
New Connections in English Medium Instruction (EMI)* Turkey Research Partnership Fund 2020

1. Background

Learning English has been on the agenda of Turkey for many years. How to improve the teaching and learning of English is an ongoing issue from the primary to tertiary level. The British Council conducted a baseline study 'The State of English in Higher Education in Turkey' into tertiary-level English language provision in the higher education sector in Turkey in 2015. In partnership with TEPAV, we visited 38 universities in 15 cities across Turkey and surveyed leadership teams, academic staff, and students. This report, one of the largest ever carried out into tertiary-level English language teaching in a country, identifies some underlying systemic issues in the Turkish system but also identifies numerous good initiatives in Turkish universities

which clearly indicate the commitment to improving the quality of English language teaching at tertiary level.

Within the framework of the baseline study's recommendations, the British Council worked at national and institutional level to improve the quality of English language training (ELT) and English as a medium of instruction (EMI) at tertiary education by conducting a Quality Development Programme with six universities and piloted a scheme to set up the minimum standards in preparatory programmes in collaboration with the Council of Higher Education and Turkish Higher Education Quality Council for English with ten universities.

With this new programme, the British Council aims to facilitate deeper investigation into the field of EMI by creating high-quality research partnerships between the UK and Turkey.

2. New Connections in EMI Research Fund

The British Council in Turkey is pleased to announce a call for research proposals under the 'New Connections in EMI Research Fund' scheme. The selection and funding process is as follows:

- A panel of English language teaching/EMI specialists will evaluate each proposal against a series of pre-announced criteria.
- Successful applications will be announced by the British Council.
- Successful applications will be shared at the British Council's online dissemination event where policy makers and practitioners will be invited.
- The grant for each supported project will be up to £20,000.

3. Purpose of the New Connections in EMI Research Fund

Through this research fund, we aim to improve the learning and teaching of English in higher education institutions in Turkey through the production and dissemination of innovative research in key areas identified by the British Council's baseline study 'The State of English in Higher Education in Turkey'.

The programme has the following objectives:

- To create new links between EMI research institutes in the UK, Turkey, and other EMI hubs (EU, MENA and possibly East Asia).
- An improvement in quality and quantity of joint UK-Turkey research on EMI

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- New partnerships between the UK's and Turkey's higher education institutions (HEIs), professionals and policy makers
 - Improved access of English language teachers, EMI policy makers and professionals to high quality and relevant research from the UK to inform policy and planning.

4. What type of activity can be considered?

The British Council is particularly interested in research within the following areas which have been identified by HEIs, policy makers, EMI practitioners, academics in Turkey as the main issues. We are particularly interested in proposals which relate directly to 'The State of English in Higher Education in Turkey' baseline study conducted by the British Council in Turkey.

- **Quality in EMI**

The number of EMI universities is increasing in Turkey. There are challenges that all universities have been facing on providing high quality English language teaching at pre-sessional and sessional courses. The challenges include the quality of pre-service and in-service teacher education and the low exit level of students from EMI departments.

Research in this area focuses on quality assurance systems on EMI, reasons for the poor learning outcomes amongst students from EMI departments, quality assurance systems/accreditation for EMI and their impact on its quality.

- **Departmental EMI context in Turkey**

The English proficiency levels of EMI academics generally meet international standards, but senior academics in some universities report problems in finding enough academics with adequate levels of English to meet current requirements or expand EMI programmes.

Academics teaching on EMI programmes do not generally accommodate students' language difficulties and regard EMI learning (Learning of subject / learning of English / learning through English) as the students' responsibility. This approach arises because few academics have been offered any training in teaching subjects through EMI teaching and little training of this kind seems to be available in Turkish universities.

Research in this area focuses on continuing professional development of content lecturers using EMI, pedagogic skills, level of English for content lecturers using EMI teachers, or challenges in departmental EMI context.

- **EMI and internationalisation**

EMI is a driver of, a reaction to and the outcome of internationalisation.

Research in this area focuses on the complex relationship between EMI and internationalisation in higher education in Turkey.

- **EMI and employability**

Traditionally, higher education has been a crucial driver for developing an efficient, productive and dynamic labour force which is able to meet demands of the global economy. Policy makers and educators consider EMI in higher education as the engine for any future development. In line with that, there is a clear link between the stability of employment and the level of education that employees bring – as the level of education increases, the probability of unemployment decreases.

Research in this area focuses on EMI and employability, and areas around international adaptability in the Turkish context.

- **English as a subject**

Research in this area focuses on improving standards of the teaching, learning and assessment of English as a foreign language in higher education in HE including EAP, ESP and EASP and the interaction between EaS and EMI.

5. Who may apply?

Any joint teams of researchers/institutions from Turkey and the UK. Proposals must fulfil the following criteria in order to be eligible for funding under this programme:

- **Each proposal must have one lead applicant (either from the UK or Turkey) and one partner applicant (either from the UK or Turkey), submitting a joint application. One of the applicants must be from Turkey.**

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- Individual departments within a single institution can make multiple applications provided that the proposed activities and aims are clearly different and that each is led by separate lead applicants.
 - Each application by the same department should demonstrate that it will secure matching funds independently from their other proposals.
 - **Successful applicants will be announced on 26 October 2020 and they all must submit a final draft on the research by 21 March 2021. This would normally include the rationale, methodology, findings, impacts, discussion and implications, and references.**
 - **The research output/final article must be in English (though there may also be a version in another language).**
 - The British Council will support the publication of the successful research projects in relevant journals and dissemination with higher education policy makers.
 - Lead applicants must be based at one of the following Institutions:
 - A non-profit higher education institution with the capacity to undertake high-quality research, including their technology transfer offices.
 - A non- research organisation with the capacity to undertake high-quality research.
 - The lead applicant's institution in the partner country (the 'Lead institution') must have the capacity to administer the grant.

Lead applicants can include in their proposals associated partners affiliated with:

- Research or higher education institutions
- Other education organisations/Charities/Foundations
- Non-profit organisations (including non-governmental organisations (NGOs))

For-profit organisations are not eligible to apply as lead institutions/applicant. Furthermore, for-profit organisations are not eligible to receive any grant funds, except to cover travel-associated costs.

Please send an enquiry to alimurat.guclu@britishcouncil.org.tr if you are in doubt about the eligibility of your organisation.

Eligibility checks will be applied to all applications on receipt. Those which are not led by an eligible institution will be rejected during these checks.

6. Funding available

- **A condition for accessing funds from the ‘New Connections in EMI Turkey Research Partnership Fund’ programme is that match funding/in-kind contribution is secured from the lead applicant in the partner country (i.e Turkey). This in-kind funding can include non-financial contributions, and a percentage of the salary costs of permanent or existing staff at the lead applicant institutions and other affiliate institutions benefiting from the grant.** Lead applicant must document this in the Application Form and the Budget Spreadsheet.
- **Funds will be disbursed directly to the Lead Institution (i.e. the Lead applicant’s institution) in the UK or Turkey according to the approved final budget.** Applicants may be asked to adjust their budget if their request does not fit within funding guidelines or is considered not appropriate by the application reviewers.
- The lead institution may transfer funding to associated partners for activities which support the objectives of the collaboration and the overall programme. We strongly suggest that Lead Institution and Partner Applicants should sign a formal letter specifying how money will be transferred to them.
- Please complete the budget spreadsheet as provided on the call website with details of all costs along with the budget summary on the application form with the totals from your budget spread sheet and a brief justification for the amounts applied for.
- **Please also note that 30 per cent final payment can only be made, if the applicants submit final draft research paper on 21 March 2021.**
- **Please note that interim reporting (financial expenses, project management) will be requested from grant winner applicants twice – one in January, one as the final closure reporting in 22 March 2020.**
- **Please also note that underspend budget will be reimbursed to the British Council in Turkey.**
- We may ask the advice of external experts on an in-confidence basis as part of the evaluation. We reserve the right to contact applicants to request or negotiate an amendment to any aspect of the proposal, including budget items, in order to best meet the objectives of the scheme.

The New Connections in English Medium Instruction Research Fund can cover:

Category	Type	Percentage Limits	Notes
Human Resource Costs	Staff costs for personnel working <u>directly</u> on the grant-funded project	Limited to 70 per cent of fund awarded	This includes on-costs such as superannuation and national insurance payments, payments to research assistants
Operational Costs	Travel (economy class) and subsistence costs	None	Only covers travel to the partner country or the UK
	Visa fees, vaccinations and medical insurance for travel essential to collaboration		Only covers travel to the partner country or the UK
	Costs of meetings, training events, seminars and conferences integral to the collaboration		This can include short-term room hire, hire of audio-visual equipment (projectors, etc.) and stationery supplies (flip charts, etc.), refreshments.
	Consumables		Permission must be obtained from the British Council before the purchase of equipment over £500. Criteria are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Equipment is essential to delivery of the project and cannot be expected to be provided by institutions. 2. Equipment will be used in the partner country and will remain there on project completion.
	Transcription of data, fees of research assistants		
	Specialist software licenses essential to the collaboration		
Communication Costs	Access fees to facilities or library services	None	This includes web page development by external providers, if appropriate. We encourage open access publishing.

	Use of telecommunications such as video/audio/web conferencing		
Other Costs	Bank charges for transfer of funds from the lead partner to other partners		Note that for-profit organisations are only eligible to receive funds for travel associated costs.

7. How can I apply?

All applications for a research proposal must be submitted within the New Connections in EMI Research Fund application form. Send the completed form to alimurat.guclu@britishcouncil.org

The deadline to submit your research proposal, research budget spreadsheet and letters of support is **Sunday, 18 October 2020, 23:59 Turkey Time (GMT+3)**.

8. Timeline

2020-2021	Sep 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	March 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	Jun 2021
Announcement of the call	18 Sep									
Deadline for applications		18 Oct								
Announcement of winner applications		26 Oct								
Contracting grant agreement, bank details, financial process		28 Oct – 30 Oct								
70 per cent advance payment to partners			2 Nov							
Research delivered			X	X	X	X	X			
Online researcher workshop – first draft of findings shared						25 Feb				

Deadline for submitting final draft research papers							21 March			
Finalising research papers								30 April		
Final payments - 30 per cent							Before 31 March			
Publishing the report									21 May	
Online dissemination conference									26 May	
Journal publication										X

9. Selection Criteria

The panel will consider following items as selection criteria for joint-research proposals:

Please see **Annex 1 and Annex 2** for detailed overview of the selection criteria.

- The potential impact of the research on EMI practice in Turkey.
- The relevance of the project and research output to EMI professionals.
- The originality of the contribution to its field within EMI literature.
- The quality of the research design and the qualifications and experience of the researcher(s).
- The proposal's contribution to the aims of the scheme, including the UK research collaboration where appropriate.
- The activities are well planned and defined. The proposal contains clear, feasible, and realist objectives, as well as potential for long term impact.
- The research budget plan is clear, realistic, and well-prepared.

10. Application process

The deadline for the submission of applications is **Sunday, 18 October 2020, 23:59 Turkey Time (GMT+3)**.

The applications must clearly identify how the proposed activities will contribute to achieving/enhancing the overall objectives of the project. Applications must include:

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- Lead applicant's and partner applicant's CVs
 - Application form (template available on the British Council's call webpage)
 - A detailed activity plan of activities, including timeline, milestones and division of roles and responsibilities – all should be provided in the application form.
 - A detailed plan for monitoring and evaluation - should be provided in the application form.
 - A detailed project budget (template available on the British Council's call webpage)

In addition to filling in the application form, applicants are required to send below documents as attachments:

1. Letters of support from the lead applicants' institutions in English, on headed paper, signed by the Head of Institution, Head of Department or other person with appropriate delegated authority, expressing specific commitment to the proposed project, and capability of the lead applicant is particularly suited to the project content and commitment to provide the in-kind funding such as staff time. **Please note that supporting letters must not be signed by the lead applicants.**
2. Letter of support from the lead applicant's institution, on headed paper, signed by the Head of Department or other person with appropriate delegated authority, expressing willingness to receive funding and to sign a grant agreement with the British Council.
3. Letter of support from the partner applicant's institution in the partner country, on headed paper, signed by the Head of Department or other person with appropriate delegated authority, expressing commitment to provide the in-kind funding to support the implementation of the project
4. If the proposal includes associated partners, further information is required on associated partners of up to 300 words per partner, summarising the organisational and individual skills, knowledge and experience each partner will bring to the project and the role they will take.

Main documents:

- The application form (with budget spreadsheet),
- Letters of support from lead applicant and partner applicant's institutions
- The letter from delegated authority of the lead applicants' institution

must be sent to alimurat.guclu@britishcouncil.org.tr

11. FAQ

1- What type of activity is outside the scheme?

- Funding will only be agreed for a maximum initial period of six months (November-March).
- This scheme is not intended to fund the field work of Ph.D. candidates or similar – apart from field work to be carried out directly related to the proposed project.
- We define research as original investigation undertaken in order to gain knowledge and understanding.
- Costs relating to the construction, procurement or rental of physical infrastructure (e.g. office buildings, laboratory facilities). It is expected that any rooms and facilities essential for the routine operation of collaboration are provided as an in-kind contribution by the participating institutions. These must be detailed as an in-kind contribution in the budget breakdown.
- Purchase or rental of standard office equipment (except specialist equipment essential to the activity). This includes: IT hardware – laptops, personal computers, iPads, tablets, etc., Office software, desks, chairs, filing cabinets, photocopiers, printers, fax machines.
- Mobile phone rental or purchase
- Entertainment costs such as: gifts, alcohol, restaurant bills or hospitality costs for personnel not directly participating in the project, excessive restaurant costs.

2- How final decisions will be made?

A panel of ELT/EMI specialists will evaluate each proposal against a series of criteria in Annex 1-2. The Director of the programme at the British Council will make a final decision on how to allocate funds, considering the recommendations of the panel on each proposal. We may ask the advice of external experts on an in-confidence basis as part of the evaluation. We reserve the right to contact applicants to request or negotiate an amendment to any aspect of the proposal, including for example budget items or project timeline, in order to best meet the objectives of the scheme.

3- What amount of funding is available?

- Grant requested for each project **may be up to £20,000**. Our intention is to encourage a wide range of new research and the total funds available are limited. We expect this will favour proposals at the lower levels of funding.
- We do not expect the 'New Connections in EMI Research Fund' to cover the full costs of the research, but to fund essential elements of the research without which the research would not take place. Proposals should make clear how the other costs of the research will be funded. Applicants of jointly funded research must agree to the full conditions of the fund (see below).
- The proposal must make clear what expenditure items the 'New Connections in EMI Research Fund' will fund. The scheme will not fund items of equipment which institutions would normally be expected to possess (for example computing equipment including laptops).
- Awards will be paid in two instalments with 70 per cent of the grant to be paid upon the receipt of the fully signed contract and the remaining 30 per cent or entitled balance (whichever is less) paid upon receipt of a final draft article by 21 March 2020.

4- What are the conditions of the award?

- The successful researchers will own the intellectual property rights of the research output/final report and will licence these rights to the British Council to use and disseminate the research output/final report at its own discretion with no limitation on time or territory. This will be specified in the individual agreement.
- The applicant, institution and researchers must explicitly acknowledge the support of the British Council through the 'New Connections in EMI Turkey Research Fund' in any written or spoken dissemination of the research process and all outputs arising from it.
- The British Council reserves the right to make freely and publicly available information on the proposal form of successful proposals, any reports and research output.
- The British Council will inform applicants as to whether the proposal is successful or not. The British Council is not obliged to be part of any further discussions or offer advice on proposals. The decision of the British Council regarding the 'New Connections in EMI Turkey Research Partnership Fund' is final.

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- Successful applicants must satisfy the British Council that the expenditure has been incurred in accordance with the original proposal.
 - Applicants must agree to the terms and conditions of the scheme, which will be outlined in detail in a grant letter to successful applicants.

5- What are the benefits of the award to the successful applicants?

- Financial support which enables the research to take place.
- Dissemination of the research by the British Council as an example of quality joint research with full acknowledgement of the researchers and their affiliated institutions.
- The right to refer to the research as funded by the British Council's 'New Connections in EMI Turkey Research Partnership Fund' scheme.
- Support with access to appropriate partners, teachers and learners overseas as agreed on a case by case basis.

6- How will the research be disseminated by the British Council?

- Publication on the British Council's website(s).
- Opportunity to present a webinar through the British Council's website or online communities.
- Promotion of the report through the British Council's internal and external networks.

12. Ethics and Child Protection

It is essential that all legal and professional codes of practice are followed in conducting work supported by this programme. Applicants must ensure the proposed activity will be carried out to the highest standards of ethics and research integrity.

In the online 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.

Where proposals involve any contact with children, each organisation and individual will need to adhere to the relevant national requirements to ensure they have been fully vetted to work with under-18s. Further information on the British Council Child Protection Policy is available here:

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/transparency/policies/child-protection> .

Please refer to the Research Councils UK 'Policy and Guidelines on Governance of Good Research Conduct' (<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/Publications/researchers/grc/>), the InterAcademy Partnership report 'Doing Global Science: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in the Global Research Enterprise' (<http://www.interacademycouncil.net/24026/29429.aspx>) or contact us for further guidance.

13. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Applicants are encouraged to ensure equal opportunities in the teams implementing their proposed activity. British Council's approach, see our Equality Policy at:

https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/equality_policy_1.doc

If you have further questions, please ask:

alimurat.guclu@britishcouncil.org.tr

14. Applicant screening

In order to comply with the 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;
- 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;
- 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 grant call.

The applicant must provide the British Council with all information reasonably requested by the British Council to complete the screening searches.

15. Data protection

As part of the application form, the British Council will ask applicants' permission to:

- use the information that you are providing for the purposes of processing your application, making any awards, monitoring and review of any award.
- use organisation details for monitoring and evaluation and statistical purposes. Gender information, where collected, is used solely in preparing statistical reports.
- collect country of origin data for reporting and statistical purposes and to contact you within your own country.
- contact applicants in the future to inform them about future British Council opportunities.

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 the Data Protection Team at infogovernance@britishcouncil.org or see our website:

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/privacy-cookies/data-protection>.

16. Contact details

*If your application is ready before the deadline, please send it. Your application will be prioritised for screening.

All queries or comments about this call should be addressed to

alimurat.guclu@britishcouncil.org.tr

Annex 1 – Eligibility criteria checklist

The application has been submitted by the applicant by the published deadline.	
The lead applicants submitted only one 'New Connections in EMI Research Partnership Fund' application per this call.	
The applicants have uploaded signed letters of support from the Head of Department of each of the applicants' institutions.	
The application form is completed in full – All sections in the application form Sections 1-13	
The proposed activities are relevant to the fund's priorities and objectives of the call	
The form has been completed in English.	
Lead applicants must have the capacity to administer a grant and satisfy the British Council requirements to prevent bribery, fraud and professional misconduct. Applicants will confirm that they comply with the British Council requirements by responding to pre-submission questions in the online application form.	
The lead applicant has provided confirmation that lead applicant's institution is able to provide matched financial and/or in-kind funding for the activity and administer the grant.	

Annex 2 - Scoring system – quality assessment

Assessment of the quality and development relevance of the full proposals will be performed by expert reviewers. Only proposals that have a clearly articulated relevance to the ‘New Connections in EMI Research Partnership Fund’s prioritised areas will be considered for funding.

Section 1 – Relevance to the Fund’s priority areas	YES OR NO
The proposal clearly articulates a plausible pathway along which the activity(s) may contribute to the priority areas mentioned.	

Section 2 - Quality and Relevance	Score/Range
<p>Key criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential impact of the research on EMI practice in Turkey. • The relevance of the project and research output to EMI professionals. • The originality of the contribution to its field within EMI literature. • The proposal’s contribution to the aims of the scheme, including UK research collaboration where appropriate. • The quality of the research design and the qualifications and experience of the researcher(s). 	<p>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.</p>

Section 3 - Project Proposal / Methodology	Score/Range
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The description of the activity(s) includes clear, feasible and realistic objectives and outputs. • The activities are well planned and defined. The proposal contains clear, feasible, and realist objectives, as well as potential for long term impact. 	<p>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</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applicants clearly articulate specific outputs anticipated from the collaboration and objectives likely to be achieved• The methodology has been clearly articulated and is achievable within the given timeframes.• The proposal's aims are commensurate with the experience of the individuals involved in the project.• The proposal represents value for money and all costs are fully justifiable.• The timelines are realistic and there is an effective monitoring framework in place.• There is a clear definition of roles and responsibilities• The research budget plan is clear, realistic, and well-prepared.• Covid-19 circumstances are taken into consideration in research proposal.	<p>1 to 5 points: <i>Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level</i></p> <p>0 points: <i>Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.</i></p>
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