

Going Global Partnership

Guidance Notes for Grant Call for Gender Equality Partnerships (GEP)

Call opens: 15 July 2026

Call closes: 21 September 2026

Contents

Guidance Notes for Grant Call for Gender Equality Partnerships (GEP)	1
.....	1
About Going Global Partnerships	3
Key Information about this Grant Call.....	3
Call Name - GEP Grants 2026.....	3
Introduction	3
Intersectionality	4
Overview.....	4
Call objectives and intended outcomes	5
Key Milestones	5
Eligibility Criteria for Institutions and Projects.....	6
Eligibility Criteria for Institutions	6
Eligibility Criteria for Projects	7
Saudi Arabia Contextual Requirement.....	8
Funding.....	8
Ethics	9
Safeguarding and Protecting Adults at Risk.....	9
Privacy Notice	10
Application Process, Documentation and Pre-Submission Checklist.....	10
Impact on Environment.....	11
Equality Diversity and Inclusion Statement.....	12
Gender Equality Statement.....	12
Accessibility and Adjustments	13
Budget Sheet	15
Selection Process	15
Assessment Criteria	15
Scoring range (0-20 per category)	15
Categories	16
Applicant Screening	17
Granting Process	18
British Council Contractual Requirements	18
Monitoring and Reporting.....	19
Annex 1 – Eligible and ineligible costs	19
Eligible costs.....	19
Ineligible costs.....	20
Annex 2 – Intersectionality implementation checklist.....	21

About 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.

Higher education and TVET providers and research organisations can access funding to develop collaborative partnerships with institutions in other countries, focusing on key areas such as capacity strengthening, collaborative research projects, developing joint teaching programmes and establishing new transnational education links. These mutually beneficial partnerships help universities and colleges develop and sustain stronger international connections.

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.

If you are interested in our work in this area and want to get involved, please regularly visit our [Opportunities and insights webpage](#), where we open all our funding calls and other opportunities.

Key Information about this Grant Call

Call Name - GEP Grants 2026

Maximum value of grant in GBP: £ 25,000

Minimum number of grants expected to be funded in this call: 10

Deadline for applications: **21 September 2026, Time: 11:59 am (BST)**

Contact for further information: [GEP Grants](#)

Introduction

Universities play a key role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and shaping more inclusive societies. However, higher education systems globally continue to face persistent inequalities related to gender, which are often reinforced by institutional cultures, policies and practices. Gender inequality intersects with other factors—such as socio-economic background, ethnicity, geography and disability—creating compounded barriers that affect access, participation, leadership and outcomes for women and gender-diverse individuals in higher education.

Gender equality issues impact and are reflected in higher and further education systems worldwide, with unequal access to higher and further education in many countries, women having less access to resources and fewer opportunities, the existence of violence against women affecting students and staff and sustained underrepresentation of women in leadership positions in higher and further education institutions. Despite women succeeding academically, evidence shows that it is more challenging for women to succeed in their future careers within and outside education following their studies, particularly in fields where men are overrepresented, including Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

Our work in Going Global Partnerships is guided by our commitment to advancing gender equality in line with our organisational strategy, international development priorities and the UK's legal frameworks, with the aim of creating more gender equal higher education systems that benefit from diverse perspectives and talents, leading to stronger global partnerships.

The UK Government's commitment to international development is outlined in the International Development White Paper (2023), which emphasises the importance of equitable partnerships and coordinated action to strengthen inclusive systems and support those most at risk of being left behind. Our work also aligns with the International Women and Girls Strategy (2023–2030), which prioritises educating girls, empowering women and girls, and addressing intersecting inequalities that limit participation and leadership.

This call aligns with the British Council's Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Framework, adopting a whole-institution and systems-level approach to embedding inclusion.

After successfully delivering four cohorts of Gender Equality Partnership Grants (GEP), we are now offering a fresh round of grants, informed by findings from the evaluation of grants from previous years.

Evidence from a recent evaluation of Gender Equality Partnerships found that these partnerships proved catalytic and created valuable foundations for long-term progress on gender equality in higher education. The review of previous grants showed that even small, well-designed grants can lead to meaningful institutional change.

Intersectionality

Intersectionality refers to the theory that overlapping or intersecting social identities and related systems of oppression, domination, or discrimination within a society, such as racism, ageism, sexism, and homophobia, do not act independently, and are instead interrelated and continuously shaped by one another. An intersectional approach recognises that we are all made up of many social identities and that how these interact, and compound stigma and discrimination must be examined and confronted.

We focus on areas of diversity, aligned to those protected by UK equality legislation: Age, Religion and Belief, Disability, Sex and Gender, Race/Ethnicity and Culture, Sexual Orientation and additionally, socio-economic background as a cross-cutting area.

Applicants must demonstrate how intersectional analysis has informed project design and how it will be embedded in delivery and monitoring.

Applicants can complete a simple intersectionality self-assessment (provided in Annex 2) to ensure that project design, delivery and monitoring systematically consider overlapping identities.

Overview

The Going Global Partnerships GEP grants aim to support participating institutions in strengthening gender responsive systems and practices.

The GEP grants expect to support 10 Gender Equality projects of up to £25,000 in value each, for a period of 17 months, starting from 1 January 2027. Awards will support partnerships between eligible UK institutions and partner institutions in one or more participating countries:

Bangladesh, Ghana, Kenya, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Ukraine. Through these institutional partnerships, partners will work together to progress gender equality in the higher education sector.

Themes: The grant projects may address one or more of the following themes:

- Addressing underrepresentation of women in higher education leadership,
- Strengthening pathways into employment,
- Creating safe higher education spaces,
- Enabling participation of women in STEM

Please refer to the Exceptions section below, where Saudi Arabia, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa and Ukraine have indicated focus thematic areas.

Call objectives and intended outcomes

All GEP awards will address one or more of the following overarching objectives and outcomes:

Objectives

- To contribute to long-term and sustainable institutional change that promotes gender equality in higher education.
- To contribute to enhanced opportunities for women to access, participate in and progress through higher education and employment pathways.

Expected Outcomes

GEP grants are expected to contribute to outcomes across one or more of the following areas:

- Strengthened institutional mechanisms that support the progression of women into leadership roles.
- Strengthened institutional approaches, partnerships and programmes that support education to employment pathways.
- Improved institutional capacity to implement gender-responsive practices.
- Increased participation, representation and progression of women in higher education and/or STEM.
- Strengthened institutional policies, governance and practices addressing structural inequalities, biases and barriers.
- Increased integration of intersectional approaches into institutional strategies.

Projects should focus on realistic, achievable outcomes appropriate to the scale and duration of the grant and demonstrate how these outcomes align with and contribute to relevant gender equality policies, strategies or roadmaps in partner countries.

Key Milestones

Call opens: 15 July 2026

Deadline for clarification questions submitted by applicants: 24 August 2026

Deadline for applications: 21 September 2026 11.59 am (BST)

Results announcement: By end November 2026

Contracts signed: Two weeks after result announcement

Issuance of grant payment: Within 30 days of grant agreement signing

Project implementation and launch: 1 January 2027

Introductory meeting with British Council overseas country team and agreeing schedule of check-in meetings – January 2027

Inception reporting: 1 February 2027

Progress report submission: 15 September 2027

Project end date: 31 May 2028

Final report submission: 30 June 2028

All dates may be subject to change at the discretion of the British Council or due to any unforeseen circumstances. If timelines change, applicants will be contacted.

No project activities can take place after the project end date. If a funded project's planned activities timelines are required to be adjusted, an official request must be submitted in advance.

Virtual engagement activities may be organised by the British Council during or at the end of the project, to provide a platform to grantees to present their work and learn from one another. Grantees may also be invited to present their projects at British Council events to support their visibility and engagement with the network.

Eligibility Criteria for Institutions and Projects

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

Eligibility Criteria for Institutions

Each proposal must have both:

- one Lead Institution from the UK; and
- one Lead Institution from an overseas country participating in this grant
- Each Lead Institution must have the capacity to administer a grant.

The proposal must be prepared jointly by leaders from all institutions involved in the project but must be submitted by the UK Lead Institution on behalf of the partnership.

The Contracting Institution is the Lead Institution that has submitted the application, and if the application is successful, will sign the Grant Agreement with the British Council. A grant can only be awarded if the Contracting Institution is in good standing with the Going Global Partnerships programme, with no outstanding funds to be recovered from a previous grant or activity at the time of submitting the application.

The UK Lead institution must be one of the following:

- Higher Education providers with [degree awarding powers](#).
 - 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](#)
 - [Scotland](#)
 - [Wales](#)

Overseas Institution must be one of the following:

- Higher Education provider, as locally defined,
- Not-for-profit research institutions, establishments and organisations, as locally defined,

Please also refer to the Exceptions section below, where Saudi Arabia has additional eligibility criteria.

The partnership can include in their proposals Associate Partners (from both the overseas countries and the UK).

Associate Partners can be included in a partnership if they bring necessary expertise, demonstrable added value, and/or access to relevant target groups to the partnership. They will play a lesser role in the proposed project, and the funding they are eligible to receive reflects this. As they are already included in the partnership, you cannot name additional staff or personnel of any of the named Lead Institutions as Associate Partners. Associate Partners may be affiliated with:

- Higher Education providers,
- Not-for-profit research or education institutions, establishments or organisations including non-governmental organisations (NGOs),
- TVET/FE providers.
- Education charities, foundations, or membership bodies.
- For-profit/commercial organisations, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
- Government organisations.
- Employer organisations and industry bodies.
- Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Social Enterprise organisations.

Please send an enquiry to [GEP Grants](#) if you are in doubt about the eligibility of your organisation.

Eligible institutions are free to submit more than one application however should the call be heavily oversubscribed to ensure a fair distribution of grants, Lead Institutions (UK and/or overseas) who have submitted multiple applications may be contacted to prioritise a reduced number of applications to take forward. The other applications will be withdrawn.

Eligibility Criteria for Projects

This grant call is open to partnerships between the UK and a range of countries, some of whom have been [defined as developing countries by the OECD](#). The monies granted to these countries is therefore considered as Official Development Assistance (ODA).

The Grants made to partnerships with ODA-eligible countries must be ODA compliant. To be counted as ODA, all activities (research or otherwise) must qualify under rules set down by the OECD, which states that research projects should be **directly and primarily related to the problems of developing countries**. Please outline the economic development and social welfare impact of your work, including how it is conducted as well as the outputs and potential outcomes. The work should be relevant to at least one of the Sustainable Development Goals. The applications must have an adequate Gender Equality Statement.

The British Council supports peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide. To align our granting to this mission, we are unable to support projects with military or security partners, or with military, security or dual-use impacts or outcomes. All applications will be checked to ensure alignment with this policy at the eligibility stage.

All applications are checked to ensure alignment with this policy at the eligibility stage.

Exceptions

SAUDI ARABIA

For partnerships with Saudi Arabia only HE providers can apply.

Saudi Arabia Contextual Requirement

Proposals involving partnerships in Saudi Arabia must reflect the national priority of moving beyond basic rights protection toward high-level leadership advancement for women within the higher education sector.

Applications must explicitly embed the following focus areas within the project design and assessment criteria:

- Executive Advancement & Governance: Focus initiatives on building institutional leadership, robust governance models, succession planning, and executive readiness to enable women to excel at the highest institutional levels.
- Core Capability Development: Integrate the development of innovative and ethical leadership skills as core capabilities essential for cultivating impactful and effective higher education leaders.

UKRAINE

Partnership between Ukraine and the UK should focus only on the following priority themes:

- Addressing underrepresentation of women in higher education leadership,
- Creating safe higher education spaces.

SUB SAHARAN AFRICA (Kenya, Ghana and South Africa)

Partnerships between **Kenya and the UK** can only focus on the following themes:

- Strengthening pathways into employment
- Creating safe higher education spaces

Partnerships with **Ghana and South Africa** can only focus on one theme:

- Strengthening pathways into employment

Funding

The GEP grants expect to support **10 Gender Equality projects of up to £25,000 in value each for a 17-month period**, starting from 1 January 2027. The table below shows the distribution across overseas countries.

S No	Countries	Minimum number of grants available
1	Bangladesh	2
2	Ghana	1

3	Kenya	1
4	Mexico	2
5	Saudi Arabia	2
6	South Africa	1
7	Ukraine	1

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.

Matching funds from institutions are encouraged but are not a requirement.

There are some limits on funding allocations. British Council reserves the **right to disqualify applications that exceed the overall budget limit for this grant or any cap in the following categories:**

- For-profit non-education organisations are only eligible to receive funds to cover travel-associated costs. The proposal must clearly define their contribution to achieving call objectives.
- 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 to be awarded.

For successful partnerships, funds will be disbursed directly to the Contracting Institution according to the approved final budget and after signing of the Grant Agreement. The Contracting Institution is responsible for all budget management, including grant transfers to overseas partner/s. For an equitable partnership, the Contracting Institution should be able to transfer funding to the partnering institution(s) for activities in a timely way. Implementation will be delayed and the objectives of the collaboration and the overall project impacted if the funds are not shared in time. We encourage partners, especially first-time partners, to discuss in advance their internal mechanisms that will enable the budget transfer between countries.

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 research 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.

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 all organisations - and by extension the staff who work for them - who contract with us, plus any other Associated Partners and suppliers, to operate within and adhere

to our Safeguarding Policy which articulates our approach to protecting children and adults at risk, and ensures their wellbeing. By completing and submitting an application to this call, you are accepting and agreeing that the partnership and all associated organisations and persons will comply with and uphold all aspects of our Safeguarding Policy.

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.

Visit [Safeguarding](#) webpage for more information.

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 our funding partner in the UK, national partner organisations, or other relevant third-parties. The reason for this is that in countries where we work with partner organisations, the final decision on the grants will be made in consultation with them. We may share selected non personal data with agencies responsible for monitoring and evaluation of the GEP Grants.

Your information will not be used/shared beyond the partners mentioned 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 [Visit our project website](#). We will keep your information for a period of seven years after the project.

Application Process, Documentation and Pre-Submission Checklist

Applications must only be completed and submitted via the [Good Grants online platform](#)

Any applications submitted via any other channel will be ineligible and will not be considered for funding. It is possible to download a blank version of the application form to enable your partnership to develop your answers together before it is submitted. The Good Grants platform will not allow submission where any specified word limits are exceeded or questions missed.

Accessibility

The Good Grants platform offers a wide range of accessibility support, and is fully compliant with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) WCAG 2.2 AA standards, the Revised Section 508 ICT standards from the U.S. Access Board, and the European Union's

EN 301 549 Accessibility requirements for ICT products and services.

If you require any access adjustments or have any additional support or learning needs in order to submit the application, please contact us prior to the deadline.

Deadline

The deadline for applications is 11:59am (BST) on 21 September 2026. We recommend that you submit 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**.

Documentation

All supporting documents (budget sheets, bios, supporting letters) must be uploaded on to the Good Grants platform prior to the deadline.

Ensure you have included all of the documentation listed in the Pre-Submission Checklist below as incomplete applications may be immediately regarded as ineligible. The British Council receives large numbers of applications to its funding calls, and for this reason we cannot facilitate a resubmission process should your application be deemed ineligible.

Pre-Submission Checklist

- This application has been discussed and agreed between both Lead Institutions.
- The application form and supporting documents have been completed in English.
- The applicants have included supporting letters from each of the Lead Institutions, on headed paper, signed by the Head of Department or more senior person, giving specific commitment to the project on behalf of the institution. Supporting letters must be in English and must not be signed by Lead Applicant(s).
- Lead Institutions must have the capacity to administer a grant and satisfy 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.
- Applicants have submitted a detailed budget request using the budget spreadsheet provided with the grant call documents on our funding call page.
- Applicants must provide short professional biographies of all key project team members (maximum 250 words per individual), outlining relevant expertise, experience, and role in the project.
- Where relevant, Associate Partner letters have been uploaded.

Impact on Environment

The British Council is committed to minimising its environmental impact. For this call, we have developed a set of questions in the application form which will enable us to understand the expected impact of a proposed project on the climate (and environment more broadly). 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.

Equality Diversity and Inclusion Statement

The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. Working effectively with equality, diversity and inclusion is an essential part of our purpose. We want to ensure that everyone who works with us and for us is treated with respect and dignity. We aim to remove barriers to granting, redress any identified imbalances caused by inequality and provide and maintain a fair and accessible process, ensuring application requirements have been designed to support inclusion and diversity.

Applicants are encouraged to structure response to EDI section by considering those questions below. You will be requested to report the progress and outcomes in your interim and final report.

- Will your project target specific groups (e.g. age, disability, race/ethnicity, religion/belief, and socio-economic background)?
- What activities are going to be designed to include or benefit these groups? How are these groups going to be engaged in the planning, delivery, or evaluation of the project?
- What are the intended outcomes for these groups?
- Can you anticipate any barriers to participation of these groups and consider ways to remove them? How will the EDI outcomes be sustained or built upon after the project ends?

Gender Equality Statement

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.

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, including methodologies and sampling processes;
- Budget;
- Risk;
- Measures taken to facilitate the participation of people from different genders.

Please note that the Gender Equality Statement should clarify and enable a clear demonstration that contributing to addressing gender inequalities has been considered in the project

development. It is expected that the approach will be reflected in other sections of the application including the project description, outcomes and outputs.

All applications are checked for an adequate Gender Equality Statement at the eligibility stage.

The following questions should be answered when writing the statement.

Analysis

What are the key gender equality issues that are relevant to your project and how it will contribute to addressing these? Please include data and evidence to support your analysis of the relevant gender equality issues. This should include issues relevant to the theme of your project and to the team that will deliver it.

Measures

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.

Drawing on the analysis of the gender equality issues, think about the barriers to participation and engagement in the project and how you will overcome these through your project plan and activities.

Impact

Describe how the project will impact women, men and people with diverse gender identities, both throughout the project and beyond. Specifically, show how the project will address the barriers that have been set out in the question above.

Consider also the potential impact of the project on relations between men and women e.g. changes in voice, decision making, leadership, etc Please refer to the examples shared in the application form for more information.

Risks

How will any risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality be avoided or mitigated against, and monitored?

Outcomes

Are there any relevant outcomes and outputs being measured, with data disaggregated by age and gender (where disclosed)?

Applicants are encouraged to check the [Guide to Addressing Gender Equality document](#) which provides further information which will help you to write your gender statement e.g guidance on how to undertake a gender analysis etc.

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.

Accessibility and Adjustments

Approach for reasonable adjustment and access support

We provide disability and accessibility support for applicants and grant recipients at different stages of the grant from application, project delivery to reporting.

Application stage

If you need support when applying for funding, you should try to speak to your employer first, if applicable (e.g., your university, or other host institutions).

If you need additional support to apply for this opportunity, please contact the British Council at [GEP Grants](#) as early as possible (and at least two weeks before the application submission deadline as early notification helps us provide more timely assistance) to discuss individual needs for reasonable adjustments or disability-related support during the application. This includes e.g. requests for application information in alternative formats, access support worker to help you make an application, etc.

Project accessibility costs

Applicants and grant recipients are encouraged to take a proactive approach to build accessibility into the design and delivery of their proposed activities and events, so that we can improve the experience for everyone, particularly for disabled people. These include e.g. support from a Sign Language interpreter to make your designed event inclusive, remediation service to make your research report accessible, etc. These project accessibility costs should be planned and included in your project budget.

Personal access costs

These are designed to remove barriers and support the grant recipients (or their core team) in managing grants and delivering the project. These include e.g. requests for information in alternative formats, access to a support worker to help you during the project and in drafting the end of project report, a travel assistant to support your attendance to events, etc.

Note that these personal access costs should be planned as additional expenses on top of the project budget and therefore should be listed separately from the project budget. Make sure you plan for any personal access support you might need during or at the end of the project. Make sure you plan ahead where possible and consider our reporting requirements. These costs can only be for the project period (between your project start date and end date) and must be specific to your project. We are not able to cover costs for support that is unrelated to the activity. The amount of personal access costs you can include in your application should be relevant to your activity and the size of your task. These costs are submitted separately from your project budget and we do not take them into consideration in the evaluation of your application, as this allows for all applications to be submitted and assessed on an equal basis.

For example, if the maximum amount you can apply for the project is £10,000. Your application is for £10,000 and you also need an extra £500 personal access costs. We will consider this as an application for £10,000, rather than £10,500 and you will be eligible to apply. Please include as much detail in the expenditure line description. We need to understand what you are going to use the additional costs for, and how it's specific to your needs and project. Our grants cannot cover any activity or spending that takes place before we can make a decision.

These will be considered on a case-by-case basis and dependent on the funding available. Requests for Personal Access Costs will be reviewed only after the project is selected for funding. We may contract with the Contracting Institution for the main project, and then do a contract amendment for any additional amounts shortly afterwards. Kindly note that requests for Personal Access Cost will not affect the evaluation of the proposal. The requests for personal access cost would be reviewed by British Council EDI team and project members.

If you wish to discuss the requests and/or costs in your application, please contact the British Council at [GEP Grants](#).

Please note that funding allocated for personal access costs is ring-fenced and must only be used for the stated purpose. Any unused funds should be returned in line with the British Council requirements.

Please contact us for further information on the British Council's approach. See our [Equality Policy](#).

Budget Sheet

Budgets must only be submitted using the Budget section of online Application form.

You will note that some budget categories are subject to a cap which is set as a percentage of the total amount of funding being applied for. Where a budget cap is specified, it must be adhered to as it is a stipulation of the funding. If caps are not adhered to, your requested budget may be subject to correction by the British Council to make it compliant, and this may result in a reduction of your grant.

A list of eligible and ineligible costs can be found in [Annex 1](#).

Selection Process

- All applications received by the deadline will be logged and acknowledged – if you have not received an acknowledgement within seven days, please check your spam folder for messages from British Council Good Grants. If you have not received any acknowledgement of receipt of application, please contact us with details by writing at [GEP Grants](#).
- Applications will be reviewed for eligibility and completeness – if we do not have everything requested in the Pre-submission Checklist your application may be declared ineligible and not proceed to next stage. We receive large volumes of applications so we may not be able to notify you of this outcome at this stage.
- Applications will be assessed by a panel of subject experts, on the basis of the assessment criteria specified.
- Top ranked applications will be selected and will be notified about their selection for contracting and disbursement of grants.
- Requests for Personal Access Costs from successful applicants will be reviewed only after the project is selected for funding.
- Unsuccessful applications will be notified at a later stage. **Due to the volume of expected applications, we will not be able to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants.**

Assessment Criteria

Scoring range (0-20 per category)

- **20 points:** Meets all criteria to an exceptional level.
- **16 to 19 points:** Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level.
- **11 to 15 points:** Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level.
- **6 to 10 points:** Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level.
- **1 to 5 points:** Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level.
- **0 points:** Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.

Categories

Project quality and relevance (Score: 40%)

Criteria

- The proposal must explain how it meets the overseas country's priorities as listed in national policy documents and/or based on relevant research OR in the absence of such policies are set in the context of the partner country and have the potential to influence policy.
- The proposal has undertaken an evidence based context analysis which examines the barriers and challenges related to gender equality as well as any opportunities to address these through the project.
- The proposal addresses one or more of the key themes around gender equality and higher education (as outlined on page 5)
- The proposal uses a 'whole-institution approach' to embed change, and this is reflected in the composition of the project team by inclusion of relevant university leaders/decision makers, EDI, Safeguarding, HR teams, etc.
- The proposed project involves, where relevant, key stakeholders from the wider ecosystem to drive systemic change (government bodies, women's organisations, community leaders, civil society, industry associations).
- The proposal identifies clear benefits and impact to both Lead Institutions and stakeholders involved, including staff, students and the wider community in both countries.
- The proposal demonstrates it has a clear and credible approach to identifying and addressing intersectional barriers in its design, delivery and monitoring.
- Projects must be co-designed and jointly governed, ensuring balanced decision-making between UK and overseas institutions.

Methodology and design (Score: 30%)

Criteria

- The activities are well planned and defined. The proposal contains clear, feasible, and realistic objectives, as well as potential for long-term impact.
- Lead institutions clearly articulate specific outputs anticipated from the collaboration defining how they will be achieved and how they support the chosen thematic area.
- There is an effective monitoring, evaluation and learning framework in place, with clear gender and wider equality, diversity and inclusion indicators that capture differential participation, experiences and outcomes across diverse participant groups and contexts.
- The methodology responds to challenges/barriers identified in the gender analysis and has been clearly articulated and is achievable within the given timeframes and activities described.
- Risks and any mitigation strategies have been clearly defined.

Resources (Score: 10%)

Criteria

- The proposal represents value for money and all costs are fully justifiable. This means that proposal must achieve the best possible outcomes with the funding and resources available, while ensuring funding and resources are used effectively, economically and without waste.

- The proposal shows equity in the budget distribution with planning costs clearly distributed within the defined caps.
- The proposal's aims are commensurate with the experience of the individuals involved in the project demonstrated by a clear definition of roles and responsibilities.
- The Lead Institutions have sufficient relevant experience (including around gender equality) to lead the proposed activities and achieve the stated objectives, supported by an implementing team with the required expertise.
- The proposal offers development opportunities for staff who are under-represented in senior roles. This includes measures to ensure equal and meaningful opportunities for people of different background, races, faith background, ages, gender, sexual orientation, and dis/ability to be involved throughout the project. This includes involvement as people who run the project, project activity participants and other relevant stakeholders.
- Budget distribution should demonstrate fairness, proportionality, and genuine partnership, with resources allocated to support capacity and leadership in both partner institutions.
- Outputs should reflect co-authorship and shared intellectual contribution from both institutions.

Sustainability (Score: 20%)

Criteria

- The proposal clearly states how the proposed project contributes to structural change in the particular institution and could have potential scaling-up ability at local, regional, and/or national levels.
- The proposal contains potential for long- term impact with a clear sustainability plan.
- The proposal includes a clear and feasible description of how the Lead Applicants' institutions intend to sustain their collaboration over the longer term to ensure the outcomes are sustained beyond the funding period.
- There is a planned mechanism for the dissemination of the results which will enable sharing practices and learning.
- Proposals should demonstrate how the project supports partner leadership, capacity development, and long-term autonomy and gender equality.

Total score: 100

Applicant Screening

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; and/or
- 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; and/or,
- 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 grantcall. 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.

Granting Process

When a decision has been made on applications the British Council will send out a notification to all successful applicants with a timeline to accept the Grant.

This will be followed by sharing of the British Council Grant Agreement for signatures. Funding will be offered to successful applications on the terms and conditions as set out in the sample grant agreement which has been made available as part of the funding call launch. The terms and conditions in this template are non-negotiable and standard for all grants from Going Global Partnerships. Contracting Institutions are expected to obtain necessary institutional approval for these contractual terms prior to application submission. Please ensure you seek approval from any necessary internal colleagues or teams, such as pre-award, legal and/or finance, before the deadline for submission. The Grant Agreement to successful applicants will be populated with some of the data you have entered into your application, so please ensure that the responses you give are full and correct in order to prevent errors in the contract once it is issued.

Funds will be disbursed only upon the British Council receiving an acceptably signed copy of the Grant Agreement. It will be expected that the Grantee is able to return a signed copy of agreement within the stipulated timelines given by the British Council, and the funding may be at risk if the stipulated timelines are not adhered to.

British Council will also ask for a copy of the Contracting Institution's most recent Bank Details which should be supplied on the provided form and on the institution's letter head.

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. Visit - British Council
- The Contracting Institution is the Lead Institution that has made the application on the Good Grants platform. The Contracting Institution for the partnership will sign the Grant Agreement with the British Council. The Contracting Institution must be eligible to receive and manage grant funds. The Contracting Institution is accountable for delivery, reporting, and compliance with all grant requirements.
- Other key partners are names in the Grant Agreement. The Contracting Institution is responsible for flowing down the relevant clauses to the other partners.
- 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.

- A copy of the Grant Agreement is available with the call document.
- Terms and Conditions of the 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.

Monitoring and Reporting

The Contracting Institution is responsible for complying with the requirements of monitoring and reporting as detailed in the Grant Agreement. We require both financial and activity reporting.

Annex 1 – 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 20% 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.
- Online platform and relevant costs for digital delivery can be included.
- 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 -only the time allocated for the project, plus the costs of temporary personnel and other temporary staff recruited to work solely on the project,
- Exchange rate costs and other banking-related costs.

Ineligible costs

The following costs are ineligible for funding:

- 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 and tuition).
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- British Council Grants cannot be converted to any Gift Cards, non-monetary assets, Crypto currencies.

Annex 2 – Intersectionality implementation checklist

1. Reflexivity

Recognise limitations and that your perspective is only one reality.

2. Dignity, Choice and autonomy

Create safe and accessible spaces for all to participate equally including separate spaces where necessary.

3. Accessibility and universal design

Information and feedback mechanisms are provided in a range of accessible formats, including local languages.

4. Diverse knowledge

Define and design programme objectives and activities collaboratively with people with experience of intersectional discrimination.

5. Intersecting Identities

Process, output and outcome indicators use qualitative and quantitative approaches to measure progress towards equality for the most marginalised.

6. Relational Power

Activities challenge attitudes, stigma, stereotypes and discrimination faced by the most marginalised.

7. Time and Space

Flexible and regular monitoring systems that can analyse the influence of external factors.

8. Transformative and Rights-Based

Adopt specific measures to address equality and non-discrimination and promote the participation and empowerment of the most marginalised.

Some examples to guide intersectionality into the design and delivery

Reflexivity

Applied: A professor leading a research project on the historical treatment of LGBTQ+ individuals within academia critically reflects on their own biases and privileges, acknowledging how their positionality might influence their interpretations and interactions with research participants.

Not Applied: A group of researchers from privileged backgrounds conduct a study on access to higher education for marginalised communities without considering their own biases or the power dynamics inherent in their research.

Dignity, Choice and autonomy

Applied: In a research study on accessibility in higher education, measures are taken to ensure the anonymity of participants from stigmatised minority groups, such as providing pseudonyms and utilising secure data collection methods, to protect their dignity and autonomy.

Not Applied: Researchers collect data on the experiences of students with disabilities without taking precautions to protect their anonymity, potentially exposing participants to discrimination or stigma within their academic communities

Accessibility and universal design

Applied: A diverse range of students with disabilities is consulted to identify the physical, communication, information, and transportation barriers that can prevent students from engaging in higher education

Not Applied: An analysis of student engagement assumes that all students have the same access to resources without considering cultural or socioeconomic differences

Diverse knowledge

Applied: International students from various cultural backgrounds are consulted to understand their perspectives on inclusive campus policies.

Not Applied: An analysis of student engagement assumes that all students have the same access to resources without considering cultural or socioeconomic differences.

Intersecting Identities

Applied: Research explicitly acknowledges that student identities are not singular and seeks out the least represented within already marginalised groups, examining how intersectional discrimination impacts them

Not Applied: LGBTQ+ students are considered as a homogenous group, and consultation with a single campus organisation is considered sufficient for analysis.

Relational Power

Applied: A power analysis of university staff, administration, and student bodies is undertaken and used to frame the problem and its root causes in campus policies.

Not Applied: An analysis identifies intersecting forms of oppression but does not connect this to who holds power in university decision-making and how the solution can be addressed

Time and Space

Applied: Analysis shows that younger generations of students and faculty in urban universities are more supportive of gender-neutral bathrooms.

Not Applied: A situation analysis of international students fails to consider the differences in experiences between first-year students and those nearing graduation.

Transformative and Rights-Based

Applied: Analysis of the situation of minority student populations considers the impact of systemic racism and intergenerational trauma on their academic performance and campus life.

Not Applied: Analysis looks at the availability of academic support services without considering cultural norms and the specific needs of minority students.