

**Going Global Partnerships**

**UK - Saudi Challenge Fund**

**Call for Proposals**

**Fund Guidelines**

**Call** opens **20 December 2021**

**Call** closes **31 January 2022**

www. britishcouncil.org

**Introduction**

Going Global Partnerships builds stronger, more inclusive, internationally connected higher education and TVET systems which support economic and social growth.

Through this British Council programme, you can connect, collaborate, and innovate with universities, colleges, education policy makers and other partners in the UK and around the world.

The overall expected outcomes of the programme include:

* **Enabling research**: supporting research, knowledge, and innovation collaborations to address local and global challenges and promote inclusive future growth.
* **Internationalising HE institutions**: creating the enabling environment and supporting institutions and individuals to benefit from internationalisation.
* **Strengthening systems**: improving the quality and efficiency of tertiary institutions and systems
* **Enhancing student outcomes:** addressing the qualities of the global graduate (e.g., soft skills, employability, community outcomes).

**Opportunities**

* Going Global Partnerships offers you vital international opportunities - the chance to build relationships, to share ideas and good practice, to access grant funding for collaborative partnerships and more.

You can see current and upcoming Going Global Partnerships opportunities on our website:<https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/he-science/going-global-partnerships/connect-%20collaborate.>

We have many opportunities being launched at this time, so please check this page regularly.

This document refers to the following opportunity: **UK – Saudi Challenge Fund**

## **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 (Grant Agreement).

We may share all application data to assist with management of the application process. We may share selected non personal data with agencies responsible for monitoring and evaluation of the UK – Saudi Challenge Fund. We may share all application data with the Ministry of Education in Saudi Arabia.

Your information will not be used/shared 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 the Data Protection Team: [inforgovernance@britishcouncil.org](mailto:inforgovernance@britishcouncil.org) or see our website: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/privacy-cookies/data-protection>.

**Fund Guidelines**

**UK – Saudi Challenge Fund**

**Call** opens **03 January 2022**

**Call** closes **31 January 2022**

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**Going Global Partnerships**

**Call for Proposals**

British Council Saudi is launching a call for a UK-Saudi Challenge Fund. UK and Saudi institutions are invited to bid for funding to initiate teaching and learning collaborations.

1. **Context**

Education has always been a priority area for Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom, with strategic partnerships existing in research, joint supervision programmes, teacher capacity building and provision of English language.

In March 2018, the two kingdoms reinforced their commitment to education by signing an education agreement and launching the UK-KSA Educational Partnership – a catalyst to enhance collaborations in higher education, scientific research and innovation and transnational education. This was further supported by the UK Government's International Education Strategy update, identifying Saudi Arabia as the only Gulf priority country and emphasised the need for increased international cooperation and partnerships to support the economy's recovery and drive growth.

Saudi Arabia has already taken transformative steps to increase investment opportunities and collaborations for local universities to grow competitively. In line with Vision 2030, the government is investing $1.6 billion in research and development in the next two years, part of which $75 million is allocated to support international partnerships in higher education. In addition, the New Universities Law also support this change, encouraging universities to establish partnerships with international HEIs and international institutions to operate in the kingdom as well as expand regionally. Over time, the law will support universities in achieving disciplined autonomy to frame their academic, financial and administrative regulations – a move aimed to optimise operational cost reduction and establish creative financial and revenue models in higher education, reducing dependence on the state budget and paid tuition.

1. **Overview of Funding Opportunity**

The purpose of this call is to foster further collaboration between the UK and Saudi higher education institutions. It is part of the work of the British Council in higher education, which aims to extend, strengthen, and deepen connections between the UK education sector and governments and institutions around the world. It is motivated by the belief that international collaboration produces more effective research for addressing global problems, while enhancing teaching and learning to produce graduates with the skills necessary for economic development.

Grants of **£25,000 – £75,000** will be awarded to UK universities, or consortia of universities, to Partner with universities or consortia of universities from Saudi Arabia for running projects that will support greater research collaboration, internationalisation of HE institutions and transnational education (TNE). Saudi higher education institutions are eligible to apply for the funding too.

We encourage HE institutions to consider the below thematic areas in their submission:

* Clean Energy & Environment
* Engineering & Cyber-security
* Arts & culture

Each successful proposal will receive a grant between **£25,000 – £75,000** which shall only be used to cover project activities which will contribute to the achievement of GGP short and long-term outcomes including:

* UK and Saudi HEIs have improved relevant market understanding and access
* Increased scale and effectiveness of UK Research and Transnational Education.
* Students, graduates, researchers, staff, and policymakers develop a greater international outlook and capacity for internationalisation
* Increased mobility (including virtual) to and from the UK for staff, students, researchers, and policymakers
* Improved capacity for internationalisation at an institutional level

It is expected that project activities will be delivered through a blend of digital and face to face methodologies and that the project activities might include, but not limited to, one or more of the following:

* Joint research projects
* Joint Curriculum development
* Development of joint degree or dual degree programmes.
* Staff and student mobility programmes
* Enabling programmes (e.g., policy dialogues, information exchange webinars)
* Process development programmes (e.g., quality assurance, monitoring, and evaluation)
* Training and professional development programmes

1. **Eligibility**

All UK universities and Saudi universities are eligible to submit proposals for the funding. Universities in both the private and public sectors in Saudi are eligible to participate. British Council Saudi can offer information and advice to universities in either country wishing to establish first contact.

1. **Total Funding and Project Duration**

Funding between **£25,000 – £75,000** will be awarded for each successful proposal covering the whole project duration. Projects in receipt of funding will be expected to start in April 2022 and can run for a maximum of one year (until March 2023). The funding's terms and conditions are set out in Appendix 4: Grant Agreement.

1. **Eligible Costs**

The budget requested in your proposal should cover only costs that are essential, appropriate, and relevant to the collaboration ensuring value for money. The proposal should specify any cost-share through direct and indirect institutional contributions.

Please find the List of Eligible and Ineligible Costs in Appendix 3. Please contact the British Council if you are in doubt about which costs the grants can and cannot cover.

1. **How to Apply**

Please complete the Application Form (Appendix 1) along with all supporting documentation (Appendix 2, Appendix 5 and Letters of Support) and email them to Mahmoud Mouselli, Director of Programmes & Projects, British Council Saudi Arabia [mahmoud.mouselli@britishcouncil.org](mailto:mahmoud.mouselli@britishcouncil.org) at the latest by Monday 31 January 2022.

1. **Assessment Criteria**

Considering the impact and outcomes that GGP aims to achieve as outlined above, priority considerations will therefore be given to project proposals that demonstrate:

* Potential growth for Saudi and the UK research & innovation and TNE (e.g. creation of a new research project or TNE programmes)
* Creation of real value to the UK (e.g. development of favourable policies and strategies)
* Access to other funding sources, including the in-kind contribution that supports the delivery of project activities and ensures sustainability.
* Creation of innovative services or products
* Creation of benefits that apply to the wider HE sector (e.g. publication sharing, international best practice)

All proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

* + Potential to deliver GGP's impact and outcomes (30 points)
  + Alignment with grant strategic objectives (30 points)
  + Principal Applicant and its Partner's capacity to deliver on time and within budget (40 points)

See Appendix 6: Scoring Form for a more detailed explanation of each criterion.

1. **Timetable**

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| --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Date** |
| Call for Proposal opening | 20 December 2021 |
| Clarification questions submitted by applicants | 13 January 2022 |
| Call for Proposal submission | 31 January 2022 |
| Notification of proposal's outcome | 15 February 2022 |
| Agreement signing | 28 February 2022 |
| Allocation of funding | March 2022 |
| Inception meeting | April 2022 |
| Project Implementation | April 2022 |
| Midterm reports | Every three months |
| Annual report | 28 February 2023 |
| Submission of the final report | 15 March 2023 |

1. **Payment of the Grant**

Following the announcement of the results, the British Council will sign Grant Agreements with the successful applicants. The UK/Saudi institutions are expected to allocate funding to their partners to co-deliver the project.

Unless otherwise stated, the British Council will administer 100% of the funding within 30 days of receiving the signed Grant Agreement. All funded applicants must submit a declaration confirming they have received the funds.

The British Council reserves the right to recover payment in full if the final report and supporting documents are unsatisfactory or the activities have not been delivered as planned.

In cases where the project expenditure is less than the funding awarded, the underspend cannot be used for further activity unless the British Council approves in writing. Requests to utilise the underspend should be sent to British Council 3 months prior to additional expenditure.

1. **Implementation**

All funded projects must be implemented in accordance with the submitted proposal, Grant Agreement, and other formal / written communication by the British Council. Any changes to proposed project activities must be approved by the British Council before going ahead.

1. **Digital Platform**

The British Council recommends using Microsoft Teams to deliver virtual activities and workshops.

Principal Applicants, who want to use other online tools or online platforms, must follow British Council's safeguarding and security protocols. Please email British Council for the protocols or if you have any questions.

1. **Project Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation**

Principal Applicant is responsible for submitting midterm and annual reports to the British Council. This report shall consist of narrative and financial information that tracks progress against milestones/plans. In addition to this, the Principal Applicant will be required to submit a final narrative and financial report within 30 days upon completion of the project. The project report template will be provided before the Inception Meeting.

The British Council will conduct regular Monitoring and Evaluation and commission independent evaluations of selected projects that are of strategic importance to GGP.

Record of the project, including a description of activities, contracts, essential project documents, evaluation reports, spending and supporting documentation related to the financial transaction, should be kept until seven (7) years after the closure of the project for audit purposes.

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

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

1. **Contractual Requirements** 
   * The contracting authority is the British Council which includes any subsidiary companies and other organisations that control or are controlled by the British Council from time to time (see: https://www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/structure/status).
   * The successful applicants will be expected to undertake activities in the UK and in Saudi Arabia.
   * The British Council is subject to the requirements of the UK Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"). Please indicate in your application whether FOIA also applies to your organisation so that we can reflect this in the Grant Agreement should you be successful in your application.
   * The British Council's contractual approach in respect of the grant (Terms and Conditions of the Grant Agreement) ("Grant Agreement") is set out in Appendix 4. By submitting a response to this call for applications, you agree 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 Mahmoud Mouselli at [Mahmoud.mouselli@britishcouncil.org](mailto:Mahmoud.mouselli@britishcouncil.org) in accordance with the provisions of this call for applications by the application deadline. The British Council reserves the right not to make any changes to the Grant Agreement.
   * The British Council is under no obligation to consider any clarifications/amendments to the Grant Agreement requested following the application deadline.
2. **Contact Details**

For all enquiries, please contact:

Mahmoud Mouselli   
Director of Programmes & Projects

British Council Saudi Arabia

E: [Mahmoud.mouselli@britishcouncil.org](mailto:Mahmoud.mouselli@britishcouncil.org)

1. **Appendices**

Appendix 1, Application Form

Appendix 2, Activity-Based Budget Template

Appendix 3, Eligible and Ineligible Costs

Appendix 4, Grant Agreement

Appendix 5, Eligibility Checklist

Appendix 6, Scoring Form