**Frequently Asked Questions** 

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| Why are the requirements for the level of English language competence so high? | Researcher Connect aims to help young researchers improve their communication and professional skills which are essential for successful international collaboration. International conferences, symposia, original research articles for high-ranking journals, international projects – in all of these activities, international communication and cooperation is taking place through the medium of English, so it is important that participants have sufficient basic English to take part. Researcher Connect is not a language course. |
| How many people can take part in a Researcher Connect workshop?  | The maximum number of participants in each workshop is 20, which has been determined in the interests of ensuring effective interactive training. Increasing the size of groups above 20 participants ends up being counterproductive. |
| Are any thematic priorities applied in selecting the Researcher Connect participants? | The project primarily focuses on university faculty (lecturers/tutors, researchers in academic research institutes, PhD students) in the natural sciences (both fundamental and applied), especially those who are already publishing research papers abroad and who are involved in the delivery of, or in developing proposals for, international research collaboration. |
| How is the English language level of competence tested? Is it mandatory for all? How much does it cost? | English language (EL) testing is free for applicants and is carried out by the British Council’s own EL teachers and Researcher Connect Project Manager, in the form of an interview either face-to-face or over the telephone. Applicants who can provide copies of relevant EL examination certificates (IELTS, Cambridge, TOEFL, etc) do not need to take the test. |
| Are applicants from the host institution (where the Researcher Connect workshop is going to take place) given any priority? | No, all applicants are treated the same very way. The British Council strongly adheres to the principles of equal opportunity and transparency. |
| Can people aged more than 35 apply to participate in the project activities? | 35 years is an internationally accepted age limit for the category "young researchers", on which the project is focused. However, subject to compliance with all other selection criteria and the availability of places, older applicants may be accepted. |
| Can the participants’ travel and accommodation costs be reimbursed? | No. But participation in Researcher Connect is entirely free – in many other countries, the British Council charges for participation. The British Council can provide formal invitation letters , if necessary, to enable participants to get funding from their employers for travel and accommodation. |