

COP26 Trilateral Research Initiative

2021-22

Eligibility criteria and application guidelines

About the programme

This call is one of many activities the British Council is delivering in the run up to **COP26** (the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties) in Glasgow on 1 – 12 November 2021. This will be the largest international climate change summit the UK has hosted, bringing together over 30,000 delegates including heads of states, climate experts and campaigners to agree coordinated action to tackle climate change. COP26 will be supported by a build-up events programme in Italy, which will include a major Youth Event and the Pre-COP Summit in September 2021.

Ahead of and beyond COP26, the British Council is working with partners worldwide to launch an innovative and creative programme of engagement to bring people - principally young people - together to connect and collaborate through arts, culture, education, science and the English language to find solutions to and take action on climate change.

This Trilateral Research Initiative as part of the overall COP26 programme aims to:

- Establish new research networks and research collaborations in the field of climate research between the UK, Japan and one or more ASEAN country or territory that is eligible for Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) ¹
- Develop and implement research projects that contribute to solving the existing climate change-related problems of the ASEAN ODA-eligible partner country or territory
- Stimulate innovative research ideas and encourage sustainable collaborations between the research partners beyond the initial funding.
- Foster an interdisciplinary approach to climate research by bringing together early career researchers from different fields to collaborate on finding solutions

¹ See for list of ODA-eligible recipients: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC-List-of-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2020-flows.pdf>

to climate challenges facing one or more ASEAN ODA-eligible country or territory

Grant available

We have available a fund for two one-off grants of up to GBP 50,000 each. **Trilateral Collaborative research proposals must be focused on key climate and/or environmental issues facing one or more ODA-eligible ASEAN country or territory.**

The research project must have societal and or economic development outcomes which will benefit and contribute to solving the environmental issues faced in an ODA country or territory, and be aligned to Sustainable Development Goal 13 and other related SDGs².

The outputs and impact of this research initiative must be delivered in the partner designated ODA-eligible ASEAN country or countries to qualify for the funding.

Elements of the project can be conducted in UK and Japan. (e.g. development workshops). Contracts will be issued to successful grantees in March 2021. **Projects must be completed by 31 March 2022.**

What are we looking for:

1. Proposals for initiatives/activities which align with the aims and objectives of COP26³. Proposals should include a research component delivered by universities from UK, Japan and one (or more) ODA-eligible ASEAN country or territory. A component of this project, such as interim results, may be shared at a wraparound event which will be timed alongside COP26.
2. We welcome proposals which help to build and develop the capacity of Early Career Researchers. Projects should draw on the expertise of all the partnering HEIs to promote economic growth or the welfare of the participating ODA-eligible ASEAN country/countries.
3. Proposals that include at least one partner from HEIs from an ASEAN ODA-eligible country.
4. Proposals that are interdisciplinary.

Eligibility

1. To be eligible for funding your proposal must clearly demonstrate:

- That the primary benefits will be delivered in or flow to the partner ODA-eligible ASEAN country or countries. ODA eligible countries are defined as per the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) List of ODA Recipients⁴, which includes

²UN's Sustainable Development Goals: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

³ COP26 Objectives: <https://ukcop26.org/uk-presidency/the-road-to-cop26/>

⁴ See for list of ODA eligible recipients: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC-List-of-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2020-flows.pdf>

fragile, developing and emerging economies. Developed economies are not eligible for ODA funding.

- That the main objective is to promote the economic development and welfare of the recipient country/countries.
 - Compliance with the International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014 - the proposal should contribute to reducing poverty and to reducing inequality between persons of different genders⁵.
 - Outline how you have taken meaningful yet proportionate consideration as to how the proposal will contribute to reducing gender inequalities. This should be about the project specifically – the outputs and outcomes; the make-up of the project team; participants, stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project; and the processes followed throughout the project.
 - Articulate a plausible route to positive impact within a short to medium term timeframe (five years).
2. One-off events are not eligible. For example, a one-off seminar or thought leadership event would not be eligible unless it is part of a series of activities with an overarching outcome.
 3. Application must be made using the COP26 Trilateral Research Initiative application form template. Your application must include a completed budget template indicating how the grant will be spent.
 4. The proposal must include one or more partners from the UK, Japan and at least one ODA-eligible country which is also a member of ASEAN.
 5. The proposal must name one lead institution from either the UK or Japan which will receive the grant on behalf of the project team. The lead institution will be responsible for disbursement of the grant to the proposal partners.
 6. The proposal must name one Principal Applicant from the UK, one Principal Applicant from Japan and one Principal Applicant from an ODA-eligible country/territory in ASEAN.
 7. Principal Applicants must be permanent employees of a not-for-profit higher education institution in the UK, Japan and in the ODA-eligible partner country.
 8. Applicants may be asked to adjust their budget if their request does not fit within funding guidelines. The grant payment will be made on signature of the grant agreement.
 9. Successful applicants will be expected to complete and submit a project evaluation report upon completion of the project.

Failure to demonstrate ODA eligibility will render your application ineligible regardless of other success criteria. Please make sure you consider the ODA relevance of your application.

⁵ For more detail <https://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/internationaldevelopmentgenderequality.html>
www.britishcouncil.org

Eligible costs

The budget requested in your proposal (including human resource costs) should cover only costs that are essential, appropriate and relevant to the collaboration. The proposal should maximise cost share through direct and indirect institutional contributions.

Cost	Notes
<p>Staff costs</p> <p>for personnel working directly on the grant funded project: salaries and fees of temporary research and research assistant personnel, and other staff recruited to work solely on the project.</p>	<p>A proportion of staff costs for permanently employed staff of lead institutions.</p> <p>This includes on costs such as superannuation, and national insurance payments.</p> <p>Indirect costs cannot be covered and are assumed to be contributed by the principal institutions</p>
<p>Essential equipment</p> <p>for use on the project including consumables, specialist software licences essential to the collaboration, access fees to facilities or library services.</p>	<p>Equipment must be essential to delivery of the project and cannot be expected to be provided by institutions</p> <p>Equipment must be used in the recipient ODA country and will remain there on project completion.</p>
<p>Travel</p> <p>Travel fares (economy class) and subsistence costs to the UK/Japan and partner countries. Visa fees, vaccinations and medical insurance for travel essential to the project, to the UK, Japan and partner countries.</p>	
<p>Costs of meetings, training events and seminars integral to the proposal.</p>	
<p>Publication costs directly related to the collaboration.</p>	<p>This includes web page development by external providers, if appropriate. We particularly encourage open access publishing. Use of telecommunications such as video / audio / web conferencing.</p>

Ineligible costs

Costs	Notes
Full economic costs (FECs).	
Institutional overheads	including administration fees and other indirect costs.
Purchase or rental of standard office equipment (except specialist equipment essential to the research). This includes:	IT hardware – laptops, personal computers, tablets, smart phones, Mac workstations, computer parts and peripherals, etc. Any standard hardware which would routinely be used by researchers and academics will not be funded.
Office software	
Office equipment	Desks, chairs, filing cabinets, photocopiers, printers, fax machines
Mobile phone costs Including rental or purchase; roaming charges	
Attendance at conferences or other events	Unless this is to present outputs and outcomes of the project.
IP costs Patents, copyright, licensing or other IP-related costs	
Costs relating to the construction, procurement or rental of physical infrastructure, (e.g. office buildings, laboratory facilities)	It is expected that rooms and facilities essential for the routine operation of collaboration are provided as an in-kind contribution by the 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; excessive taxi fares.

Project duration

Projects must be completed by 31 March 2022. Funding, if approved, will be transferred to the successful lead institution once the grant agreement is counter-signed by the British Council.

Formal project start dates will be set in the grant agreement by the British Council. Expenses incurred by the institutions prior to the effective start date, including any costs incurred in the production of the proposal, cannot be charged to the grant.

Ethics and research governance

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

It is the absolute responsibility of the Principal Applicants and the Lead Institution to ensure that appropriate ethical approval is granted and adhered to, and that no research or other activity requiring ethical approval is initiated until it has been granted.

Diversity

The British Council is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion, and to continuing to attract and nurture talented people from the widest pool to remain internationally competitive in research and innovation. We believe that everyone has a right to be treated with dignity and respect, and to be provided with equal opportunities to flourish and succeed. This includes avoidance of bias due to disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, sex (gender), and age.

We also recognise, and will seek to maximise, the benefits achieved by diversity of thought and experience within inclusive groups, organisations and the wider community. British Council is therefore committed to ensuring that the best potential researchers from a diverse population are attracted into research careers. Applicants are asked to consider encouraging participation from researchers from under-represented groups in the teams implementing their proposed activities.

EOI dates

The opening date for applications is 9am GMT on Friday 18 December 2020 and the closing date is 5pm GMT on Friday 29 January 2021. The British Council reserves the right to extend the closing date.

- Any entry received after the closing date will not be considered.
- The British Council accepts no responsibility whatsoever for any technical failure or malfunction or any other problem with any system, server, provider or otherwise that may result in any entry being lost, delayed or not properly registered.
- Successful applicants will be advised within eight weeks of the closing date.

How to apply

To apply participants must fill in the application form and email it to ihe@britishcouncil.or.jp and then follow these steps:

- accept these Terms and Conditions by submitting an application
- answer the privacy question
- answer the mandatory questions
- submit the application form by emailing it to the email address above
- applicants are responsible for ensuring they complete the form fully and correctly.

Selection of successful applicants

The entries will be assessed by a panel of British Council specialist Higher Education/Science staff and external independent academic advisors who will select the successful application based on the quality of responses to the Application questions within 30 days following the closing date referred to in the eligibility section above.

All decisions of the panel will be final and binding. No correspondence will be entered into with the unsuccessful participants.

The British Council accepts no responsibility for failure to notify successful applicants where such failure results from the provision of inaccurate contact details by the applicants or from the acts or omissions of any third party (including, without limitation, any internet or postal service provider) and shall have no liability to any applicant if it is prevented from or delayed in delivering any aspect of the opportunity by acts, events, omissions or accidents beyond its reasonable control.

The British Council does not offer any insurance in connection with the opportunity. Each winning organisation is recommended to arrange their own insurance in respect of the opportunity.

Personal data

The British Council will collect and store the names and email addresses of all applicants and the additional details of applicants as anticipated by the 'how to apply' and 'selection of successful applicants' sections above.

The British Council will use this personal data for the following purposes:

- managing the relationship between the applicants and the British Council;
- communicating with applicants to answer their queries about the opportunity;
- communicating with successful applicants
- administering and delivering the Season and the British Council's contribution to COP26.

Where an applicant has consented to the British Council doing so, the British Council may contact the applicant using the personal data collected to provide information about the goods,

services, courses or promotions that the British Council offers.

By participating in the opportunity, applicants consent to their personal data being processed by the British Council in accordance with, and for the purposes set out in, this section of these terms and conditions. The British Council complies with data protection law in the UK and laws in other countries that meet internationally accepted standards. 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 have concerns about how we have used your personal information, you also have the right to complain to a privacy regulator.

Publicity and rights

The British Council intends to publish the names of successful applicants on the British Council's websites, social media channels, press releases and other promotional and marketing material. In addition, the British Council may write and publish articles about the successful applicant's inclusion in the Season.

By applying to the opportunity, each applicant agrees to the use of their name and agrees to cooperate with any such publicity or marketing if they are successful in their application.

Applicants will retain copyright in the entry material that they submit to the British Council. By entering the opportunity each participant grants the British Council, free of charge, permission to use the entry material (including, without limitation, modifying and adapting it for operational and editorial reasons) in any media worldwide for purposes connected with the opportunity.

All rights in the British Council's name and logo, websites, Facebook pages, Twitter pages, press releases and other promotional and marketing material and all course and examination content and materials (together the "Council's Materials") shall vest in and remain with the British Council (or its licensors).

By participating in the opportunity, applicants agree that they will not use, broadcast, publish, export, exploit, reproduce nor copy part or all of the British Council's Materials.

Contractual Requirements

Grant agreements will be issued to successful grantees in March 2021

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 (see: www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/structure/status).

The successful applicants will be expected to undertake activities online/in the UK, Japan and in the ODA recipient country/countries outlined in the project proposal.