Going Global Partnerships

———

Guidance Notes

Connect4Innovation:UK-Türkiye Higher Education Institutional Partnerships Fund

June 2023

Grant call for Connect4Innovation:UK-Türkiye Higher Education Institutional Partnerships Fund

Countries: Turkey (Türkiye) and United Kingdom

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.

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.

See open and upcoming Going Global Partnerships opportunities on our portal.

Opportunities are being launched continually, so please check this page regularly.

2. Connect4Innovation:UK-Türkiye Higher Education Institutional Partnerships Fund

The Connect4Innovation: UK-Türkiye Higher Education Institutional Partnership Fund is the grant scheme which supports and enables institutional partnerships between universities from the UK and Türkiye for running a joint project that will support greater internationalisation of HE institutions and transnational education (TNE). We want to create new links, innovative and sustainable partnerships through joint activities and projects to strengthen transnational education collaborations between universities from the UK and Türkiye.

It is part of the work of the British Council in higher education and science which aims to extend, strengthen, and deepen connections between the UK education sector and Türkiye. It is motivated by the belief that international collaboration produces more effective research for addressing global problems while enhancing teaching and learning to produce graduates with the skills necessary for economic development. Enhancing internationalisation, institutional-transnational partnerships, and inclusion will support higher education institutions to improve quality and thus increase the skills and knowledge, which are essential for their students' successful careers in a rapidly changing workplace.

We are inviting universities in Türkiye and the UK to submit joint applications for projects which focus on one or more primary themes. (Joint team should include at least: One Turkish Lead Higher Education Institution, One UK Project Partner Higher Education Institution and one Supportive Partner Institution from Türkiye)

We are aiming to support projects which offer a clearly articulated benefit for developing institutional/transnational education partnerships which can focus on one or more primary themes, including designing and delivering joint qualifications, enhancing student outcomes and employability skills, strengthening institutional capacity in the areas of governance, leadership, quality assurance and management, and creating new career pathways and career development programmes for staff, students and graduates.

In order to align with industry or social needs, projects should also include a third partner (Supportive Partner) such as a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), development agency, chamber of commerce, organised industry zone or municipality. Industry requires future employees to have specific skill sets to innovate and drive technological advances, so we are looking for applications which go beyond research projects and are both innovative and practical.

2.1   Primary themes

We welcome project applications with the following primary themes:

- Designing and delivering UK-Türkiye joint teaching and collaboration model and a course or module that contributes towards joint UK and Turkish bachelor's, master's, or professional association qualification.
- Enhancing student outcomes through significantly enhancing employability skills and prospects, e.g., an apprenticeship degree, aligning skill sets of students and graduates with industry needs.
- Improving the capacity of the institution/organisation for international working at the institutional level e.g., joint programmes for strengthening governance, leadership, quality assurance and management in institutions.
- Creating new and innovative career pathways and career development programmes for academics, professional staff, students and graduates, developing the capacity of internationalisation, student affairs and career counselling professionals.
- Climate change, green universities and green careers with a clear impact on graduates' employability skills, in line with the United Nations' priority themes.
- ***Earthquake Support Projects***: The British Council in Türkiye is prepared to provide funding for project proposals that will be submitted by universities located in the earthquake zone, with a specific emphasis on the regions directly impacted by the earthquakes. Universities from the affected areas have the option to select one of the main themes mentioned earlier or choose from the additional special themes related to earthquake relief:
  - Establishing collaborative training initiatives aimed at enhancing women's involvement in regional economic development and recovery efforts following earthquakes, while also promoting their economic and social empowerment.
  - Developing and delivering joint certificate programs focusing on professional skills for individuals impacted by the earthquakes. These programs should aim to provide valuable training and enhance the capabilities of those affected.

2.2   Expected outputs

Possible outputs could be:

- A teaching and collaboration model and a course or module that contributes towards UK and Turkish bachelor's, master's, certification or professional association qualification
- Staff or student mobility programmes within bachelor's, master's, or professional association qualification programmes.
- A model and a course that contributes to student outcomes through significantly enhancing employability skills and prospects, e.g., an apprenticeship degree
- A development programme to improve the capacity of the institution/organisation for international working at the institutional level e.g., joint digital training programmes and new models of experience sharing and capacity building activities for internationalisation, student affairs and career counselling professionals.
- Pilot initiatives offering innovative solutions to strengthen governance, leadership and management in higher education institutions and other relevant stakeholders towards internationalisation and establishing transnational education opportunities.
- Design and delivery of course/training modules, in collaboration with community and industry leaders, focussing on the development of entrepreneurial, report writing, communication, teamworking, problem-solving, commercial awareness, leadership and organisation skills of students and graduates.
- New business incubation services including business/enterprise hubs for students, continuous professional development centres and internationalisation departments.
- Scoping of innovative implementations and initiatives which provide green career pathways for academics, professional staff, students and graduates.

2.3   Funding

Funding of up to **£25,000 per project** will be available, which will cover the costs of year one of the project. Applicants are expected to cover 100% of the budget for the second year of the project. The budget for the second year to be covered by the applicants must be equal to at least 50% of the total project budget requested. Applications which provide more matched funding and/or in-kind contributions will have an advantage.

2.4 Project Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation

Türkiye and UK Applicants are responsible to submit Midterm Reports to the British Council. This report shall consist of a narrative, The Result and Evidence Framework and financial information that tracks progress against milestones/plan. In addition to this, the UK and Türkiye Applicants will be required to submit a final narrative and financial report within 30 days of completion of the project. The project report template will be provided prior to Inception Meeting.

The British Council will conduct regular Monitoring and Evaluation as well as might commission independent evaluations of selected projects that are of strategic importance to The Going Global Partnership Programme (GGP).

Record of the project including records of activities, contracts, important project documents, evaluation reports, spending and supporting documentation related to financial transactions should be kept until seven (7) years after the closure of the project for audit purposes.

All financial transactions should be documented and kept for seven years. The British Council is authorised to ask applicants to submit all financial documentation (receipts, official bank transfer documents, agreements etc.) for reporting purposes.

3. Application process

Joint UK-Türkiye higher education institution applications, in which Turkish Lead Higher Education Institution acts as the lead institution, will be accepted.

- One higher education institution from the Türkiye (Türkiye Lead Higher Education Institution)
- One higher education institution from the UK (UK Project Partner Higher Education Institution)
- One supportive partner institution from Türkiye, such as:
  - Municipalities
  - Research and development centres (for-profit organisations can only receive travel reimbursement from the fund)
  - Development agencies
  - NGOs
  - Education think-tanks
  - Chambers of commerce
  - Organised Industrial Zones

3.1 How can I apply?

The deadline for the submission of applications is **Monday, 28 August 2023, 23:59 Türkiye Time (GMT+3)**. The applications must clearly identify how the proposed activities will contribute to achieving/enhancing the primary themes of the fund. Applications must be sent to alimurat.guclu@britishcouncil.org.tr and must include:

- Annex 1 – Application Form
- Annex 2 – Budget Plan
- Annex 3 – Equal Opportunities Questionnaire
- Letters of support from:
    - Turkish Lead Higher Education Institution
    - UK Project Partner Higher Education Institution
    - Turkish Supportive Partner Institution

IMPORTANT NOTE: These letters of support from all institutions should be in English, on headed paper, signed by the Rector/Vice Rector OR Head of Institution, Head of Department or other people with appropriate delegated authority, expressing specific commitment to the proposed project, demonstrating that the capability of the lead applicant is suited to the project content, and expressing willingness to receive funding and to sign a grant agreement with the British Council and commitment to providing financial matched funding OR in-kind contribution for the second year. **Please note that the supporting letters must not be signed by the project team leaders/members.**

Each application should clearly identify and explain their gender outcome(s) for the project, and this will be evaluated based on the evaluation criteria.

3.2 Timeline for applications

Activity	Date/time
Launch of the Connect4Innovation: UK-Türkiye Higher Education Institutional Partnership Fund	19 June 2023
Deadline for clarification questions (**Clarification Deadline**)	1 August 2023
British Council to respond to clarification questions	8 August 2023

Deadline to submit joint applications (**Submission Deadline**)	**28 August 2023, 23:59 Türkiye Time**
Final decision	8 September 2023
Contract concluded with winning institutions with signatures from the British Council and winner Türkiye lead applicant's institution.	22 September 2023
Contract start date	25 September 2023

British Council will review the applications at two levels:

1. The British Council Türkiye team will check the eligibility and quality of each proposal based on the eligibility criteria.
2. The British Council's evaluation panel will review the proposals based on the evaluation criteria.

Winner applications will be notified by **8 September 2023.** The grant agreements will be signed until **22 September 2023** and conditions will be issued to grantees.

Türkiye lead institution must send the application documents (with all attachments) to alimurat.guclu@britishcouncil.org.tr before the deadline.

3.3 Eligibility criteria for applications

Proposals must fulfil the following criteria in order to be eligible for funding under this programme:

- **Please check the eligibility check list (Section 6) and fulfil all requirements listed there. If one of the institutions or projects will not fulfil one or more requirements listed in the eligibility checklist, the application will be rejected.**

- Each proposal must have One Turkish Lead Higher Education Institution, One UK Project Partner Higher Education Institution and one Supportive Partner Institution from Türkiye. Only joint applications will be accepted, individual applications will not be evaluated.

- Applicants must be based at a non-profit higher education institution from Türkiye and the UK with the capacity to undertake high-quality research, including their technology transfer offices.

- Minimum duration of the project must be two years. **Project start date should be 22 September 2023 (contract start date), end date should be 22 September 2025.**

- By submitting an application, Turkish Lead Higher Education Institution, UK Project Partner Higher Education Institution and one Supportive Partner Institution from Türkiye agree to provide financial OR in-kind funding to cover 100% of the project costs for its second year.
- **The British Council will only cover the project's first year costs (i.e. costs incurred between 22 September 2023 and 22 September 2024). Please profile your budget for the first year of the project.**

For-profit organisations are not eligible to apply as lead applicants. 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.

Please check '6 Eligibility Criteria' below. Eligibility checks will be applied to all applications on receipt. Applications which are not eligible against any listed requirements under the checklist will be rejected.

4. What is our funding model?

Funding of **up to £25,000 per joint project is available**. Applications for less than this amount are also welcome.

The fund will only cover the first year's activities. It is expected that the second year's full budget (100%) will be covered through matched funding or in-kind contributions by the applicants' institutions. (Please see the details under section 4.2).

4.1   Matched funding and in-kind contributions

The applicants are expected to cover 100% of the budget for the second year of the project. The budget for the second year to be covered by the applicants must be equal to at least 50% of the total project budget. Applications which provide more matched funding and/or in-kind contributions will have an advantage.

The Turkish Lead Higher Education Institution, UK Project Partner Higher Education Institution and Supportive Partner Institution from Türkiye must collaboratively cover 100% of the requested budget as described above for the second year to be eligible for the fund. Otherwise, their applications will be rejected. There is no requirement for either institution to cover a set percentage of the total cost.

The applicants may provide funding and/or in-kind contributions for the first year – however, this will not be calculated for the minimum 50% criterion.

4.2 What are the eligible costs?

The Connect4Innovation Partnership Fund can cover:

	Category	Type	LIMITS
Section 1	**Human Resources Costs** **(limited to up to 70% of the total requested budget)**	• Staff costs for personnel working directly on the grant-funded project: salaries and fees for temporary project management/assistant personnel, and other staff recruited to work solely on the project • A proportion of staff costs for permanently employed staff of lead institutions- including salary-related taxes.	Note: please bear in mind that universities from Türkiye might apply local tax rules (deductions) for HR costs; you and project team members might get less from the requested HR budget for personal payments.
Section 2	**Operational Costs** **Capacity Building Activities**	• Costs related to subsistence, accommodation, and travel (economy class) to the UK and Türkiye. • Visa fees and medical insurance for travel to the UK and Türkiye that is essential to collaboration, including Covid-19 safety equipment in case of face-to-face meetings. • Costs of meetings, training events and seminars integral to the collaboration. This can include short-term room hire, hire of audio-visual equipment (projectors, etc.) and stationery supplies (flipcharts, etc.) • Catering costs associated with events or meetings relating to the collaboration • Translation and/or interpretation costs • Transcription of data • Training materials (e.g. connectivity expenses, stationary) • Trainer fee (professional fees) • Programme participants with a disability or with specific travel requirements due to a health concern may need to select a different travel class. Exceptions to economy flights will be considered for	**Funds to be allocated for all travel can be up to 20% of the total grant per project.**

		disability and other well-being and/or safety concerns.	
Section 3	**Marketing and Communication Costs**	- Publication costs related to the collaboration (design, editing, printing, photos, etc.) *Materials produced will be subject to British Council branding guidelines* - Use of telecommunications such as video/audio/web conferencing/live streaming - Web page development by external providers, if appropriate - Digital marketing and design costs (social media, content development, design of images, etc.) - Promotional materials and public engagement costs (e.g. photography, videography)	
Section 4	**Other Programme Costs**	- Bank transfer fees - Consumables - Essential project equipment (**Permission must be obtained from the British Council *before* the purchase of equipment over 500 GBP**. This could be approved only if the equipment is essential to the delivery of the project and cannot be expected to be provided by institutions) - Specialist software licenses essential to the collaboration (e.g. multimedia) - Bank charges for the transfer of funds from the lead institution to other partners - Overheads/support costs (i.e. administration, office cost, premises…etc) up to 5 per cent of the grant amount	

Connect4Innovation Partnership Fund cannot cover:

- Purchase or rental of standard office equipment (this includes IT hardware – laptops, personal computers, tablets, smartphones, workstations, computer parts and peripherals, etc.

- Office equipment (Desks, chairs, filing cabinets, photocopiers, printers, fax machines.)

- Mobile phone rental or purchase

- Tuition fees
- Cash prize for students and young entrepreneurs involved in the programme
- Attendance at conferences or other events unless this is to present outputs and outcomes of the project
- Entertainment costs such as gifts, alcohol, or hospitality costs for personnel not directly participating in the project
- Excessive restaurant costs; excessive taxi fares.

If you are in doubt about which costs the Connect4Innovation: UK-Türkiye Higher Education Institutional Partnership Fund can and cannot cover, please contact alimurat.guclu@britishcouncil.org.tr

One UK Project Partner Higher Education Institution and one Supportive Partner Institution from Türkiye

4.3 How will the grant disbursement take place?

The grant agreement will be signed with the Turkish Lead Higher Education Institution. The grant will be disbursed to the Turkish Lead Higher Education Institution's official bank account according to the approved budget separately. The Turkish Lead Higher Education Institution will be responsible for distributing the budget to UK Project Partner Higher Education Institution and Supportive Partner Institution from Türkiye based on the approved budget. **Any sub-granting to the UK Project Partner Higher Education and Türkiye supportive partner(s) must be done as a grant transaction. A grant transfer between partners can be done through third-party contracting (sub-contracting).** We expect that this will be most appropriately done through a grant contract rather than a service contract, but your partner institutions (the UK Project Partner Higher Education Institution and supportive partner institution) should be able to advise on this point.

The initial payment of the grant (80%) will be made on the signature of the grant agreement in October 2023 and the remaining amount (20%) will be provided in April 2024 based on the progress reported by the partners through the reporting procedure.

The prime grant and any sub-grant must be demonstrably non-profitmaking for the recipient. **The British Council will not cover the cost of local input VAT (and/or any other tax) on the grant.**

5. Communication

The British Council should be mentioned in all communication materials and spaces as a project 'supporter'. British Council's approval must be obtained for all written and visual materials to be used in external communication. The partners will be expected to apply following methods to attract and measure good audience size for the event(s).

The communication plan should apply following principles:

- Acknowledgment and Branding: The grantees should prominently acknowledge the British Council's support in all their promotional materials, press releases, and official communications related to the project. This should include displaying the British Council logo, mentioning the grant received, and using appropriate branding guidelines provided by the British Council.

- Social Media Promotion: The grantees should actively promote their collaborations and artistic productions on social media platforms. They have to tag the British Council's official social media accounts and use relevant hashtags related to the collaboration, #Connect4Innovation, and #UKTürkiye, to create visibility and reach a wider audience.

- Content Creation: The grantees will be expected to produce engaging and high-quality content, such as videos, blog posts, articles, or interviews, highlighting the collaboration process, behind-the-scenes insights, and the impact of the project.

- Media Outreach: The grantees will need to proactively engage with local and national media outlets to secure coverage for their collaborative projects. As relevant, they will include quotes from or interviews with the British Council representatives, highlighting the British Council's role in fostering higher education institutional partnerships between Türkiye and the UK.

- Events and Exhibitions: If there are going to be any public events or workshops to showcase the outcomes of the collaborations, the events should include appropriate signage, banners, and displays that prominently feature the British Council's branding and highlight its support for the project.

- Case Studies and Success Stories: The grantees will prepare case studies and success stories highlighting the positive impact of the collaboration and the support received from the British Council. These stories can be shared through various channels, such as

websites, newsletters, and publications, to demonstrate the long-term value of the partnership.

- Collaboration Documentation: The grantees will document the collaboration process through photos, videos, or a project diary. This documentation can later be shared on the British Council's website or social media platforms, allowing the audience to witness the progress and outcomes of the collaborative projects.

- Cross-promotion and Partnerships: The grantees will be encouraged to collaborate with other institutions in Türkiye or the UK to maximize visibility and impact. These cross-promotion initiatives will highlight the British Council's involvement and contributions to fostering international artistic collaborations.

- Impact Measurement and Reporting: The grantees shall provide periodic reports on the progress, achievements, and impact of the projects. This data can be used by the British Council to showcase the overall impact of their grant programs in Türkiye and demonstrate the effectiveness of their support. In addition to this, Partners are obliged to immediately report any concern or incident to British Council during the course of the project and a failure to do so might result in the annulation of the contract.

6. Eligibility criteria

Proposals must fulfil the following criteria in order to be eligible for funding under this call:

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	Y/N
Each proposal must have both: • one Lead institution from Türkiye; and • one Lead institution from the UK, and • one Supportive institution from Türkiye, submitting one joint application.	

UK Lead institution must be one of the following:
 	
• Higher Education provider with degree awarding powers.
    o 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.
    o Northern Ireland – https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/universities-and-colleges-northern-ireland
    o Scotland – https://www.gov.scot/policies/universities/
    o Wales – https://www.gov.uk/check-university-award-degree/recognised-bodies-wales	

• Not-for-profit research institutions, establishment and organisations. (See **Annex 2** for a complete list of these). • Any public or private organisations with a role in the Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET)/Further Education (FE) system	
Türkiye Lead institution must be one of the following: • Higher Education provider, as locally defined by the Council of Higher Education Turkey. • Not-for-profit research institutions, establishment and organisations, as locally defined by the Council of Higher Education Turkey. • TVET/FE provider, as locally defined by the Council of Higher Education Turkey.	
The Lead institution in Türkiye must have the capacity to administer the grant and capacity must be confirmed in the support letter.	
The partnership must include in their proposals Supportive Partner Institution from Türkiye affiliated with: • Higher Education providers • Not-for-profit research institutions, establishment and organisations • TVET/FE providers • Other education organisations/charities/foundations/membership bodies • Not-for-profit organisations, including Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) • For-profit/commercial organisations, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs) • Branch and satellite campuses of UK Higher Education providers • Government organisations • Employer organisations and industry bodies • Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Social Enterprise organisations • Municipalities	
For-profit non-education 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 after the grant call closes. Those which are not led by an eligible institution will be rejected during these checks.

7. Evaluation Criteria

The applications should receive sufficient scores for Section 1, 2 and 3. Otherwise, their applications cannot be classified eligible for funding. Applications which receive less than 30 points cannot be funded.

Section 1: Relevance to economic development and social welfare	Score	Range
The proposal clearly articulates a plausible route for the project to lead to positive impact on the lives of Turkish people and contribute to the economic development and social welfare of Türkiye.		**Sufficient/ Insufficient**

Section 2: Relevance to gender equality	Score	Range
- 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 project team, and the beneficiaries of the project. - The expected impact of the project (benefits and losses) on people of different genders, both throughout the project and beyond. - What are the expected impact (benefit and losses) on: men, women and other genders, the relations between people of different genders? - How will any risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality be avoided or mitigated against, and monitored? - Are there any relevant outcomes and outputs being measured, with data disaggregated by age and gender (where disclosed)?		**Sufficient/ Insufficient**

Section 3: Relevance to Impact on the Environment	Score	Range
What is the expected impact of the proposed project on the climate and environment (both throughout the project and beyond)? When answering, please consider: - How can any negative impact be reduced? - Have you considered possible alternatives to national and/or international travel such as virtual delivery? If alternatives are not possible, please provide justification why travel is essential to ensure project outcomes and impact and what measures you will take to limit the carbon footprint of any travel used to deliver the project.		**Sufficient/ Insufficient**

Section 4: Quality	Weighting
a. Institutions' evidence of a track record of excellence in designing and delivering large scale projects. (5%) b. Evidence of an appropriately qualified and experienced team brings value to this project. (10%) c. Outline of roles and responsibilities on how the team will deliver the project activities. (10%)	25%

Section 5: Project Proposal, Methodology and Approach	Weighting
A clear project summary with: a. Clear objectives and outcomes in line with the fund's primary themes and the target audience (e.g. students, graduates, academics, leaders, university staff, etc.) (20%) b. Proposal must clearly explain what the project will achieve and how this will contribute to increasing transnational education partnerships-institutional partnerships between institutions (20%) c. Clear and feasible description of how and why the participating institutions/organisations will sustain their collaboration over the long-term period (especially for the second year). (5%) d. Target audience – project beneficiaries were realistically identified and it is realistic to reach team. (5%)	50%

Section 6: Funding and Budget	
a. Budget has been planned effectively and resource allocation is reasonable. (5%)	**5%**

Section 7: Risk Management & Ethics	Weighting
a. Strong risk management & ethics plan are in place (5%)	5%

Section 8: Monitoring And Evaluation Plan	Weighting
a. Achievable key performance indicators (KPIs), project milestones were identified and clear methods of evaluation were identified. 'Implementation Plan' (20%)	15%
TOTAL	**100%**

7.1 Scoring Model

Points	Interpretation
9-10	**Excellent** – Overall the response demonstrates that the bidder meets all areas of the requirement and provides all of the areas evidence requested in the level of detail requested. This, therefore, is a detailed excellent response that meets all aspects of the requirement leaving no ambiguity as to whether the bidder can meet the requirement.
7-8	**Good** – Overall the response demonstrates that the bidder meets all areas of the requirement and provides all of the areas of evidence requested but contains some trivial omissions in relation to the level of detail requested in terms of either the response or the evidence. This, therefore, is a good response that meets all aspects of the requirement with only a trivial level of ambiguity due to the bidders' failure to provide all information at the level of detail requested.
4-6	**Adequate** – Overall the response demonstrates that the bidder meets all areas of the requirement, but not all of the areas of evidence requested have been provided. This, therefore, is an adequate response, but with some limited ambiguity as to whether the bidder can meet the requirement due to the bidder's failure to provide all of the evidence requested.
1-3	**Poor** – The response does not demonstrate that the bidder meets the requirement in one or more areas. This, therefore, is a poor response with significant ambiguity as to whether the bidder can meet the requirement due to the failure by the bidder to show that it meets one or more areas of the requirement.
0	**Unacceptable** – The response is non-compliant with the requirements of the guideline and/or no response has been provided.

8. Funding

The Connect4Innovation: UK-Türkiye Higher Education Institutional Partnerships Fund expects to support up to 4 projects of £25,000 in value each, for a 24-month period, starting from **September 2023**.

Funds will be disbursed directly to the Lead Institution in Türkiye according to the approved final budget. 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.

For an equitable partnership, the Türkiye Lead Institution should be able to timely transfer funding to other institutions in partnerships for activities which support the objectives of the collaboration and the overall project, allowing activities implementation to be implemented without delay.

Funds to be allocated for all travel can be up to 20% of the total grant per project.

9. 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.

Please refer to the Research Councils UK 'Policy and Guidelines on Governance of Good Research' (https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/UKRI-050321-PolicyGuidelinesGovernanceOfGoodResearchConduct.pdf) , the Inter Academy 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.

10. 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 that all staff, and those we work with, including partners and suppliers, operate within our Safeguarding Policy which articulates our approach to protecting children and adults at risk and promoting their wellbeing.

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.

For further information please see: https://www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/how-we-work/policies/safeguarding

11. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Applicants are encouraged to ensure equal opportunities in the teams implementing their proposed activity. Applicants may apply for additional funding to cover any specific requirements necessary to ensure full participation.

Please make additional costs in the 'human resources' section of the budget request within your application. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Please contact us for further information on the British Council's approach. See our Equality Policy here: https://www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/our-values/equality-diversity-inclusion

12. Gender Equality

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.

Gender Equality Statement

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.

The statement is part of the equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) assessment criterion in this call. The following questions should be answered when writing the statement.

- 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.
- The expected impact of the project (benefits and losses) on people of different genders, both throughout the project and beyond.
- The impact on the relations between people of different genders and people of the same gender. For example, changing roles and responsibilities in households, society, economy, politics, power, etc.

- How will any risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality be avoided or mitigated against, and monitored?
- Are there any relevant outcomes and outputs being measured, with data disaggregated by age and gender (where disclosed)?

Not all questions will be applicable. If a question is not applicable, you will need to articulate the reasons why.

British Council reserve the right to reject the application if no consideration has been given to gender equality or if the proposal is assessed to result in a negative impact for gender equality.

13. Impact on the Environment

The British Council is committed to minimising its environmental impact. For this call, we have developed a set of questions 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. Please contact us via email (alimurat.guclu@britishcouncil.org.tr , if you have any queries about the environmental impact section.

14. Applicant screening

In order 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;
- 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 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.

15. Covid-19 guidance

Should COVID-19 impact global travel, we would advise that applicantsconsider, and put in place, contingency plans for remote working and digital collaboration where possible, for example utilising video conferencing in place of face-to-face meetings.

The British Council's Global Information Security Policy has banned Zoom usage for the British Council and for contracted suppliers and grant award holders. The British Council recommends using Microsoft Teams to deliver virtual activities. Should you be successful in securing a grant, and if you require a Microsoft Teams licence, you will need to discuss this with the British Council. Applicants who want to use other online tools or online platforms, must follow British Council safeguarding and security protocols. Online tools or platforms other than Microsoft Teams must be discussed with the British Council and requests to use a different platform or tool would need to be approved for successful grant recipients.

Please consider flexible and technological solutions to progress activity for planned work where feasible.

16. 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 Councilfrom time to time
    - o (see: www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/structure/status).

- The Grant Agreement Holder for the partnership will be the Türkiye Lead Institution.

- The successful applicants will be expected to undertake activities in the UK and in the overseas countries listed in these guidelines.

- 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.

- (Terms and Conditions of the Grant Agreement) ("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.**

- In the event that you have any concerns or queries in relation to the Grant Agreement,you should submit a clarification request to alimurat.guclu@britishcouncil.org.tr in accordance with the provisions of this call for applications by the application deadline.The British Council reserves the right not to make any changes to the Grant Agreement.

- The British Council is under no obligation to consider any clarifications / amendments to the Grant Agreement requested following the application deadline.

17. 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(s) in Türkiye in order to assist with management of the application process. We may share selected non-personal data with agencies responsible for monitoring and evaluation of the Connect4Innovation: UK-Türkiye Higher Education Institutional Partnerships Fund.
Your information will not be used/shared beyond the partners listed 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 see our website: http://www.britishcouncil.org/privacy-cookies/data-protection. We will keep your information for a period of seven years after the project.

Annex 1 – Eligibility criteria checklist

The application has been submitted by the Türkiye lead applicant by the published deadline.	
The application is completed in full.	
The application form and supporting documents have been completed in English.	
UK Lead institution is: • Higher Education provider with degree awarding powers. (See links above for the UK) • Not-for-profit research institutions, establishment and organisations. (See **Annex 2** for a complete list of these). • Any public or private organisations with a role in the Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET)/Further Education (FE) system For the UK, if the lead institution is not a higher and/or further education institution, the list of eligible UK research organisations is available as **Annex 2**. If unsure, please contact: goingglobalpartnerships@britishcouncil.org Türkiye Lead institution must be one of the following: • Higher Education provider, as locally defined by the Council of Higher Education Turkey. • Not-for-profit research institutions, establishment and organisations, as locally defined by the Council of Higher Education Turkey. • TVET/FE provider, as locally defined by the Council of Higher Education Turkey.	
The applicants have included 3 supporting letters, one from each of the 2 Lead Institutions and one from Türkiye Supportive Partner Institution, on headed paper, signed by the Head of Department or other person with appropriate delegated authority, giving specific commitment to the project. Supporting letters must be in English, and not be signed by Lead Persons. As stated in these guidelines, attached email versions of letters are acceptable.	
Türkiye Lead Institution 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 have submitted a CV for both Lead Applicants.	
Applicants cover at least 50% cash/in-kind contribution of the requested budget for the second year.	
Human resource costs: Staff costs for personnel working directly on the grant funded project limited to 70% of the grant to be awarded.	
Travel costs: Limited to 20% of the grant.	

Annex 2 – List of eligible not-for-profit research institutions, establishment, and organisations

Please note that where organisations have both for-profit and not-for-profit arms, it must be clear that this grant is held and administered by the not-for-profit arm of the organisation

- Alan Turing Institute
- All NHS Trusts, hospitals, boards, primary care trusts and GP practices
- Animal and Plant Health Agency
- Anthony Nolan
- Armagh Observatory
- Babraham Institute
- BirdLife International

- British Film Institute
- British Institute of International and Comparative Law
- British Library
- British Museum
- British Trust for Ornithology
- Butterfly Conservation
- CABI (Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International)
- Cambridge Arctic Shelf Programme
- Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre
- Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult
- Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
- CERN
- Chatham House (Royal Institute of International Affairs)
- Culham Centre for Fusion Energy (part of UK Atomic Energy Authority)
- Defence Science and Technology Laboratory
- Diamond Light Source
- Earlham Institute
- Earthwatch Institute
- Environment Agency
- European Bioinformatics Institute
- European Synchrotron Radiation Facility
- Fera Ltd
- Forest Research
- Health and Safety Executive PSRE
- Health Data Research UK
- Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England
- Historic Environment Scotland
- Historic Royal Palaces
- HR Wallingford Group
- Imperial War Museum
- Institute for Fiscal Studies

- Institute of Development Studies
- Institute of Occupational Medicine
- International Institute for Environment and Development
- Isaac Newton Group
- John Innes Centre
- Joint Astronomy Centre
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
- London Institute for Mathematical Sciences
- Malaria Consortium (UK)
- Manufacturing Technology Centre
- Marine Biological Association
- Marine Scotland Science
- Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
- Moredun Research Institute
- MRC Harwell Institute
- MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology
- MRC London Institute of Medical Sciences
- Museum of London Archaeology
- National Archives
- National Centre for Social Research
- National Foundation for Educational Research
- National Gallery
- National Institute of Agricultural Botany
- National Institute of Economic and Social Research
- National Maritime Museum
- National Museum Wales
- National Museums Liverpool
- National Museums of Scotland
- National Nuclear Laboratory
- National Oceanography Centre
- National Physical Laboratory

- National Portrait Gallery

- Natural England

- Natural History Museum

- NERC British Antarctic Survey

- NERC British Geological Survey

- Nesta

- Office for National Statistics

- Overseas Development Institute

- Plymouth Marine Laboratory

- Public Health England

- Quadram Institute Bioscience

- RAND Europe Community Interest Company

- Rosalind Franklin Institute

- Rothamsted Research

- Royal Botanic Gardens – Edinburgh

- Royal Botanic Gardens – Kew

- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

- Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies

- Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture.

- Science Museum Group

- Scottish Association for Marine Sciences

- Sightsavers

- STFC laboratories

- Tate

- Tavistock Institute of Human Relations

- The Faraday Institution

- The Francis Crick Institute

- The James Hutton Institute

- The Manufacturing Technology Centre Ltd

- The National Trust

- The Office of the Health Economics

- The Pirbright Institute

- The Resolution Foundation

- The Royal Shakespeare Company

- The Welding Institute

- Transport Research Laboratory

- UK Astronomy Technology Centre.

- UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology

- Victoria and Albert Museum

- Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute

- World Conservation Monitoring Centre

- Young Foundation

- Zoological Society of London, Institute of Zoology.

If you believe your research organisation is eligible but is not on this list, please contact us via goingglobalpartnerships@britishcouncil.org before submitting a proposal for this call.

---

[1] The list includes Public Sector Research Establishments affiliated with UK Government Departments and Research Councils; Independent Research Organisations recognised by Research Councils UK; and research organisations funded by the Scottish Government.