



## **The Royal Golden Jubilee Ph.D. Program (RGJ)**

โครงการปริญญาเอกกาญจนาภิเษก (คปก.)

Co-funded by



สำนักงานกองทุนสนับสนุนการวิจัย (สกว.)  
The Thailand Research Fund (TRF)

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## **The Royal Golden Jubilee PhD Programme (Scholarships for PhD Supervisors) Co-funded by Newton Fund**

### **Background**

The Newton Fund is a £375 million fund (£75 million a year for 5 years starting 2014/15). Through the Newton Fund, the UK will use its strength in research and innovation to promote the economic development and social welfare of partner countries. By working together on bi-lateral and multi-lateral programmes with a research and innovation focus, the UK will build strong, sustainable, systemic relationships with partner countries. This will support the continued excellence of the UK research base and innovation ecosystem and act as a key to unlock opportunities for wider collaboration and trade.

The Newton Fund is part of the UK's official development assistance. Its aim is to develop science and innovation partnerships that promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries. In the first years of the Fund it is expected to run in 15 countries: China, India, Brazil, South Africa, Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Turkey, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines, Egypt and Kazakhstan.

In Thailand, the British Council, which is one of the delivery partners of the Newton Fund, works collaboratively with the Thailand Research Fund. The aim of the scholarship scheme is to enhance international collaborative skills for Thai researchers, enabling a pool of researchers with international perspectives and experience to work and produce research (and other work) to promote Thailand's social and economic development.

The Royal Golden Jubilee is a prestigious scholarship scheme funded by the Royal Thai government. The scheme was initiated in 1996 to increase the number of PhD holders and enhance the quality and quantity of research for the sustainable development of the nation. The scholarships under this scheme fund PhD study in



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Thailand and provide scholars with an opportunity for short-term placements with higher education institutions overseas.

The Supervisor Scholarship is one of the activities under the Newton Fund PhD programme aiming to enhance PhD student mobility and strengthen links for future collaboration, build research capacity between UK and Thailand.

### Purpose of PhD supervisors scholarship scheme

The scholarship will fund a short visit by PhD supervisors and their PhD students to visit the partner UK universities. The visits funded under the PhD programme are expected to **provide opportunities for supervisors to discuss on PhD students mobility under the Royal Golden Jubilee Scheme and establish a new research link or significantly develop an existing link, with the potential for longer term sustainability.**

### Call for Applications

- Thailand Research Fund and British Council Thailand are inviting applications for funding to support PhD supervisors registered under the Royal Golden Jubilee programme and their PhD students to visit partner UK universities.
- The scholarship will sponsor the visit that has to start **no later than the end of October 2015** and has to be for at least 1 week and not over 2 weeks.
- The supervisor can travel alone or have up to three current PhD students to join the visit. The students should have plan to do a research in the UK for a short-term or long-term period under the Royal Golden Jubilee/ the Thailand Research Fund or able to explain a clear evidence on how this visit could contribute to the longer term benefits between UK and Thailand

### Relevance to economic development and social welfare

The PhD supervisor scholarships are intended to support research areas relevant to the development of Thailand.



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We define research with development relevance as research (applied or fundamental) that has the potential to contribute to the economic development and

social welfare of low- and middle-income countries<sup>1</sup>, benefitting poor and vulnerable populations in these countries. Under this programme, research relevant to economic development and social welfare of the partner country can fall in one or more of the following research challenge areas:

- Agriculture (e.g. irrigation, crop yields)
- Climate and environment (e.g. climate change, green technology, sustainable development, ecosystem services, resource scarcity)
- Sustainable energy for all
- Education
- Economic growth (e.g. equitable growth, financial sector development, private sector development)
- Health (e.g. HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, neglected tropical diseases, child mortality, maternal health)
- Water and sanitation
- Food and nutrition (including food security)
- Demographic change and migration
- Rural and urban development
- Infrastructure (including civil engineering, information and communication technologies, big data for social and economic development)
- Humanitarian disasters and emergencies, disaster risk reduction
- Governance, society and conflict (e.g. transparency, accountability, effective institutions, land and natural resource rights, poverty alleviation, social development, structural inequalities, violence and security, peace building, civil society)
- Development-relevant data collection, quality and access (including administrative data and macroeconomic statistics).

<sup>1</sup>As defined by the OECD DAC list of official development assistance (ODA) recipients (<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclistofodarecipients.htm>).



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### **Priority areas**

The proposals from a PhD supervisor from the Health and Life Sciences will be prioritised but the call is also open to proposals from the Humanities, Social Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering.

### **Eligibility**

Applications are opened to the PhD supervisors under the Royal Golden Jubilee programme who meet the following criteria:

- Have registered as a PhD supervisor under the Royal Golden Jubilee scheme
- Be currently supervising PhD students
- Have proposed up to 3 PhD scholars who have a plan to do a research in the UK in a short-term or long-term period under the Royal Golden Jubilee Scheme or any other schemes under Thailand Research Fund within the next two years to accompany the visit. (To have a PhD students to accompany the visit is optional)

Note: the selected supervisors and PhD students must be able to obtain the appropriate visa to enter the United Kingdom prior to travelling to the UK otherwise the scholarship will be cancelled.



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### Application

- **Completed online application form:** This can be found on the British Council webpage and the Thailand Research Fund webpages. This application form must be completed online – email submissions will not be accepted. The online form allows applicants to enter the required information and save it for a later date until final submission. There are strict character limits for each section which cannot be exceeded.
- **Endorsement from UK institutions:** Each application should come with endorsement from partner universities or educational institutions in the UK including an e-mail confirmation from a UK university to confirm they will host the visit. The visit can be made to more than one UK institution to widen the opportunities for further collaboration. The 3 PhD students do not have to visit the same universities.
- **Visit programmes and activities:** Each application should include the tentative programme and potential activities during the visit and the explanation on how it can support and enhance research links between Thailand and the UK and how to support the PhD students to study or do a research in the UK under the Royal Golden Jubilee scheme or other schemes under the Thailand Research Fund. The activities may include a meeting with a UK supervisor, observing the PhD class, or a trial session as a PhD student in the UK.

### Funding arrangements

Newton Fund and the Thailand Research Fund will provide funding of maximum £20,000 for a group of a PhD supervisor and 3 PhD students for a visit of two weeks. The funding will be less if the number of participants or the duration of the visit is less.

Size of funding and number of scholars may vary depending on candidates' qualification and the funding available.



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### **Duration of visit**

The scholarship will cover up to 2 weeks of visit which is expected to start by end of October 2015.

### **The funding will cover the following expenses for a PhD supervisor and up to 3 PhD students**

- Return international airfare (economy class) to the UK
- Meals for the period of stay in the UK (According to the rate of Office of Civil Service Commission, Thailand).
- UK visa fee
- Costs for accommodation and other daily expenses such as phone and local transports.
- Travel insurance.
- Other expenses related to the visit e.g. the fee for using a laboratory or to attend a class

Successful applicants should take out adequate insurance as the British Council and the Thailand Research Fund cannot take responsibility for any problems which may occur during the visit. Successful applicants will accept full responsibility for all aspects of the visit and take out insurance for any risks associated with taking part in travelling abroad, including all unexpected and

uncontrollable events. The British Council and the Thailand Research Fund will not be liable for the consequences of any such risks or any costs incurred. \*Costs beyond the above arrangements will be borne by the supervisors themselves.





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### Timeline

Date	Activities
27 January 2015	Open call for applications
20 February 2015	Deadline for submitting applications
2 March 2015	Announcement of successful candidates and signature of scholarship agreements
No later than October 2015	Travel to the UK

Applicants will be selected using the following criteria:

- The extent to which the visit will contribute towards developing a long term sustainable research and education partnership between the UK and Thailand
- The extent to which the subject areas or research are relevant to Thailand's priority areas

### Contracting and Financial Arrangements

The scholarship agreement for placements in the UK will be signed between the British Council Thailand, the Thailand Research Fund, and the supervisors.

### Reporting and Monitoring

The supervisors submit itinerary, final report and proof of payment to the British Council Thailand and the Thailand Research Fund 30 days after return.



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### **Contact points**

#### **Thailand Research Fund**

Luntharima Prommi, Program Officer

E-Mail: [luntharima@trf.or.th](mailto:luntharima@trf.or.th)

#### **British Council – Thailand**

Janyarak Thanomnim, Assistant Manager, Education

E-mail: [janyarak.thanomnim@britishcouncil.or.th](mailto:janyarak.thanomnim@britishcouncil.or.th)