

Going Global Partnerships

Guidance Notes

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

2025-26

January 2025

Call Opens on 30 January, 2025

Call Closes on 25 February 2025, 23:59 (UK time)

Grant to Higher Education Institutions for collaboration to enhance quality of Online Distant and Digitally Delivered Learning (ODDL)

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Countries: India-UK 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.

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

- **Enabling research** – supporting research, knowledge and innovation collaborations to address local and global challenges and promote inclusive growth.
- **Internationalising higher education and TVET** – supporting systems, institutions and individuals to benefit from internationalisation, including enabling transnational education and system alignment.
- **Strengthening systems and institutions** – improving the quality and efficiency of higher education and TVET institutions and systems.
- **Enhancing learner outcomes** – addressing the qualities of the global graduate, including soft skills, employability and community outcomes.
- **Increasing equality, diversity and inclusion** – making higher education and TVET more accessible, equitable and accountable.

See open and upcoming Going Global Partnerships opportunities [on our portal](#).

Opportunities are being launched continually, so please check this page regularly.

Call Name Online Distance and Digitally Delivered Learning Grant

Maximum value of grant	Upto £10,000
Number of grants expected to be funded in this call	Upto 4 and depending on availability of funds
Deadline for applications	25 February 2025 Time: 23:59 (UK time)
Contact for further information	Goingglobalindia@britishcouncil.org

About the Grant call

1. Call Overview

In June 2015 about 150 policy-makers, leading practitioners and stakeholders, including rectors/vice chancellors/presidents of universities, academic staff, students, UNESCO Chairs in ICT and OER, ICDE Chairs in OER, members of international nongovernmental organizations, from all over the world and from more than 55 countries gathered at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 9 to 11 June 2015 in the Global High-Level Forum organized by UNESCO in partnership with the International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE). Addressing the issues of access, equity and quality learning outcomes as key features shaping the new vision for the post-2015 education agenda, the participants highlighted the contribution of Higher Education to the future global sustainable development agenda and to helping countries, particularly developing ones, achieve “equitable, quality education and lifelong learning for all by 2030”.

Driven by growth in middle classes in developing countries in Asia and Africa, the demand for higher education is set to increase from 160 million students in 2015 to over [414 million](#) by 2030, according to UNESCO. To meet that surge, the world would have to build four universities that serve 80,000 students every week, every year. ¹

Acceptance of ODDL was further enhanced by the pandemic world wide closures and deep penetration of internet across the world and in particular in India through handheld as well as personal computing devices. Improved smartphone and computer technology has become more affordable to wider segment of people making this is a viable option for increasing equity and widening access to higher education. There are 900 million active users of internet in India which is approximately 50% penetration. It is still behind developing nations but the largest growing market after China. 50 % of the users said that they used internet for education.²

The NEP 2020 strongly recommends offering flexibility and choice to students and recommends that online and distance education be offered to students so that they can get access to higher education. Distance Education Bureau (DEB) is the implementing bureau of the UGC for regulating distance and online education programmes of Higher Education in the Country. UGC has notified the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning

¹ <https://iite.unesco.org/files/news/639206/Paris%20Message%2013%2007%202015%20Final.pdf>

² <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1459165/india-reasons-for-internet-usage/>

Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 on 4th September, 2020,³ This regulation is also currently undergoing review. One of the key features of this regulation is that the universities offering or in the process to offer online education has to of certain standard as per NAAC accreditation norms or NIRF ranking advocated the set up of a centre for internal quality assurance and general quality standards.

Office for Students (OfS) and QAA in the UK are agencies that are responsible for the quality control and regulation of all TNE courses. This is a new area of regulation. Whilst the general principle is that the approach to regulating a course being offered on the online mode should be exactly the same and they are now in the process of developing a new framework of regulation.

Regulation of the ODDL landscape is challenging because it is rapidly evolving. While some courses may not need to meet with students ever other universities offer face to face support throughout. Some have their own platform but others are using commercial platforms such as Futurelearn, Emeritus etc.

In this rapidly evolving and complex landscape there is much need for sharing knowledge and experience between higher education institutions, regulatory institutions, technology partner institutions and other service providers. The British Council is therefore putting out a call or partnership grants between institutions in the UK and India for sharing knowledge and building capability for enhancing the quality of online, distance and digitally delivered education.

2. Objectives

The objective of the Going Global Partnerships Online Distance and Digitally Delivered Learning (ODDL) Grant is to:

- a. Use of grant **to increase understanding** of each others systems, challenges and approaches to delivering their role, be it regulation, pedagogy or quality control. This could be through exchange visit, series of webinars, roundtables
- b. **Identify areas for further collaboration** for institutional strengthening of online education management and delivery capacity, increasing the choice for students or improving the profile of the courses and employability of students and submit a report of what they learnt as well as what they plan together.
- c. The partnership may address **how technology can be harnessed or shared to improve the student experience of learning and improve learning outcome** of the students.
- d. The partnership **may address issues** such as low completion rates, lack of profile and market value of the courses with employers etc and offer solutions through joint deliberations consultation and research.

³https://www.ugc.gov.in/Bureaus/bureaus_details?LEYOdtcTes9SSAkE8%2FZtOH0eCzyyh%2FISTbW7m0TASV8%2BFdZIDCXtCa4Brqs66xjKLtGg1L3tvlfB1%2BZaRapYAw%3D%3D#:~:text=To%20maintain%20quality%20in%20online,assessment%20and%20third%20party%20audit.

-
- e. The partnership may address how **quality and rigour of assessment and overall regulation and management of online learning systems** as a whole as well as improving centre for internal quality assurance of universities as outlined in the regulations.
 - f. To showcase the possibilities of high-quality learning experience and skill acquisition through ODDL collaborative models.

3. Outcomes

The grant aims to build stronger, more inclusive, higher education systems that support global development impacts.

- **Goal:** ODDL collaboration is an innovative approach leading to excellence in higher education - re-designing teaching & learning, research and innovation being more inclusive, accessible and with a focus on output as well as input. All using best instructional design practices, breaking barriers to digital learning, and greater use of AI.

The overall expected outcomes of the programme:

- **Developing a sustainable digital learning ecosystem through collaborative innovative approaches to break barriers around digital learning**
- **Knowledge development and growth** of digital learning which includes but not limited to assessments, regulations, ODDL administration and governance, organisational structure for ODDL planning, teaching and assessments, academic collaboration to optimise complementing competences, knowledge, and technologies to advance knowledge and development.
- **Develop a mutually beneficial partnership:** Academia, research, regulatory partners develop a 360-degree learning environment and exchange of knowledge. Academia provides flexibility in teaching and learning thus, contributes by reducing learning and teaching costs.
- **Strengthening higher education systems:** improving the quality and efficiency of institutions and systems. Contributions to wider reform processes through creating greater awareness of quality assurance, compliance, relevant tools, evaluative frameworks and access.
- **Enhancing outcomes:** Providing solutions to improve the ODDL changes within the ODDL ecosystem thus enhancing the quality of global online graduates (e.g., soft skills, employability, community outcomes).

4. Overview of the Funding Opportunity

This document refers to the following opportunity: **Going Global Partnership Online Distant and Digitally Delivered Learning grant**

These grants will be awarded to a consortium comprising of one UK Institute and one Indian Institute. The proposal should be able to clearly demonstrate use of funding through this opportunity to identify problem and suggest changes within the ODDL ecosystem and as per the call objectives stated in this call document.

This call also supports strategic partnership between quality assurance agencies, capacity building organisations, sector professional bodies in India and the UK.

Maximum amount of grant to be awarded is up to **£10,000** for six months.

Call specifications

- a. The exploratory partnership grant is to be between two organisations of same or similar roles in their respective country. Eg Regulatory body to Regulatory Body, university to university, quality assurance body to quality assurance bodies, or capacity building organisations, sector professional bodies etc. (eg NAAC can partner with QAA, or UGC with OfS, AICTE with ENIC etc).
- b. Each grant would be upto 10,000 GBP.
- c. The activity has to be completed within six months of the award of grant.
- d. The grant will open on the 30th Jan and close on the 25th of February 2025.

Applications must have the support of all participating Indian and UK institutions, confirmed by supporting letters on their letter heads. The consortium should also submit one common letter of intent signed by the head of department of all participating institutes, acknowledging the formation of the partnership. All letters (including state support letter, if any) are to be saved as one document in the form of pdf and send to goingglobalindia@in.britishcouncil.org after submitting the online form. The Subject line of the email should be “**Supporting Documents**” followed by UK Lead Institution name.

Eligibility criteria for Institutions

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

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	Y/N
<p>Each proposal must have both:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one Lead institution from India; • one Lead institution from the UK and • The proposal must be prepared jointly by leads from all partnering institutions but submitted by the Lead from the UK Institution 	
<p>UK Lead institution must be one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher Education provider with degree awarding powers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ England - Check the 'awarding degrees' drop down section on the specific provider's entry on the OFS register. The OFS register lists all institutions which offer UK degrees, not all of which have degree awarding powers. ○ Northern Ireland – https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/universities-and-colleges-northern-ireland ○ Scotland – https://www.gov.scot/policies/universities/ ○ Wales – https://www.gov.uk/check-university-award-degree/recognised-bodies-wales • Not-for-profit research institutions, Charitable establishment and organisations with a role in Higher Education. (See Annex 1 for a complete list of these). • Any public or private organisations with a role in the Regulation and Quality Assurance Online Distance and Digitally Delivered Learning 	
<p>India lead institution must be one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • All not for profit research institutions, organisations are also eligible. In case of doubt, please do check with British Council. • Any public or private organisations with a role in the Online Distant and Digitally Delivered learning 	
<p>The UK Lead institution in the must have the capacity to administer the grant. They need to submit a support letter to confirm their capacity.</p>	
<p>The partnership can include in their proposals associated partners (from India and the UK) affiliated with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher Education providers • Not-for-profit research institutions, establishment and organisations • TVET/FE providers • Other education organisations/charities/foundations/membership bodies • Branch and satellite campuses of UK Higher Education providers • Government organisations • Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Social Enterprise organisations 	
<p>For-profit non-education organisations are not eligible to receive any grant funds, except to cover travel-associated costs. The proposal must clearly define their contribution to achieving call objectives.</p>	

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

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

Funding

The Online Distant and Digitally delivered Learning grant expects to support upto 04 projects of maximum **£10,000** in value each, for a 6-month period, starting from **MARCH 2025**.

Funds will be disbursed directly to the contracting institution from the UK according to the approved final budget. 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.

For an equitable partnership, the contracting institution should be able to timely transfer funding to the partnering institution(s) from overseas for activities which support the objectives of the collaboration and the overall project, allowing activities implementation to be implemented without delay.

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 integrity.

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

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

Safeguarding and protecting adults at risk

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

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

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

Impact on the Environment

The British Council is committed to minimising its environmental impact. We welcome information from Applicants regarding environmental considerations such as reducing carbon emissions for their projects

(for example, alternatives to national or international travel such as virtual delivery), minimising waste or promoting resource efficiency.

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

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

Privacy Notice

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

We may share all application data with UK partner(s) institution(s), India partner(s) Institution (s) to assist with management of the application process. We may share selected non personal data with agencies responsible for monitoring and evaluation of this grant call.

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

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

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

Application Process and Documentation

Applicants must submit **a completed application form via MS Forms**. Sample of the application form is also available at the downloads section of the web announcement. The online application form cannot be saved in between; hence you are advised to download the sample application form and fill that collaboratively. Once you are satisfied with the offline application form, transfer it to the online version and submit the same. Please note, no email submissions are accepted as part of this call.

Please [click here](#) to access the online application form:

Any issues with the online submission system should be reported to the following email address:

GoingGlobalIndia@in.britishcouncil.org.

Supporting Documents

- 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 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.
- Please note the Budget sheet in the form of **xls** should be part of this mail only.

The deadline for applications is **23:59 (UK time) on 25 February 2025** – we recommend that you send at least an hour before to avoid any last-minute technical glitches.

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

Ensure you have included all required documentation listed in the Pre-submission Checklist as incomplete applications will be immediately regarded as ineligible. We received great volume of applications so there is no scope of appeal as well.

Frequently asked questions

Q: The colleague who needs to sign off the approval is not available to provide the letter of support so I could not submit it.

A: As per the duration of the grant call – you should be able to get somebody with delegated authority to approve your intention to submit the application.

Q: I am unable to get one of the CVs for the leads at an institution

A: As per the duration of the grant call you should be able to get your supporting documentation from partners.

Application Form

Applicants must submit **a completed application form via MS Forms**. Please note, no email submissions are accepted as part of this call.

Please [click here](#) to access the online application form. The Budget sheet should be submitted as an attachment in the mail in excel format only.

Format for the budget sheet is available in the ‘Download’ section of the web announcement. You may refer to “Application Process” in this document.

Any issues with the online submission system should be reported to the following email address: **GoingGlobalIndia@in.britishcouncil.org**.

Gender and EDI Statements

Applicants are encouraged to ensure equal opportunities in the teams implementing their proposed activity. Applicants may apply for additional funding to cover any specific requirements necessary to ensure full participation.

Please make additional costs in the 'human resources' section of the budget request within your application. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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

Gender Equality

To comply with the International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014, applications must outline how they have taken meaningful yet proportionate consideration as to how the project will contribute to reducing gender inequalities in the Gender Equality Statement section of the application form.

Gender Equality Statement

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

Below are the project aspects that can be taken into consideration for the gender statement but not limited to.

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

The statement is part of the equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) assessment criterion in this call.

The following questions should be answered when writing the statement.

- 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.
- The expected impact of the project (benefits and losses) on people of different genders, both throughout the project and beyond.
- The impact on the relations between people of different genders and people of the same gender. For example, changing roles and responsibilities in households, society, economy, politics, power, etc.
- How will any risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality be avoided or mitigated against, and monitored?
- Are there any relevant outcomes and outputs being measured, with data disaggregated by age and gender (where disclosed)?
- At what stage of the gender journey will the project start, and where you aim to be at the end of it.

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

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

British Council reserve the right to reject the application if inadequate consideration has been given to gender equality or if the proposal is assessed to result in a negative impact for gender equality. Please refer to the separate guidance on Gender Equality Statements that has been included with the documents for this grant call.

Budget Sheet

Budgets must only be submitted using the Budget Sheet supplied within the Grant Call Documentation

A list of Eligible and Ineligible costs can be found in Annex 2.

Section 1 – Human Resource/Staff Costs

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

Section 2 – Expertise Costs

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

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

Section 3 – International Travel and Subsistence

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

Section 4 – Operational and Activity Costs

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

Section 5 – Marketing and Communication Costs

- In section 5 you can give the approximate costs/allocation you intend to use for any Marketing and Communications aspects of your proposal. Be clear how any residual costs will be covered if not entirely by the grant.
- Read Annex 2 for guidance on permitted costs
- As per the previous sections– clarify what portion of these costs is it intended be covered by the grant and how any residual costs are to be funded

Section 6 – Miscellaneous and Additional Costs

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

Budget Summary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- If your planned budget is lower than the grant you are applying for you will see a warning message stating, “Your planned budget is less than the grant you have requested – do you need to review your budget to ensure everything has been included”
 - If this is the case you could either revisit the grant you are claiming and reduce it to your planned budget; or revisit your budget to ensure you haven’t miscalculated
 - If you submit your application with this message your application will still be considered – but on the basis of your proposed budget and not the grant figure so please ensure you are happy that you have not missed anything.

Selection Process

- Applications will be reviewed for completeness – if we do not have everything requested in the **Pre-submission Checklist**, your application will be declared ineligible and not proceed to next stage. We receive large volume of applications so will not be able to notify you at this stage.
- **Applications will be assessed on the basis of assessment criteria Specified below by a panel of subject experts.**
- Top ranked applications will be selected and will be notified about their selection for contracting and disbursement of grants
- Unsuccessful applications will be notified at a later stage. You can ask for feedback to your application by writing to goingglobalindia@britishcouncil.org

Assessment Criteria

Assessment of the quality and development relevance of the proposals will be performed by panel members. The decision of the assessment panel will be final, and funding will be given in order of ranking and available funds.

Proposals with an average score of less than 20 points will be considered not for funding. Proposals that have clearly articulated relevance to Gender Equality Statements will be considered for further evaluation as per section 2,3 and 4

Section 1: Relevance to Gender Equality	Satisfactory/ Unsatisfactory
Measures are in place to ensure equal and meaningful opportunities for people of different genders to participate.	
The learning opportunities created will have a positive impact on people of different genders, both throughout the project and beyond.	
Risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality will be monitored, avoided or mitigated against.	
Relevant outcomes and outputs will be measured with disaggregated data by age and gender (where disclosed).	



Section 2: Institutional Track and Experience in supporting Online Teaching and Learning Collaborations	Scoring Scale	Score (Range 0-10)
<p>The Lead applicant and Co - applicants have sufficient relevant experience and an intent to develop and implement the project jointly.</p> <p>The lead applicant and co- applicants are aware of the regulatory provisions for ODDL collaboration and are able to demonstrate how they plan to work within these and articulate possibilities?</p> <p>The collaborating institutions are of appropriate academic standing.</p>	<p>10 points: Meets all criteria to an exceptional level</p> <p>8-10 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level</p> <p>5 to 7 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level</p> <p>3 to 4 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p>1 to 2 points: Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p>0 points: Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.</p>	

Section 3: The Proposal	Scoring Scale	Score (Range 0-20)
<p>The proposal should indicate reasons how the proposed project is reflective of the ODDL demand / bringing systemic change/ knowledge sharing between academia / joint research / proposal having a potential to meet critical needs of student community.</p> <p>Proposal must describe activities that would lead to development and delivery of the proposed project as per the timelines indicated in the call guidelines.</p> <p>There is clear evidence that the development of the proposed project is enhancing ODDL linkages.</p> <p>The benefits and relevance of the collaboration to ODDL are clearly described.</p>	<p>20 points: Meets all criteria to an exceptional level</p> <p>16 to 19 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level</p> <p>11 to 15 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level</p> <p>6 to 10 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p>1 to 5 points: Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p>0 points: Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.</p>	

Section 4: Sustainability	Scoring Scale	Score (Range 0–10)
<p>There is a clear description how learning from this proposal will translate into larger ODDL collaboration and enhance student learning experience.</p> <p>There should be clear indication of commitment and resources for sustainability of this proposed proposal by each of the participating partners, during and beyond the duration of the grant.</p>	<p>10 points: Meets all criteria to an exceptional level</p> <p>8-10 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level</p> <p>5 to 7 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level</p> <p>3 to 4 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p>1 to 2 points: Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p>0 points: Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.</p>	
Total score for quality assessment (Section 2 + Section 3 + Section 4)	Score	Range
		0–40

Key Milestones

Milestone	Timelines
Deadline for applications	25 February 2025; 23:59 (UK time)
Results announcement	12 March 2025
Contracts signed	22 March 2025
Grant disbursement period	100 % by March 2025
Final Closure Report (including financial evidence)	25 September 2025
Financial reporting	25 September 2025

1. All dates may be subject to change if the call received significantly more applications than expected.
2. It is mandated that the selected applicants sign the contract agreement by 22 March failing which the award will be revoked and will be given to the next applicant in the order of merit
- *3. Awardees who will successfully utilise 100% funds and complete all the project activities by the end of the project period will be eligible for top up grants, if announced and subject to availability of funds

Pre-Submission Checklist

The application has been submitted by the applicant by the published deadline.	
The application is completed in full.	
The application form and supporting documents have been completed in English.	
Contracting institution is eligible (see Eligibility section).	
Lead Applicant must be from a UK Higher Education Institution partnering with one Indian Higher Education Institution	
Lead applicant and co-applicants are permanent employees of their institution and/or if contractual, their contract end date must be later than the date of completion of this grant.	
Only one application per lead applicant has been submitted in this round (please note that there is no limit on the number of applications submitted per institution)	
The institutions where lead applicant and co-applicant(s) are based, are recognised Higher Education Institutions in the respective countries.	
The applicants have included supporting letters from each of the contracting and partnering Institutions, on headed paper, signed by the Head of Department or other person with appropriate delegated authority, giving specific commitment to the project. Supporting letters must be in English, and not be signed by Lead Applicant(s). As stated in these guidelines, email versions of letters are acceptable.	
Lead applicants must have the capacity to administer a grant and fulfill 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.	
The lead applicant and co-applicant(s) has assured that if they received grants from British Council or other funding agency previously, the proposed project is clearly distinct from any other project they have developed in the past.	
Must have demonstrated experience of setting up international collaborations towards addressing the theme that you are applying for the grant	
Applicants have submitted a detailed budget request using the budget spreadsheet provided with the grant call documents on our funding call page.	
Applicants have submitted a CV for both lead applicants.	
Where relevant, associated partner letters have been uploaded	
Human resource costs: Staff costs for personnel working directly on the grant funded project limited to 30% of the grant to be awarded.	
UK expertise costs: Limited to 20% of grant to be awarded.	
Travel costs: Limited to 20% of the grant.	

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All the above criteria must have a 'Yes' response, to be eligible.

Applicant screening

In order 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;
- 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;
- as being subject to export, trade or procurement controls or (in the case of an individual) as being disqualified from being a company director; and/or
- as being a heightened risk individual or organisation, or (in the case of an individual) a politically exposed person.

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

The applicant must provide the British Council with all information reasonably requested by the British Council to complete the screening searches.

Please read the text to this effect on the application form and tick the box to show that you understand this.

Please consider flexible and technological solutions to progress activity for planned work where feasible.

British Council contractual requirements

- The contracting authority is the British Council which includes any subsidiary companies and other organisations that control or are controlled by the British Council from time to time
- (see: www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/structure/status).
- The Grant agreement holder for the partnership will be the contracting institution.
- The successful applicants will be expected to undertake activities in the UK and in the overseas countries listed in these guidelines.
- The British Council is subject to the requirements of the UK Freedom of Information Act, ("FOIA"). Please indicate in your application whether FOIA also applies to your organisation, so that we can reflect this in the Grant agreement should you be successful in your application.
- (Terms and Conditions of the Grant Agreement) ("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.**
- In the event, that you have any concerns or queries in relation to the Grant agreement, you should submit a clarification request to goingglobalindia@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.

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- The British Council is under no obligation to consider any clarifications / amendments to the Grant agreement requested following the application deadline.

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)

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- 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

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- 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 research organisation is eligible but is not on this list, please contact us via goingglobalpartnerships@britishcouncil.org before submitting a proposal for this call.

Annex 2 – Eligible and ineligible costs

Eligible costs

The following costs are eligible for funding:

- Travel: Travel (economy class) and subsistence costs to the UK/partner country, visa fees, vaccinations, quarantine costs (not exceeding GBP800 per person for 14 days), medical insurance, and roaming charges during travel essential to the project, to the UK and partner country.
- Local travel in the UK and overseas (public transport to and from the airport and for meetings/visits is encouraged where possible).
- Reasonable accommodation and subsistence costs for staff when visiting their partner organisation in the UK or overseas
- Reasonable hospitality costs (excluding self-entertaining costs).
- Reasonable production costs (such as for the development of materials but excluding time spent by staff in relation thereto).
- Consultancy fee (for external procurement and up to 30% of the total project costs).
- Essential equipment for use in the project including consumables, specialist software licences essential to the collaboration, access fees for facilities or library services. Equipment must be essential to project delivery and beyond the scope of institutional provision.
- Cost of meetings, training events, workshops, public engagement events, and seminars integral to the proposal. Translation and interpreter fees.
- Publication costs directly related to the collaboration, including web page development by external providers, if appropriate. Open access publication is encouraged.
- Attendance at conferences or other events in the UK, partner countries, or virtual events to present the outputs and outcomes of the project.
- Monitoring and evaluation costs.
- All the foregoing activities must be directly related to the development and delivery of the agreed project. Partners will be asked to provide the British Council with information on expenditure, supported by receipts for monitoring and auditing purposes.
- The cost of staff time for full-time personnel working directly on the project, plus the costs of temporary personnel and other temporary staff recruited to work solely on the project,

Ineligible costs

The following costs are ineligible for funding:

- Full economic costs (FECs) (UK sector terminology).
- Promotional activities solely concerned with the recruitment of overseas students.
- Institutional overheads including administration fees and other indirect costs.
- Costs associated with Master's and PhD scholarships (including stipends).
- Purchase or rental of standard office equipment (except specialist equipment essential to the research). This includes IT hardware – laptops, personal computers, tablets, smartphones, Mac workstations, computer parts and peripherals, etc. Any standard hardware routinely used by researchers and academics will not be funded.
- Office software and office equipment including desks, chairs, filing cabinets, photocopiers, printers, and fax machines.
- Mobile phone costs including rental or purchase, and monthly phone bills.
- Exchange rate costs/losses and other banking-related costs.
- 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.

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- Entertainment costs such as gifts, alcohol, restaurant bills, or hospitality costs for personnel not directly participating in the project, excessive restaurant costs, and excessive taxi fares.
 - No profit or fees must be charged to the grant.