

**Going Global Partnerships – Grant to higher education institutions for collaboration to enhance quality of Online, Distant and Digitally Delivered learning (ODDL)**

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# **Frequently Asked Questions**

**2025-26**

## Section1: About the Call for Application

**Call opens: Thursday, 30 January 2025**

**Call closes: Saturday, 01 March 2025; 23:59 UK time**

Q: Who are the key funders on both sides?

A: British Council is the only funder for this programme.

Q: From which Indian / UK Institutions principal applicants can apply?

A: The grant is available to all UK and Indian Higher Education Institutions who would like to collaborate to enhance quality of Online Distant and Digitally Delivered Learning (ODDL).

Indian Institutions may be one of the following:	UK Institution must be one of the following:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All tertiary Higher Educational Institutions (public or private) that are recognised by the State government or Central government and its institutions like UGC (University Grants Commission) or AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education) in India.</li><li>• All not for profit research institutions, organisations are also eligible. In case of doubt, please do check with British Council.</li><li>• Any public or private organisations with a role in the Online Distant and Digitally Delivered learning</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Higher Education provider with <a href="#">degree awarding powers</a>.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ England - Check the 'awarding degrees' drop down section on the specific provider's entry on the <a href="#">OFS register</a>. The OFS register lists all institutions which offer UK degrees, not all of which have degree awarding powers.</li><li>○ Northern Ireland – <a href="https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/universities-and-colleges-northern-ireland">https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/universities-and-colleges-northern-ireland</a></li><li>○ Scotland – <a href="https://www.gov.scot/policies/universities/">https://www.gov.scot/policies/universities/</a></li><li>○ Wales – <a href="https://www.gov.uk/check-university-award-degree/recognised-bodies-wales">https://www.gov.uk/check-university-award-degree/recognised-bodies-wales</a></li></ul></li><li>• Not-for-profit research institutions, Charitable establishment and organisations with a role in Higher Education. (See <b>Annex 1</b> for a complete list of these).</li><li>• Any public or private organisations with a role in the Regulation and Quality Assurance Online Distance and Digitally Delivered Learning</li></ul>

Q: What is the upper limit of the award money?

A: Maximum amount of grant is up to £10,000 for six months.

Q: Can Lead or co-applicant apply for more than one application?

A: No, one applicant can submit only one application. However, there can be more than one application from the UK and India institution from different departments with different PIs covering more than one thematic area/department. It is suggested that the consortium applies for grant in new thematic areas. Preference will be given to proposals on new thematic areas other than the ones awarded in the past to the consortium / lead UK University.

Q: Can we have more than 3 "associate partners"?

A: Yes, However, in application form only 3 associate partner details are required.

Q: Are previous GGP awardees eligible to apply under this call.

A: All Indian and UK institutions are eligible to apply.

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Q: Which supporting documents are required to be submitted along with the online application?

A: Below mentioned documents need to be submitted along with the online application:

- A common letter of Intent signed by the Head of Department confirming a formal collaboration between all participating institutions on a letterhead.
- A statement of support from the Head of Department (or equivalent) of each participating institution that they have read the application and agree to provide consent for submitting the same on a letterhead. Letter from UK Lead Institute should also confirm that the grant will be administered by them.
- All letters mentioned above along with supporting letter from the state (if any) are to be saved as one document in the form of pdf and send to [goingglobalindia@in.britishcouncil.org](mailto:goingglobalindia@in.britishcouncil.org) after submitting the online form. The Subject line of the email should be "Supporting Documents" followed by the UK Lead applicant name and UK Lead Institution name.
- CV for the Lead Person from each Partnering institution
- Please note the Budget sheet in the form of xls should be part of this mail only. The formulas in budget sheet should remain intact and no changes are allowed.

Q: Do we need to take necessary permissions prior to applying for this grant?

A: Yes, there are some Institutional level documents that we would need. Please read through section called "overview of the funding opportunity" and the supporting documents which are required as part of the Call guidelines and accordingly take approvals before applying under this call.

Q: Are there any themes/ subjects defined under this call? / What are some current themes that are currently in market that preference as you mentioned is given to?

A: Thematic areas are not defined, and call is open to all subject areas however this need to be mutually agreed with-in and preferably should be based on market demand. The themes and subjects selected should not be culturally insensitive, controversial or matters related to the internal security of India.

Q: What is duration for the grants?

A: **100% Grant amount** will be disbursed by **March 2025**. Project activity to be completed by end of **September 2025**. Final report to be submitted by **September 2025**.

Q: Will there be an opportunity in the future to leverage this grant into something bigger we can get fund for?

A: We cannot comment or guarantee the funding opportunity. If any available, we will open these to all sectors.

Q: Is this grant exclusively for the development of teaching materials?

A: No, please go through the call document for further details.

Q: Does the project have to lead to the development of a course or programme? If not, would the application be disadvantaged?

A: The result of the project may not necessarily lead to designing a course, but should have a plan to design courses as one of the objectives, however the outcomes expected should be beneficial to the stakeholders and should tackle identified problematic areas through a body of research and can be quantifiable.

Q: Can you please give a specific example of gender impacts on science/engineering projects?

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A: The application should clearly mention that how you are going to design your program to make it gender sensitive?

Q: Is it sufficient to run focus groups and workshops to inform academic modules in September 2025?

A: The project under this grant will be valid till September 2025 and all project funds will not be available beyond this timeline. If planning for any activity that needs to be completed before the deadline of submission. Successful collaborations will have the opportunity to apply for a top-up grant in the next grant cycle.

## **Section 2- Eligibility**

Q. Is the current British Council grant holder from the UK or Indian institution eligible to apply?

A. Yes, they are eligible to apply.

Q: How many Lead and Co-applicant can apply?

A: The proposal must be a joint application, with partner institutions at least: one UK Institution, one Indian institution.

Q: Can all Lead or Co-applicants and partner travel as part of this grant?

A: Yes, either of the UK or Indian partners in the consortium can propose travel however this needs to be mutually agreed between them.

Q. Should the lead UK applicant hold some designated post such as Professor or Lecturer, or can he be a research fellow with a Professor as a Co-lead in a university?

A. Lead Applicant and Co-applicants must be permanent employees of their institution(s) (this means that emeritus and honorary professors may not apply as lead) and/or their contract end date must be later than the date of completion of this grant.

Q: Can an adjunct faculty of a university in India be a partner?

A: Lead Applicant and Co-applicants must be permanent employees of their institution(s) (this means that emeritus and honorary professors may not apply as lead) and/or their contract end date must be later than the date of completion of this grant.

Q: Do the previous applicants with another consortium are eligible to apply?

A: Yes. However, it is suggested that the consortium applies for grant in new thematic areas.

Q: Can a British Council award holder apply for this grant if they hold another grant if the two projects are distinct?

A: Yes, they are eligible to apply but with different projects.

Q: Along with a UK University can a Professional body (UK) set up by Charter Act of UK be incorporated in the Consortium?

A: the proposal must be a joint application, with partner institutions at least: one UK Institution, one Indian institution.

Q: How to get started from having no existing collaboration with UK counterpart?

A: Finding the UK partner based on identified thematic area is applicant's responsibility. If you do not have any linkage with UK institutes, you are advised to network with your colleagues and counter parts

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in your institute or other HEI's. You may also reach out to Universities UK organisation in the UK who engages with 140 UK Universities. Here is the link- <https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/universities-uk-international>.

Q: What should be an ideal number of participants (men/women) in a project team?

A: There is no definite number prescribed however proposal should have diversity in decision making and leadership roles. Therefore, it is advised to have gender balance both in leadership and project team roles.

Q: What counts as previous partnership between the partners? For example, does prior research collaboration count as a previous partnership?

A: Yes, it does. All awards given under GGP are counted as previous partnerships.

Q: How many academicians per institute can be part of this proposal?

A: There is no definite prescribed number, this should be judiciously and mutually agreed between the partnering institutions and aligned with the scope of the project.

Q: Will an LGBT participant be considered in GES?

A: British Council supports Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and hence focus on all genders including LGBT is considered as part of this call.

Q: Can we have more than one University partners from UK and India in consortium?

A: The proposed call invites joint application from the consortium i.e. at least one Indian HEI, one UK HEI.

Q: Are previous awardees from Exploratory and Collaborative Grant partners eligible to apply for this programme?

A: Yes, they can apply as an extension to the previous activity or may propose a new project which is totally distinct from the previous one.

Q: Is this grant applicable for technical research which involves product development and equipment?

A: No. Please go through the call objective and guidelines for clarity.

### **Section 3- Application Process, Online Application Form and Submissions**

Q: Are support letters and permission letters same which are to be uploaded while submitting the application?

A: Yes, supporting letters are to be submitted via mail to our maid id post submission of Online Application form. The mail should have 1 pdf document for all supporting letters on institutions letterhead and another attachment for Budget sheet in xls format.

Q: Can I take digital signatures on support letter and endorsement letter from the head of the institute?

A: Yes, support letters with digital signatures are accepted. Person submitting the proposal should have the approval to use digital signatures.

Q: Is it necessary that only UK Lead applicant can submit application?

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A: Yes, UK institution as the lead coordinator must submit the application on behalf of all other co-applicants or partners. British Council will sign the grant agreement with the UK institutions and will receive the Going Global grant funding.

Q: What should be the exchange rate for INR and GBP for the budget sheet plan?

A: Basic exchange rate can be calculated on the rate of 1 GBP = 112 INR

Q: What are the budget heads under which we can plan the project activities?

A: There are five budget categories under which Applicants can plan their activities:

**Section 1 – Human Resource/Staff Costs**

**Section 2 – Expertise Costs**

**Section 3 – International Travel and Subsistence**

**Section 4 – Operational and Activity Costs**

**Section 5 – Marketing and Communication Costs**

**Section 6 – Miscellaneous and Additional Costs**

Q: Will the grant support hiring personnel of Research Assistant/ Postdoc on both sides?

A: Yes, the requirement for hiring Research Assistant / Postdoc depends upon the scope of project and must be mutually agreed with-in the consortium.

Q: Is professional consultancy fees compulsory?

A: It is not compulsory; it is advisable depending on project requirements.

Q: What is the difference between Staff cost and Professional fee?

A: Professional fees can be charged for hiring consultants or taking services from consultancy services. It may also be charged as one time honorarium. Staff time is more long term and for a continuous support to the project like hiring research docs. PI's time may also be charged as staff time.

Q: Is it mandatory to use the travel cost? Or can it be used for activities like local site visit and field work?

A: The Budget is to be allocated as per defined budget heads. It is recommended to allocate budget as per the given budget heads funds can be allocated under the "Project Activity" budget head for local site visit or field work.

Q: If we are not using any additional human resources (expertise), can we utilize the 20% on other categories?

A: No, the cost to be utilized as per the allocation of budget head.

Q: Is the expertise cost only for the UK? It says so in the guidelines but not in the budget sheet or the application form

A: Any cost element in your project can be chargeable / budgeted by both partners, however, it shouldn't exceed the budget limit.

Q: Are supplementary funds mandatory for project applications? If so, what specific requirements must be met regarding supplementary funding?

A: It is ideal to have supplementary funds to cover costs that are not covered under GGP funding.

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Q: If three faculty members from the same Indian institution are applying for this call with other collaborators, how to include all three faculty members in the form. Form supports one lead applicant from India, UK .

A: Their details can be included in the associate partners.

Q: Are there any guidelines on how we split the fund between the partners?

A: While there is no recommended split between UK and Indian costs, however it is expected that the budget plan will be mutually agreed among all partners and will be shared as part of the application form. Please note, the project spend should meet the requirement of the programme objective.

Q: Time cost of each member named on the grant application needs to be costed?

A: It thus has to be Indian and UK Institutional partners and any other associated partner which is Not Profit.

Q: The application only has a lead applicant and a deputising colleague, who can deputise for the Lead Person if they are unable to lead the collaboration for any reason. We cannot add co-applicants or Co-investigators.

A: Please add the co-applicants as associate partners.

Q: If there are multiple departments involved in the project as it is interdisciplinary, can all faculty (4) be added as CO PI?

A: One faculty member can be added as PI and others can be added as associate partners.

Q- Who can be contacted for any queries related to filling of the online application form?

A- The Call guidelines and FAQs needs to be referred for Call related queries. In case you face issues while filling up the application on the portal or you have any other Call related query, feel free to write to us on our mail id [goingglobalindia@in.britishcouncil.org](mailto:goingglobalindia@in.britishcouncil.org). We shall revert to you within 24 hours on working days, Monday to Friday.

Q: Do you have to share the grant with the education institution partner in India who is the co-partner not the lead?

A: Grants will be disbursed to the lead applicant (UK University) and the lead applicant will be responsible for the modalities of sharing the grants with their co-applicants for activities related to the project. British Council does not provide any guidance on splitting the funds as this needs to be agreed mutually between all partners. There is no requirement for the split to be of a particular ratio, but it should be mutual and equitably address the goal of the partnership and in agreement with all partners in the consortium or partnership. The agreed split of funds should be clearly mentioned in the financial proposal.

Q: Will the call deadline be extended?

A: No. We don't have any plans to extend the call deadline at this stage.

#### **Section 4- Evaluation and Result**

Q: What is the selection procedure?

A: Eligible applications will be assessed against GES (Gender Equality Statement) criteria. All applications which are GES eligible will only move ahead to the Quality Review Check by the Assessment Panel. Assessment panel will consist of nominated qualified panel and the decisions taken by the panel will be final. Please refer to call guidelines for detailed information.

Q: How the applicants will be informed about selection?

A: All applicants will receive emails of being successful. In addition, the results will be publicly declared in form of a list of successful applications on the British Council India website.



Q: Regarding EDI, what if we want to address a gender issue and work for example with a female only college?

A: Gender Equality Statement is about Gender inclusion and not only about working with women. The project needs to be gender sensitive and should talk about including people from different genders. Partnering with a female college is the mutual decision of the consortium however please be noted that this is not only about male or female inclusion. It is about Gender Equality. Kindly refer “Gender and Social Inclusion Guide” on the web page for detailed guidance.

## Section 5 – Project Implementation

Q: Who will receive the grant and how will this be disbursed amongst all Principal Applicant Institutions?

A: British Council will disburse grant to the UK institution who is the lead applicant. The lead applicant / institution will have the responsibility of managing grant and submitting us full settlement at the end of completion of the activity.

There is no requirement for the split to be of a particular ratio, but it should be mutual and equitably address the goal of the partnership and in agreement with all partners in the consortium or partnership. The agreed split of funds should be clearly mentioned in the financial proposal.

Q: Is it possible to spend part of the budget for buying specialist equipment needed for enhancing learning experience?

A: No, assets like laptops, computers, software, machinery, phones, physical books, equipment, printers, cameras etc. cannot be purchased as part of the grant. Participating universities are expected to provide any such infrastructure that may be required to deliver the course. However, any consumables like stationery, communication expenses are acceptable.

Q: Can we cost in Facilities access in order to enable some research activities through the partnership?

A: Please refer to the ineligible cost mentioned in the call guideline.

Q: Does British Council have any number/scale in mind with respect to outreach/output and the longer-term impact/outcome for accepting a proposal?

A: No- our aim is to enable academic collaboration and facilitate systemic changes through our grants. Your project needs to clearly demonstrate the outcomes (SMART) you aim to achieve, which needs to be realistic and timebound.

Q: If we develop a product, who will hold the ownership? Will it be under the name of the UK institution, or will it be shared among the three institutions?

A: All Intellectual Property Rights shall remain the exclusive property of the party owning it. It is the responsibility of the Recipient, the Project Partner and all Sub-Grantees involved in the Project, between them to agree, in good faith negotiations on the ownership of all relevant intellectual property (IP) rights.

Q: How many percentages of grant under each budget head?

A: Below is the split of grant which can be used under each budget head: For details, please refer call guidelines.

<b>Section 1-Human Resource/Staff Costs</b>	There is a cap set at 30% of the total grant staff costs
<b>Section 2-Expertise Costs</b>	There is a cap set at 20% of the total grant being applied for
<b>Section 3-International Travel and Subsistence</b>	There is a cap set at 20% of the total grant being applied for





<b>Section 4-Operational and Activity Costs</b>	The approximate costs/allocation you intend to use for specific activities can be given. Be clear how any residual costs will be covered if not entirely by the grant.
<b>Section 5-Marketing and Communication Costs</b>	The approximate costs/allocation you intend to use for any Marketing and Communications aspects of your proposal can be given for this section. Be clear how any residual costs will be covered if not entirely by the grant.
<b>Section 6-Miscellaneous and Additional Costs</b>	The approximate costs/allocation you intend to use for any elements that are not covered in other sections. Be clear how any residual costs will be covered if not entirely by the grant.