes

- Are there any relevant outcomes and outputs being measured, with data disaggregated by age and gender (where disclosed)?

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

Applicants are encouraged to check the [Guide to Addressing Gender Equality](#) document which provides further information which will help you to write your gender statement e.g guidance on how to undertake a gender analysis etc.

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.

Equality Diversity and Inclusion Statement

The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. Working effectively with equality, diversity and inclusion is an essential part of our purpose. We want to ensure that everyone who works with us and for us is treated with respect and dignity. We aim to remove barriers to granting, redress any identified imbalances caused by inequality and provide and maintain a fair and accessible process, ensuring application requirements have been designed to support inclusion and diversity.

Applicants are encouraged to structure response to EDI section by considering those questions below. You will be requested to report the progress and outcomes in your interim and final report.

- Will your project target specific groups (e.g. age, disability, race/ethnicity, religion/belief, and socio-economic background)?
- What activities are going to be designed to include or benefit these groups? How are these groups going to be engaged in the planning, delivery, or evaluation of the project?
- What are the intended outcomes for these groups?

- Can you anticipate any barriers to participation of these groups and consider ways to remove them? How will the EDI outcomes be sustained or built upon after the project ends?

Accessibility and Adjustments

Approach for reasonable adjustment and access support

We provide disability and accessibility support for applicants and grant recipients at different stages of the grant from application, project delivery to reporting.

Application stage

If you need support when applying for funding, you should try to speak to your employer first, if applicable (e.g., your university, or other host institutions).

If you need additional support to apply for this opportunity, please contact the British Council at [Going Global Partnerships](#) as early as possible (and at least two weeks before the application submission deadline as early notification helps us provide more timely assistance) to discuss individual needs for reasonable adjustments or disability-related support during the application. This includes e.g. requests for application information in alternative formats, access support worker to help you make an application, etc.

Project accessibility costs

Applicants and grant recipients are encouraged to take a proactive approach to build accessibility into the design and delivery of their proposed activities and events, so that we can improve the experience for everyone, particularly for disabled people. These include e.g. support from a Sign Language interpreter to make your meeting inclusive, etc. These project accessibility costs should be planned and explained in the appropriate field in the application.

Personal access costs

These are designed to remove barriers and support the grant recipients (or their core team) in managing grants and delivering the project. These include e.g. requests for information in alternative formats, access to a support worker to help you during the project and in drafting the end of project report, a travel assistant to support your attendance to events, etc.

Note that these personal access costs should be planned as additional expenses on top of the project budget and therefore should be listed separately from the project budget. Make sure you plan for any personal access support you might need during or at the end of the project. Make sure you plan ahead where possible and consider our reporting requirements. These costs can only be for the project period (between your project start date and end date) and must be specific to your project. We are not able to cover costs for support that is unrelated to the activity. The amount of personal access costs you can include in your application should be relevant to your activity and the size of your task. These costs are submitted separately from your project budget and we do not take them into consideration in the evaluation of your application, as this allows for all applications to be submitted and assessed on an equal basis.

For example, if the maximum amount you can apply for the project is £10,000. Your application is for £10,000 and you also need an extra £500 personal access costs. We will consider this as an application for £10,000, rather than £10,500 and you will be eligible to apply. Please include as much detail in the expenditure description. We need to understand what you are going to use the additional costs for, and how it's specific to your needs and project. Our grants cannot cover any activity or spending that takes place before we can make a decision.

These will be considered on a case-by-case basis and dependent on the funding available. Requests for Personal Access Costs will be reviewed only after the project is selected for funding. We may contract with the Contracting Institution for the main project and then do a

contract amendment for any additional amounts shortly afterwards. [Kindly note request for Personal Access Cost won't affect the evaluation of the proposal. The requests for personal access cost would be reviewed by British Council EDI team and project members.]

If you wish to discuss the requests and/or costs in your application, please contact the British Council at [Going Global Partnership](#).

Please note that funding allocated for personal access costs is ring-fenced and must only be used for the stated purpose. Any unused funds should be returned in line with the British Council requirements.

Please contact us for further information on the British Council's approach. See our [Equality Policy](#).

Budget

Budgets must only be submitted using the Budget section of the online application form.

Please supply details of approximate costs/allocation for your travel and accommodation costs, for both the Springboard meeting and the research placements

Please also list any extra cost associated with visas and travel authorisations.

Successful applicants will be able to use underspend under one budget category to cover reasonable costs under a different category (e.g. any underspend on the budget to cover the travel can be used to cover accommodation), providing the total budget is not exceeded.

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

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 British Council Good Grants. If you have not received any acknowledgement of receipt of application, please contact us with details by writing at [Going Global Partnerships](#).
- Applications will be reviewed for eligibility and 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 the assessment criteria specified.**
- Top ranked applications will be selected and will be notified about their selection for contracting and disbursement of grants.
- Requests for Personal Access Costs from successful applicants will be reviewed only after the project is selected for funding.
- Unsuccessful applications will be notified at a later stage. **You can ask for feedback about your application by writing to**

For UK-France: education@britishcouncil.fr

For UK-Germany: educationgermany@britishcouncil.de

For UK-Spain: education@britishcouncil.es

Assessment Criteria

Proposals typically need to score over 40 out of 80 to be considered for funding.

Section 1: Project quality and relevance	Score 0-20
The academic importance and timeliness of the research topic is clearly demonstrated. The Lead Applicants have sufficient relevant experience to lead the proposed activities and achieve the stated objectives and their respective expertise is complementary. The collaborating institutions are of appropriate academic standing. The proposed activities clearly meet country's priorities and capacity strengthening needs The benefits and relevance of the collaboration with the UK and partner country institution, and to the capacity strengthening activities, are clearly described. The project subject matches the Springboard programme set themes. The project is multidisciplinary.	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 point: Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.
Section 2: Methodology/proposal/project design	Score 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 proposal represents value for money and all costs are fully justifiable. There is clear evidence that the proposed activities support new links or significantly extends and develops existing links. There is strong evidence of support from the home institution. Partners and non-academic stakeholders will be integrated in the activities.	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 point: Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.
Section 3: Capacity building of ECR	Score 0-20

The potential in terms of professional development and capacity building for early career researchers and PhDs taking part in the activities, and for other potential beneficiaries, is clearly described. PhDs are fully identified in the team and can spend time in the partner's team (optional).	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 point: Fails to meet a.
Section 4: potential for international funding and sustainability of the collaboration	Score 0-20
There is potential for leveraging further larger funding in the next two years. The proposal includes a clear and feasible description of how the Principal 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.	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 point: Fails to meet a Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.

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 grantcall. The applicant must provide the British Council with all information reasonably requested by the www.britishcouncil.org

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.

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 Grant Agreement for signatures. Funding will be offered to successful applications on the terms and conditions as set out in the sample grant agreement which has been made available as part of the funding call launch. The terms and conditions in this template are non-negotiable and standard for all grants from Going Global Partnerships. Contracting Institutions are expected to obtain necessary institutional approval for these contractual terms prior to application submission. Please ensure you seek approval from any necessary internal colleagues or teams, such as pre-award, legal and/or finance, before the deadline for submission. The Grant Agreement to successful applicants will be populated with some of the data you have entered into your application, so please ensure that the responses you give are full and correct in order to prevent errors in the contract once it is issued.

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 which should be supplied on the provided form and on the institution's letter head.

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. Visit - [British Council](#)
- The Contracting Institution is the Lead Institution that has made the application on the Good Grants platform. The Contracting Institution for the partnership will sign the Grant Agreement with the British Council. The Contracting Institution must be eligible to receive and manage grant funds. The Contracting Institution is accountable for delivery, reporting, and compliance with all grant requirements.
- 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 British Council is subject to the requirements of the UK Freedom of Information Act, ("FOIA"). If FOIA doesn't apply to your organisation (e.g. for Scottish universities), we will 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.

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, including an initial baseline survey and an end-of-year project report.

You will find **Frequently Asked Questions** and their answers in **Annex 3**.

Annex 1: List of eligible not-for-profit research institutions, establishment, and organisations

Please note that where organisations have both for-profit and not-for-profit arms, it must be clear that this grant is held and administered by the not-for-profit arm of the organisation:

- Alan Turing Institute
- All NHS Trusts, hospitals, boards, primary care trusts and GP practices
- Animal and Plant Health Agency
- Anthony Nolan
- Armagh Observatory
- Babraham Institute
- BirdLife International
- British Film Institute
- British Institute of International and Comparative Law
- British Library
- British Museum
- British Trust for Ornithology
- Butterfly Conservation
- CABI (Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International)
- Cambridge Arctic Shelf Programme
- Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre
- Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult
- Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
- CERN
- Chatham House (Royal Institute of International Affairs)
- Culham Centre for Fusion Energy (part of UK Atomic Energy Authority)
- Defence Science and Technology Laboratory
- Diamond Light Source
- Earlham Institute
- Earthwatch Institute
- Environment Agency
- European Bioinformatics Institute
- European Synchrotron Radiation Facility
- Fera Ltd

- Forest Research
- Health and Safety Executive PSRE
- Health Data Research UK
- Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England
- Historic Environment Scotland
- Historic Royal Palaces
- HR Wallingford Group
- Imperial War Museum
- Institute for Fiscal Studies
- Institute of Development Studies
- Institute of Occupational Medicine
- International Institute for Environment and Development
- Isaac Newton Group
- John Innes Centre
- Joint Astronomy Centre
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
- London Institute for Mathematical Sciences
- Malaria Consortium (UK)
- Manufacturing Technology Centre
- Marine Biological Association
- Marine Scotland Science
- Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
- Moredun Research Institute
- MRC Harwell Institute
- MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology
- MRC London Institute of Medical Sciences
- Museum of London Archaeology
- National Archives
- National Centre for Social Research
- National Foundation for Educational Research
- National Gallery
- National Institute of Agricultural Botany
- National Institute of Economic and Social Research
- National Maritime Museum
- National Museum Wales
- National Museums Liverpool

- National Museums of Scotland
- National Nuclear Laboratory
- National Oceanography Centre
- National Physical Laboratory
- National Portrait Gallery
- Natural England
- Natural History Museum
- NERC British Antarctic Survey
- NERC British Geological Survey
- Nesta
- Office for National Statistics
- Overseas Development Institute
- Plymouth Marine Laboratory
- Public Health England
- Quadram Institute Bioscience
- RAND Europe Community Interest Company
- Rosalind Franklin Institute
- Rothamsted Research
- Royal Botanic Gardens – Edinburgh
- Royal Botanic Gardens – Kew
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies
- Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture
- Science Museum Group
- Scottish Association for Marine Sciences
- Sightsavers
- STFC laboratories
- Tate
- Tavistock Institute of Human Relations
- The Faraday Institution
- The Francis Crick Institute
- The James Hutton Institute
- The Manufacturing Technology Centre Ltd
- The National Trust
- The Office of the Health Economics
- The Pirbright Institute

- The Resolution Foundation
- The Royal Shakespeare Company
- The Welding Institute
- Transport Research Laboratory
- UK Astronomy Technology Centre
- UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
- Victoria and Albert Museum
- Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute
- World Conservation Monitoring Centre
- Young Foundation
- Zoological Society of London, Institute of Zoology

If you believe your organisation is eligible but is not on this list, please [contact us via email](#) before submitting a proposal for this call.

Annex 2 – Eligible and ineligible costs

Eligible costs

The following costs are eligible for funding:

ITEM	NOTES	BUDGET LIMIT
Travel to either the UK, France, Germany or Spain for a 2-day meeting	To cover all costs of return travel from the UK or French or German or Spanish research institution to the meeting location	£100 maximum p/person p/return trip for in-country participants. £300 maximum p/person p/return trip for participants from the other country (£400 if you travel by train).
Accommodation during the meeting	To cover costs of overnight accommodation for a maximum of two nights and any local travel	£200 maximum p/person p/night if in Paris/ London/ Berlin/Madrid or Barcelona, £150 for the other locations
Meals during the meeting	Two lunches and one dinner will be covered by the grant	£20 maximum p/person per lunch and £40 max p/person per dinner
Travel to the partner's lab or team for up to 2 PhD students from France, Germany, Spain or the UK	To cover all costs of return travel from UK or French or German or Spanish research institution to the partner's location	£300 maximum p/person p/return trip (£400 if you travel by train)
Accommodation during the PhD placements for up to 7 days	To cover costs of accommodation and any local travel	£120 maximum p/person p/night
Meals during the PhD placements for up to 7 days	To cover meals or food purchase for the duration of the placement	£15 maximum p/person for lunch and £25 for dinner
Visa and travel authorisations costs	To cover visa expenses for non-European researchers and ETAs/ETIAS for travelling from the UK to France, Germany or Spain or vice-versa. EU or UK researchers don't need a visa to travel to the other country, even for placements (as long as there is a letter of invitation from the partner's institution)	Visas: £100 maximum per person for a maximum of two people per project ETA: £20 per person ETIAS: 20€ per person

If you have any question on eligible costs, please contact us at education@britishcouncil.fr for UK-France applications, educationgermany@britishcouncil.de for UK-Germany applications or education@britishcouncil.es for UK-Spain applications.

Ineligible costs

The following costs are ineligible for funding:

- Cost of any other activity than the Springboard meeting and research placements described in the project application.
- Essential equipment for use in the project including consumables, specialist software licences essential to the collaboration, access fees for facilities or library services.
- Goodies and office supplies.
- Cost of training events, workshops, public engagement events, and seminars linked to the proposal.
- Consultancy fees.
- Translation and interpreter fees.
- Publication costs related to the collaboration, including web page development by external providers, if appropriate. Open access publication is encouraged.
- 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 and tuition).
- 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, excessive restaurant costs, and excessive taxi fares.
- British Council Grants cannot be converted to any Gift Cards, non-monetary assets, Crypto currencies.

Annex 3: Frequently asked questions

Q: Can the applying Lead researcher from the UK institution be a postdoctoral research associate?

A: Potentially, yes. Lead Applicants are defined as *“team leaders of established research groups or laboratories with a proven track record in research in the UK.”* A postdoctoral research associate may therefore be eligible if they can clearly demonstrate in their application that they have a proven research track record and are leading an established research team or laboratory.

Q: Do PhD students that have not yet obtained their PhD count towards the limit of ECRs in this call?

A: Yes, students who have started a PhD count towards the number of ECRs.

Q: If my team is less than 10 people, how many ECRs shall it include?

A: It should include the same proportion of ECRs, i.e. about 3/5th

Q: Is the ECR ratio mandatory?

A: Yes. The required ECR ratio is an eligibility criterion. Applications that do not meet this requirement will not be eligible.

Q: What is an ECR?

A: Usually researchers within **10 years of PhD**. PhD candidates can count if they are actively involved.

Q: Are subsistence costs covered for the research placements?

A: Yes, meals during the placement can be covered by the grant.

Q: Can ETA/ETIAS & visa costs be included?

A: ETA/ and visa costs are eligible. However, visa costs remain capped where stated.

Q: Can we include people in our team who are not from the UK, France, Germany or Spain?

A: Yes, there can be international people in the team who are based in the UK, France, Germany or Spain as this reflects the research community.

Q: Can we include project partners that aren't from the UK, France, Germany or Spain?

A: You can include 3rd country partners, but you cannot use the grant to cover for their costs (i.e. travel/ accommodation).

Q: Do project leads have to be ECRs themselves?

A: Projects are stronger when led by senior researchers who are leaders of established research groups/ laboratories with a proven track-record in research, so don't have to be ECRs (but can be).

Q: Do all 10 participants need to be named now?

A: List expected participants. Replacements are allowed later.

Q: What is the Deputy role?

A: A substitute for the UK lead, based at the same UK institution, in case the UK lead cannot continue to manage the project.

Q: Are maternity/career breaks considered?

A: Yes (please explain in your application).

Q: How many meetings are funded?

A: Only **one main meeting is funded**. Additional meetings will require alternative funding.

Q: Can more than one application be submitted?

A: Yes. The same institution/person may appear on multiple bids.

Q: Can multiple institutions from one country join?

A: Yes, one lead can be joined by associates/collaborators.

Q: Who submits the application?

A: The **UK lead institution** submits, contracts, receives and manages funds.

Q: Does submission go to internal approval first?

A: No. It goes directly to the funder.

Q: Can train travel above normal caps be used?

A: Greener travel is encouraged, and international budget caps are higher in this case.

Q: How can we make our application green?

A: You can travel by train rather than plane, organise the lab placements just before or after the Springboard meeting (one trip instead of two for the PhD students and postdocs), use sustainable supplies and eat organic/vegetarian food during meals, etc.

Q: Can placements include domestic travel?

A: Only within placement rules; separate meeting travel caps may not apply.

Q: Can non-lab research teams apply?

A: Yes. Lab and non-lab teams are eligible.

Q: Do applicants need an existing Horizon/UKRI bid?

A: No. Springboard supports preparing future bids.

Q: What outputs are expected?

A: Future joint funding bids, publications, long-term collaboration plans.

Q: What CV format is required?

A: There is no fixed template but no more than 2 pages is recommended.

Q: My institution is missing from the portal. What do I do?

A: If listed as eligible, contact goingglobalpartnerships@britishcouncil.org to be added.

Q: Can British Council find us a partner?

A: No. Institutions must identify partners themselves.

If you have any other question, please contact:

- For UK-France: education@britishcouncil.fr
- For UK-Germany: educationgermany@britishcouncil.de
- 7. For UK-Spain: education@britishcouncil.es