

Writing funding proposals and ODA

May 2017 | Claire McNulty



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Newton Fund criteria:

- Eligible for Official Development Assistance (ODA)
- Selected through an open and transparent process
- Project is a priority for funders/government in-country, match funded, and has a clear development benefit
- **Additionality** – activity would not be funded without Newton Fund
- **Scientific excellence** and **value for money**, demonstrated through peer review and assessment
- **Primary** objective – benefit to ODA country
- **Secondary** objective – benefit to the UK

UK – Thailand collaboration: high impact

Top 5 countries collaborating with Thailand

2011 to 2015 no subject area filter selected				
Country	Co-authored papers	Co-authors in Thailand	Co-authors in the other country	Citation impact
 United States	7,370 ▲	7,802 ▲	19,594 ▲	2.04
 Japan	4,619 ▲	5,468 ▲	7,433 ▲	1.30
 United Kingdom	3,208 ▲	3,263 ▲	5,771 ▲	2.69
 Australia	2,421 ▲	2,838 ▲	3,119 ▲	2.39
 China	2,393 ▲	1,846 ▲	3,808 ▲	2.43

Overall Citation Impact:

UK alone: 1.56

Thailand alone: 0.95

UK/Thailand collaborations: 2.69

Benefit to both the UK and Thailand when our researchers collaborate

Official Development Assistance Principles

List of ODA Recipients (DAC List)

Least
Developed
Countries

Other Low
Income
Countries

Lower
Middle
Income
Countries

Upper
Middle
Income
Countries

**Indonesia
Philippines
Vietnam**

**Thailand
Malaysia**

Newton Fund and ODA



Newton Fund finances are classed as Official Development Assistance (ODA)

All Newton Fund activities must aim to promote the economic development and social welfare of the Newton partner country as their primary purpose through building their research and innovation capacity

The Delivery Partner must be able to defend why the project is ODA, including:

- **How the project is contributing to economic development and social welfare**
- **Which country will benefit**
- **What development challenges are being addressed**

Key Features



Government guidelines on ODA include the following sentence:

(funding must be) “administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective”.

1 Impact

Definition (RCUK) | (impact can be achieved...) *“through knowledge exchange, new products and processes, new companies and job creation, skills development, increasing the effectiveness of public services and policy, enhancing quality of life and health, international development...”*

Timescales | Within 15 Years

2 Economic development:

For British Council Newton Fund Calls, we ask for impact that fosters economic performance that specifically benefits low income or vulnerable members of society.

Avoid:

- Generalities
- Unrealistic
- Unmeasurable



Key Principles

3 Welfare:

For British Council Newton Fund Calls, we ask for impact that fosters economic performance that specifically benefits low income or vulnerable members of society.

Avoid:

- General health projects that will benefit developed countries as much as developing.
- Unaffordable



Key Principles



4 Developing Countries

DAC List – includes Thailand

5 Objective

Primary and secondary aims of a proposal

Further Considerations

- Quality
- Allowances

Further Considerations

Areas of Concern

Some themes directly contravene OECD ODA requirements, for example military technology. In addition topics that have ethical considerations require particular attention. Areas that we may look into more closely include:

- × Tobacco industry
- × Arms and military research (including dual-use technology, potential bioterrorism)
- × Research that interferes with regional political issues (international disputes etc.)
- ? Genetically modified organisms
- ? Use of Human Tissue and Stem Cell research
- ? Fossil fuel research
- ? Research involving Human Participants, Clinical Trials, Ethics reviews

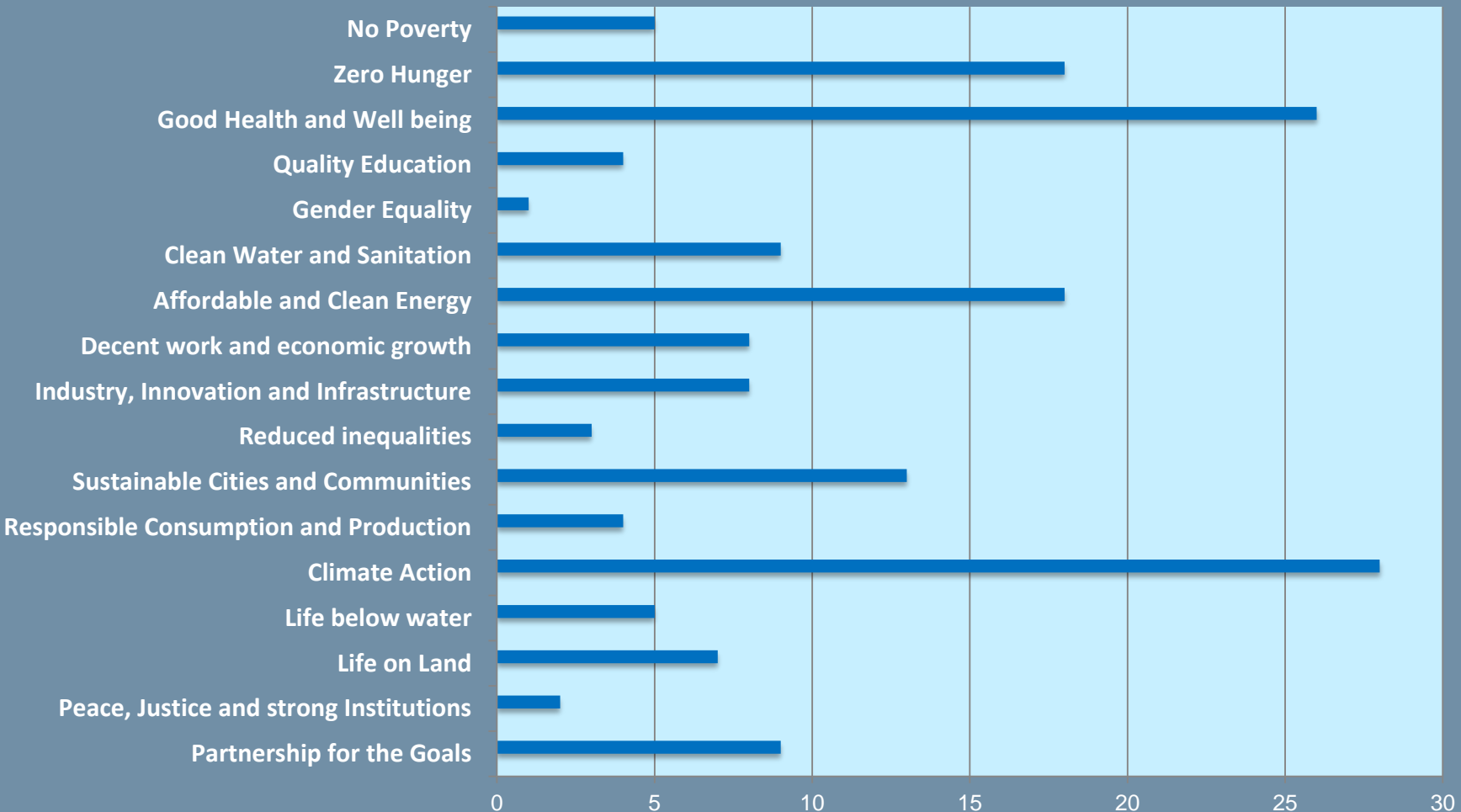
Official Development Assistance Practice

Helpful to use the SDGs as a framework



<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>

2014/15 Institutional Links Grants and the Sustainable Development Goals



ODA – Research and Capacity Development

Reportable as ODA	NOT reportable as ODA
<p>Directly and primarily relevant to the problems of ODA countries (eg)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• research into tropical diseases, improving crops or renewable energy (even if carried out in UK)• operational research to support an aid programme• research that underpins country-specific development priority plans• education research and innovation• research into infrastructure for social and economic development (big data engineering, communication)• disaster risk reduction• rural and urban development (cities)• arts and humanities for development• supporting people with disabilities• research addressing Inequalities	<p>Research without a plausible pathway to a development impact within a short- to medium timeframe (eg)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• generic solutions to fundamental research questions• research specific to non-ODA countries (eg. cancer, if general)• research on global climate change (non-specific) for example modelling• research on defence technologies with 'dual use'• research to improve commercial use of extractive industries• research to improve healthcare which would not be affordable or accessible• research where the primary benefit is to a non ODA-eligible country• research which cannot be legally regulated in the country concerned



Thailand

Country Specific Guidance

Example of thematic priority areas:

Research Areas:

1. Physical Science, Engineering and Infrastructure
2. Demographic change and migration
3. Education research and innovation for development
4. Social Sciences and Humanities
5. Economic growth

[April 2017 Researcher Links workshop | Thailand]

Example of thematic priority areas:

1. Education research and innovation for development
2. Economic growth (eg. Equitable growth, financial sector development, private sector development)
3. Demographic change, migration and ageing society
4. Rural and urban development
5. Infrastructure (including civil engineering, information and communication technologies, big data for social economic development)
6. Governance, society and conflict (eg. Transparency, accountability, effective institutions, land and natural resource rights, poverty alleviation, social development, structural inequalities, civil society)
7. Innovative and Sustainable competitiveness in Agriculture

[April 2017 Institutional Links Grant Round | Thailand]

July 2017 call will include other areas such as life sciences

ACTIVITY ONE | ODA Eligibility

What we want to consider:

Which of the following projects would be eligible?

Why?

5 minutes | Discuss each slide with colleagues

Is it ODA? Research and Capacity Development

Projects supporting
STEM education in
schools

Yes

Research to model
global climate
change

No...but...

Exporting Samples
to UK for screening
of medicinal plants
for antibiotic
activity

Yes...if...

Is it ODA? Research and Capacity Development

Partnership with Vietnam to develop capacity to respond to natural disasters

Yes

Research into communications technology where the primary benefit will go to a UK company

No

Research collaboration with Brazil on treatments for cancer

**Maybe – if
local context**

Is it ODA? Research and Capacity Development

PhD inward to UK:
improving IVF
genetics screening
congenital birth
defects in Turkey

**Yes –
with context**

Dog welfare
research in Chile

No

Research into
archaeology and
cultural heritage in
Egypt which
benefits local
tourist industry

**Yes –
country priority**

Is it ODA? Research and Capacity Development

Research into
causes of reduced
rice yields in
Thailand

Yes

How to preserve
traditional
languages in Mexico

Yes

Research to
improve the
efficiency of coal
mining processes in
China

No..but..

Reviewer Perspective



*Dr Adam Taylor,
Director of the Clinical Anatomy
Learning Centre & Senior Lecturer in
Anatomy, Lancaster University.*

Who benefits from the project? Is it relevant to economic development and social welfare?

Project design and budgets

Strength of the partnership

Institutional support

Capacity building and sustainability

Finding a partner

Key to get a strong UK partner

- Use professional networks
- Don't limit your search to 'Top' universities
- Online tools can help identify strong research groups:
 - Research Excellence Framework (REF) results www.ref.ac.uk/
 - Gateway to Research <http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/>
- Look at the video on the Newton Fund website

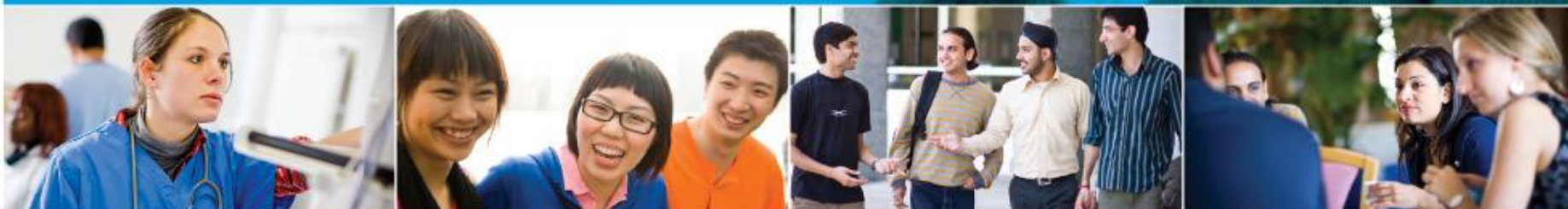
QUESTIONS?



Session 2



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Application Development Strengthening ODA

British Council Newton grants process

Funding and priority areas negotiated with in-country funding partners



Call opens



Call closed and eligibility checks completed (including separate ODA check)



Applications reviewed



Panel (produce a ranked list)



Joint decision meeting with in-country partners

Session 2



Institutional Links Application Form

Key sections

- 1. Proposal Summary**
- 2. The Research Project**
- 3. Pathway to economic development and social welfare**

Session 2



Institutional Links

3. Pathway to economic development and social welfare

1. Outline a Plausible Pathway towards impact on the lives of vulnerable populations and towards economic and social welfare.
2. Identify the key stakeholders.
3. How will you engage?

Session 2

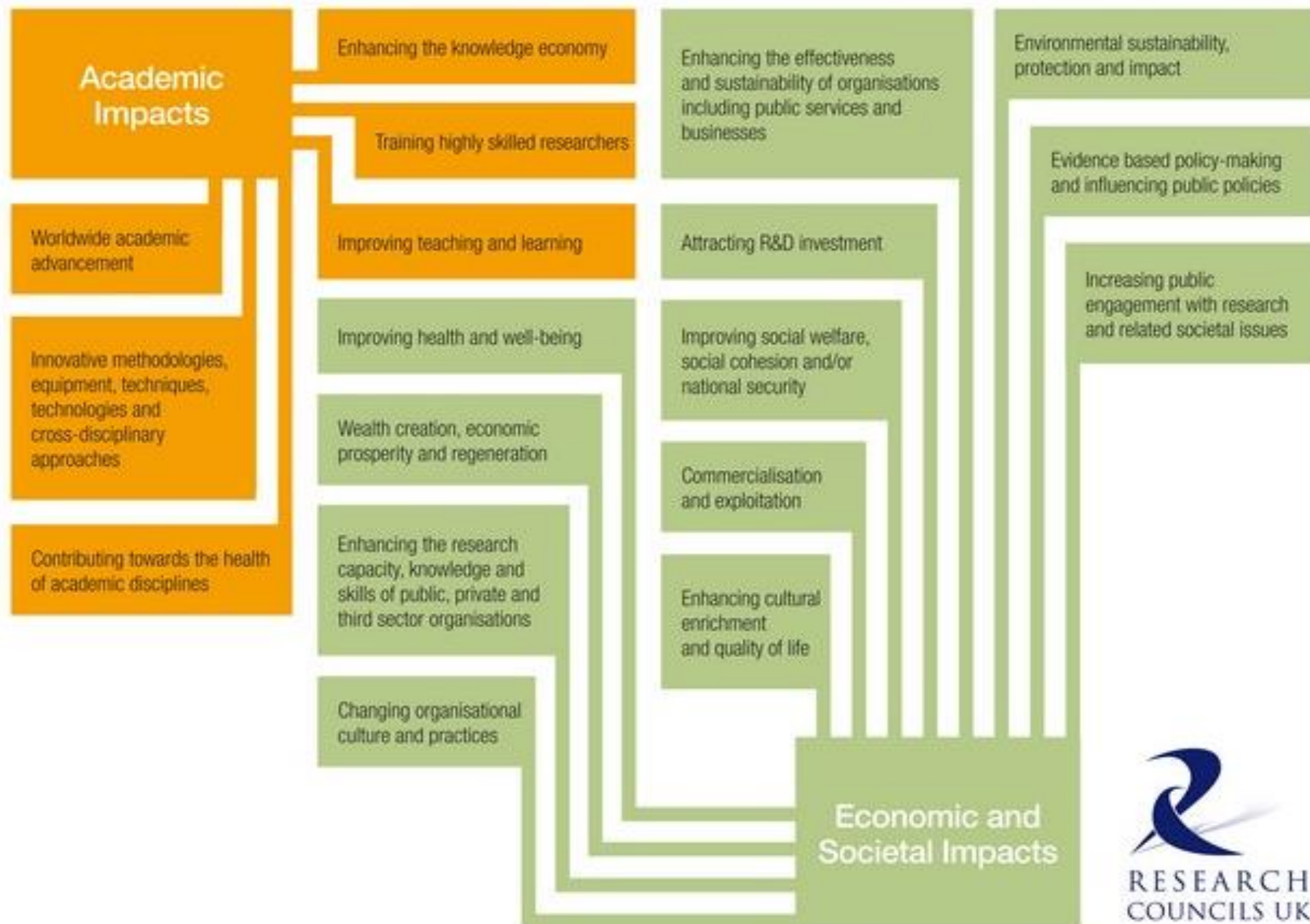
Activity

In groups | 20 Minutes

- Think of a proposal (real or imaginary)
- Identify the key outputs
- Develop a pathway to impact
- Stakeholders - who and how will you engage?
- How will you measure success?
- Any issues to consider (ethics, IP etc)?

Feedback | 20 Minutes

Pathways to Impact



Further Information

OECD | www.oecd.org/dac



Newton Fund Website |
www.newtonfund.ac.uk



Euraxess Links ASEAN |
<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/asean>



Euraxess UK Website |
www.euraxess.org.uk

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