

International Science Partnership Fund

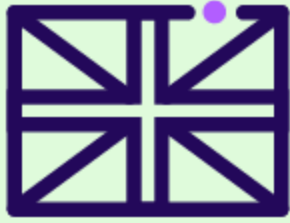
**Information Session for
Thai Applicants
International Research
Collaboration Programme**

15 February 2024

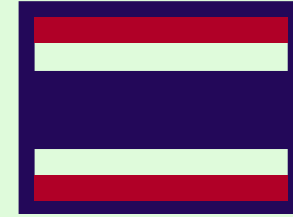
Overview

International Science Partnerships Fund

Our work at the British Council



people-to-people relations



English



Education



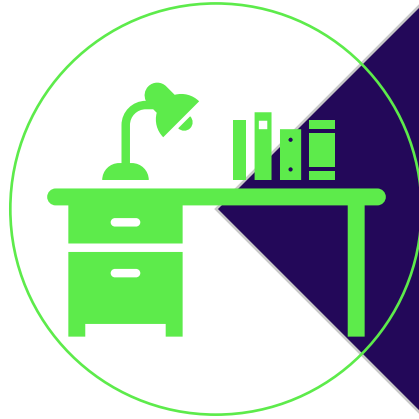
Arts

We create opportunities for young people in Thailand to meet their personal and professional dreams and aspirations underpinned by a knowledge of English and access to UK qualifications, both of which the British Council leads on through our direct English teaching and assessment and our partnership with partners

The British Council in Thailand brings together the best of Thailand and the UK's education, science, and research institutions to address global challenges and cooperate on multilateral bodies such as ISPF, Thai-UK World Class University Consortium, Alumni UK, and UK Scholarships.

We bring together UK and Thai experts to address shared challenges such as an ageing population and inequality through the power of arts and culture, and share UK expertise in festivals and soft power to support Thailand's ambitions to grow its own international cultural prominence and soft power.

Our programmes under International Science Partnerships Fund (ISPF)



Research Collaboration

- supporting UK researchers and innovators to work with peers around the world on the major themes of our time



Early Career Fellowships

- Enabling international collaboration and gaining access to new research environments, facilities, knowledge and expertise, creating lasting for both countries

Research Collaboration programme

- initiate new research and innovation collaborations between academic groups, departments, and institutions
- develop existing collaborations at group, departmental, and institutional level
- encourage these collaborations to work with non-academic organisations and individuals to support the exchange of research and innovation expertise and the translation of research knowledge into tangible benefits



Project duration
18-24 months

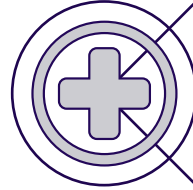


Size of Grant
80,000
(100k FEC)

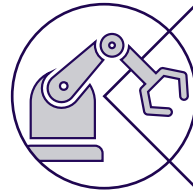
Small scale seed funding for collaborations between the UK and the participating ISPF countries/territories



Resilient planet – leading the green industrial revolution to protect the planet.



Healthy people, animals, and plants – researching and innovating for secure and healthy populations.



Transformative technologies – developing responsible technologies to secure our place in tomorrow's world.



Tomorrow's talent – nurturing talent to drive inclusion, research and innovation.

Call Opens

15 January 2024



Deadline for applications

12 March 2024, 12 noon UK time



Review panels

May 2024



Outcome of selection

June 2024



UK Project start dates:

1 August 2024



Early Career Fellowships programme

- Provide the selected early career researchers with a foundation to launch their careers in research and innovation creating lasting benefits to the fellow and both the UK and the international partner country research communities through sustainable collaboration.
- To widen participation by increasing the number of opportunities for researchers including those whose backgrounds are underrepresented and who have not yet held a full-time research-related post or academic post with a research specific element.



Duration
**6-12
months**

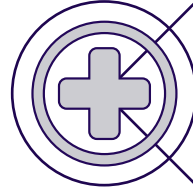


Size of
Grant
180,000
(Per cohort
of 3 fellows)

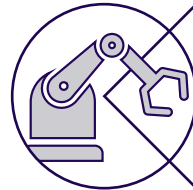
nurture talent to drive inclusion
in Research & Innovation (R&I)



Resilient planet – leading
the green industrial
revolution to protect the
planet.



**Healthy people, animals,
and plants** – researching
and innovating for secure
and healthy populations.



**Transformative
technologies** – developing
responsible technologies to
secure our place in
tomorrow's world.



Tomorrow's talent –
nurturing talent to drive
inclusion, research and
innovation.

This is a prospective timeline and subject to change

Call Opens

April 2024



Deadline for applications

30 June 2024



Shortlisting

July 2024



Outcome of selection

August 2024



Programme start dates:

September – November 2024

Eligibility Requirements and Application Process

British Council and ISPF

Overview of Funding Opportunity

Review of the Guidance for Applicants

Budget

Application Questions

Submission Process

Review of Guidance for Applicants Eligibility - Organisations

UK applicants

- A higher education institution (all **UK** higher education institutions are eligible).
- A not-for-profit research organisation with the capacity to undertake high-quality research.
- A Catapult Centre

Thai applicants

- A higher education Institution
- A not-for-profit research organisation with capacity to undertake high-quality research
- Organisations affiliated to higher education institutions in the UK or any other country and based in the partner country/territory, (e.g. an international campus) are not eligible for ISPF Fund awarded grants.

Review of Guidance for Applicants

Eligibility - Project Leader

UK applicants

- Leading or Established Researcher*
- Permanent employee (not Emeritus or Honorary Professor)
- May only submit one application
- For Profit Organisations may join as Associate Partners, but are only eligible to receive ISPF UK funding for travel and subsistence

Thai applicants

- Leading or Established Researcher*
- May only act as Project Leader in one application

*Please refer the definition of leading or established researchers at following website

<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/europe/career-development/training-researchers/research-profiles-descriptors>

Budget available

UK applicants

- £80,000 (80% of 100,000 Full Economic Costs)

Thai applicants

- country funding will be via the UK grant at 80% Full Economic Costs.

Budget - Eligibility UK Funding

Eligible Costs

- Staff Costs
- Travel and subsistence costs
- Directly Incurred Costs
- Estates
- Indirect Costs
- Additional Funding for Inclusion

Ineligible Costs

- Equipment over £10,000
- Standard office equipment (laptops)
- Studentships
- Dissemination costs
- Patent costs
- Entertainment costs



Directly Incurred costs: These are explicitly identifiable as arising from the conduct of a project, are charged as the cash value actually spent and are supported by an audit record.



Indirect costs are ones which cover the costs of the Research Organisation's management and administrative services

The Budget Worksheet

Summary fund heading	Fund heading	UK Full Economic Cost	UK ISPF contribution / Grant Requested	ISPF contribution	Egypt and Malaysia (Full Economic Cost)	For UK amounts, complete spreadsheet:	For Egypt and Malaysia amounts, complete spreadsheet
DIRECTLY INCURRED	Staff	0.00	0.00	80%	0.00	UK Staff	Partner Country Staff
	Travel & Subsistence	0.00	0.00	80%	0.00	UK Travel and Subsistence	Partner Country Travel and Subsistence
	Other Costs	0.00	0.00	80%	0.00	UK Other Directly Incurred Costs	Partner Country Other DI Costs
	Sub-total	0.00	0.00		0.00		
DIRECTLY ALLOCATED	Investigators	0.00	0.00	80%	0.00	UK Investigators	Partner country investigators
	Facilities Cos	0.00	0.00	80%	0.00	UK Facilities	Partner Country Facilities
	Other Directly Allocated	0.00	0.00	80%	0.00	UK Other Directly Allocated Costs (including Animal Costs)	Partner Other Directly Allocated Costs (including Animal Costs)
	Sub-total	0.00	0.00		0.00		
INDIRECT COSTS	Indirect Costs		0.00	80%	0.00	UK Indirect Cost	Partner Country Indirect Costs
EXCEPTIONS	Travel & Subsistence	0.00	0.00	100%	0.00	Exceptional costs must be discussed prior to application. E-mail: UK-ISPF@britishcouncil.org	
	Other Costs	0.00	0.00	100%	0.00		
	Sub-total	0.00	0.00		0.00		



https://opportunities-insight.britishcouncil.org/sites/siem/files/field/file/news/ISPF%20Research%20Collaobrations%20ODA%20Budget%20Form_3.xlsx

Completing the Budget Worksheet

- Complete with the UK Applicant
- Add information using the tabs at the bottom of the worksheet for Partner Country (hyperlinks on first page in blue)
- Directly incurred staff: Technicians; Research Associates - people with fixed time allocated to the project
- Directly allocated staff: Project Leader
- Other directly allocated costs: Departmental support staff (admin); access to major research facilities
- Indirect Costs / Estates: Overheads – In the UK these are calculated with an approved Transparent Approach to Costing (TRAC) methodology
- Exceptions for Inclusion: To allow people to participate in the project who might not ordinarily be able to – contact UK-ISPF@britishcouncil.org

Application Questions

- Proposal Abstract
- No more than 2000 characters (including space)
- In non-scientific language
- The Research Project
- Objectives, Deliverables, Details of the research, Stakeholders, Timetable
- Demonstrate that you r understanding of the topic of your project
- The Collaboration
- Why Roles/Responsibilities, Value of participation and benefit to organisation
- Sustainability and Capacity Strengthening
- What next? How will the project support ECRs, technicians, etc in partner?

Application Questions (1)

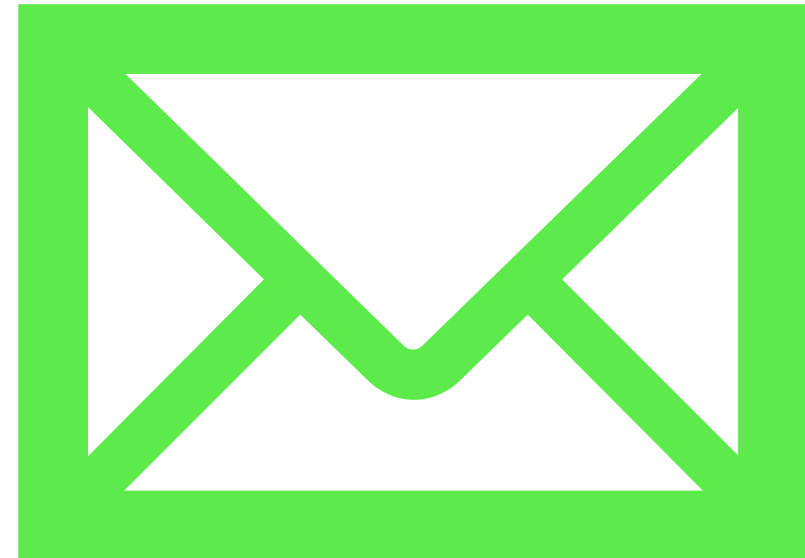
- Research Governance and Ethics
- Demonstrate that you understand the issues involved in your research
Has this research gone through or will it need to go through ethics approval
- Trusted Research
- Establishing the relationship between researchers
- Ensuring data is secure
- Environmental Impact Statement
- Research that won't result in short or long-term harm to the climate or the environment.
- How have negative impacts been mitigated

Application Questions (2)

- Safeguarding
- Protecting vulnerable adults (you may not realise someone is a vulnerable adult)
- Recognising the risks of travel and international exchanges
- Intellectual Property
- Demonstrate that you and your partner share an understanding of what IP will be created in your project
- Consider what will be made available through Open Access

Submission

- Application questions to be completed and submitted via the portal
- You are able to save and continue but advised to use the Word Version of application form on Opportunities website to prepare
- Once submitted you will not be able to make changes
- You should receive an automatic e-mail when you have submitted with a PDF
- This PDF will contain your Unique reference number which you should use when communicating to the ISPF team.



Supporting documents

The following are the required supporting documents to be sent as part of the application process:

They must be saved in the format:

**(Name of document) (UK Project Leader Surname)
(Name of Country)**

eg: Partner Project Leader CV; Smith; Thailand

These are the names that must be used:

- UK Project Leader CV
- Partner Project Leader CV
- UK Letter of Support
- Partner Letter of Support
- Budget Sheet
- Gantt Chart
- Risk Assessment for Travel (if applicable)
- Associate Partners Letter of Support (if applicable)

Projects will be considered ineligible if files are missing
ONLY ONE E-MAIL WILL BE ACCEDPTED AS PART OF THE SUBMISSION
Send to UK-ISPF@britishcouncil.org by 12 March at noon UK time.

Application Questions (3)

- Official Development Assistance (ODA)
- Plausible route to impact on the economic development and social welfare of the partner country/territory
- Gender Equality
- How you have taken meaningful yet proportionate consideration as to how the project will contribute to reducing gender inequalities

Official Development Assistance (ODA)

- To be counted as ODA, all activities (research or otherwise) must qualify under rules set down by the OECD.
- To be ODA-eligible, the OECD states that research projects should be ***directly and primarily related to the problems of developing countries.***
- We will have questions in the application about ODA impact and relevance, usually projected over a medium-term timeframe to ensure this is applicable to all projects.
- Please consider the economic development and social welfare impact of your work, including how it is conducted as well as the outputs and potential outcomes.
- Including relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is encouraged and can help frame ODA relevance.
- ODA funding cannot be used for military, security, or dual use projects.

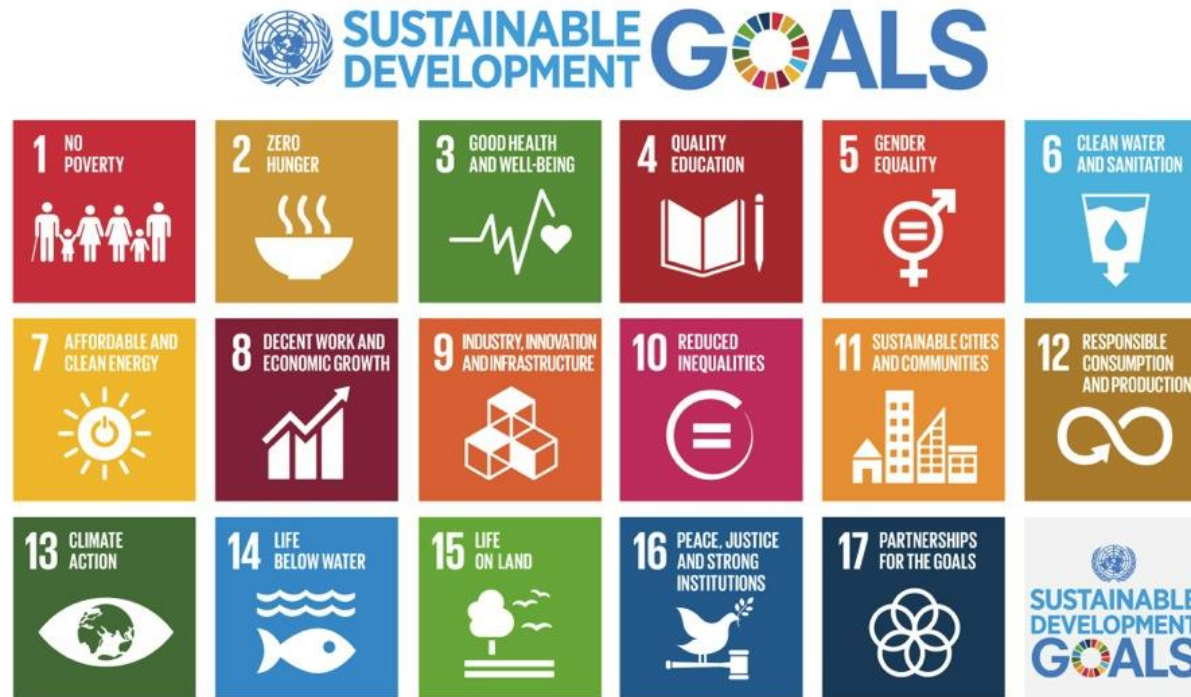
Legal and normative framework

In 2014, the UK parliament amended the International Development Act 2002 to introduce the promotion of gender equality in the provision of Official Development Assistance (ODA). The International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014 states:

“the desirability of providing development assistance that is likely to contribute to reducing poverty in a way which is likely to contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender.” Gender Equality Act 2014,
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/9/introduction/enacted>

The British Council ensures that all projects funded through ODA are compliant with the International Development Act.

No Sustainable Development without Gender Equality



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For queries on usage, contact: dpicampaigns@un.org

Examples of Gender Considerations in Research and Innovation

Climate Change and community adaptation (Africa): Research shows that climate change tends to exacerbate existing gender inequalities and that this can lead to women facing larger negative impacts than men. Understanding the risks and impacts of climate change on people of different gender is therefore key in achieving effective community adaptation. For example, it is important to ensure that women can participate in all decision making related to climate change at all levels to build effective policies and practices. (Source: *Adaptation and beyond. Lessons learnt from the Community Based Adaptation in Africa (CBAA)*): <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/57a08adf40f0b6497400080a/Adaptationandbeyond04small.pdf>

Urban Planning: Care-related commutes addressing the needs of others, or performing more general household-related duties, are still predominantly undertaken by women. Moreover, they differ significantly in nature from journeys that urban transport is often designed around, such as commuting to work.

Agriculture (Fishing): Gender-related cultural and religious expectations prohibit women in rural Bangladesh from harvesting fish even from their own ponds. Such tasks are seen as the responsibility of men. Women are also reluctant to enter ponds because of the risk of drowning. To support women's access to fishing, gill nets were introduced which were smaller in size, did not require them to step into the pond, did not require support from men, and was also something they could make at home – thus contributing to food security for both men and women.

Examples of Gender Considerations in Research and Innovation

Assistive Technology: While elderly women and men often have similar needs, understanding how sex and gender interact to impact aging can assist engineers in developing technologies that best fit user needs. Studies show that sex and gender interact to impact health in old age.

Water infrastructure: Because water procurement is often women's work in Sub-Saharan Africa, many women have detailed knowledge of soils and their water yields. This knowledge is vital to civil engineering and development projects—for instance, in determining where to place wells and water taps.

Artificial Intelligence Technology: Machine learning algorithms could result in and/or amplify existing gender bias if the data on which the models were trained discriminates against one gender. An example is an automated resume screening system that discriminates against women because the training data was collected from the resumes of all male employees.

Wood, Tracy, Dangers of AI-based resume screening, 3 Jul 2023, [LinkedIn](#)

Gender Equality Statements (GES)

All applicants are expected to submit a GES as part of their grant application.

- Applicants must outline how they have taken *meaningful yet proportionate* consideration as to how their proposed project will contribute to reducing gender inequalities, as required under the International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014.
- Proportionate and meaningful means that applicants should think of gender and potential gender issues in a way which corresponds in *size, scale* and *impact* of their project. Their answers should have meaning and be serious, important and/or worthwhile.
- The GES should be about the project specifically – the outputs and outcomes, the make-up of the project team, participants, stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project, and the processes followed throughout the research programme.
- Applicants will have to address each criterion explained in the next slide individually on the application form.
- The British Council reserves the right to reject a proposal where the GES has not been sufficiently considered.

Five Criteria

Applicants are required to address the following five criteria:

1. 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 research and innovation.
2. The expected impact of the project (benefits and losses) on people of different genders, both throughout the project and beyond.
3. 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.
4. How will any risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality be avoided or mitigated against, and monitored?
5. Are there any relevant outcomes and outputs being measured, with data disaggregated by gender and other characteristics (where disclosed)?

Q&A

Questions covered in the recording

- Do researchers in Thailand need to be Thai citizens to be eligible for the grant?
- What are the specific research topics that should be pursued ? Is social science, human rights and business discipline covered by the grant?
- Do we have to have a host before application?
- What are the criteria/parameters used in selecting successful applications?
- Will the number of co-investigator affect the chance of acceptance?
- Could you provide guidance on the most effective strategies for establishing contact with a PI based in the UK?
- Is this Grants required to publish research results?

Contact us



UK-ISPF@britishcouncil.org
educationuk.partnership@britishcouncil.or.th



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<https://www.facebook.com/britishcouncilthailand>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/british-council>

More information about this call at
<http://tinyurl.com/bder5zz8>

