

International Science Partnerships Fund

Research Collaborations Grant Indonesia Q&A Session

20 February 2024

The British Council builds connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language.



International Science Partnership Funds (ISPF)



Department for
Science, Innovation,
& Technology



The International Science Partnerships Fund was set up by the UK's Department for Science, Innovation and Technology to support strategic research partnerships between the UK and other countries. Through the fund, UK research and innovation bodies can apply for calls and opportunities around four major global themes: planet, health, technology and talent.



Four themes under ISPF

Resilient Planet



“Leading the green industrial revolution to protect the planet”

- Clean energy
- Extreme weather and climate
- Agritech
- Environmental resilience

Transformative Technologies



“Developing responsible technologies to secure our place in tomorrow’s world”

- AI
- Quantum
- Engineering biology
- Semiconductors
- Future telecommunications

Healthy People, Animals & Plants



“Researching and innovating to ensure secure and healthy populations”

- Biosecurity & Pathogen Detection
- Global Health & Pandemics
- Genomics & Digital health
- AMR
- Social determinants of health

Tomorrow’s Talent



“Nurturing talent to drive inclusion, research and innovation”

- Research capacity
- Research systems
- Research pipeline

Official Development Assistance (ODA)

- To be counted as ODA, all activities (research or otherwise) must qualify under rules set down by the OECD.
- To be ODA-eligible, the OECD states that research projects should be ***directly and primarily related to the problems of developing countries.***
- We will have questions in the application about ODA impact and relevance, usually projected over a medium-term timeframe to ensure this is applicable to all projects.
- Please consider the economic development and social welfare impact of your work, including how it is conducted as well as the outputs and potential outcomes.
- Including relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is encouraged and can help frame ODA relevance.
- ODA funding cannot be used for military, security, or dual use projects.

Research Collaboration programme

Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Egypt, Kenya, Turkey

- initiate new research and innovation collaborations between academic groups, departments, and institutions
- develop existing collaborations at group, departmental, and institutional level
- encourage these collaborations to work with non-academic organisations and individuals to support the exchange of research and innovation expertise and the translation of research knowledge into tangible benefits



Project duration

18-24 months



Size of Grant

80,000
(100k FEC)

Small scale seed funding for collaborations between the UK and the participating ISPF countries/territories



Resilient planet – leading the green industrial revolution to protect the planet.



Healthy people, animals, and plants – researching and innovating for secure and healthy populations.



Transformative technologies – developing responsible technologies to secure our place in tomorrow's world.



Tomorrow's talent – nurturing talent to drive inclusion, research and innovation.



More information and Applicant Guideline at <http://tinyurl.com/bder5zz8>

Q&A - Eligibility

Q.1: Is the UK Project Leader eligible to apply under open-ended appointment/contract?

A: UK Project Leaders must be permanent employees. The term 'open-ended contract' is more commonly referred to as 'permanent contract' by other employers, but the meaning is the same.

Q.2: How many Indonesian researchers (including the PI) are allowed in one team? is there a limit on the maximum number of individuals in a research team?

A: There are no specific requirements. Normally there is One Principal Investigator (PI) and a research team consist of at least one early career researcher and/or doctoral student. PI must have a registered ID in SINTA.

Q.3: Is it allowed to include a non-profit start-up company?

A: Yes, to support the translation of research and innovation into benefit, Project Leaders are encouraged to include in their proposals affiliated with **Associated Partners**, such as:

- i. Other research or higher education institutions,
- ii. Technology transfer offices,
- iii. Not for-profit organisations (including NGOs),
- iv. For-profit/commercial organisations (including SMEs)

Associate partners should be either from the UK or the partner country, in this case Indonesia

Q&A - Eligibility

Q.4: Is it eligible if the team member is a lecturer who is ongoing PhD student in Indonesian University? Or could even he makes the research project to be aligned with his dissertation research? If it is ok, could he use two institutions (place of work and place of study)?

A: As an ongoing PhD student, eligibility is granted to participate as a team member, but not as the Project Leader.

Q.5: Can the lead PI from the UK is a postdoctoral (early career) researcher under a 5 year contract, for example, from the John Innes Center?

A: Researcher on a short-term contract would not be considered eligible to lead a project. Furthermore, Project Leaders are expected to be leading or established researchers. More information is available in the Applicant Guideline under the Eligibility section. The John Innes Centre is an eligible UK Partner.

Q&A - Funding

Q.1: Could you please clarify whether the project duration is intended to be 24 months or 18 months?

A: The full project grant duration can be up to 24 months, but all fundable activities must be completed by: **1 Feb 2026**.

Q.2: This grant is a seed funding, what are larger grants that can be applied as a follow-up of this grant that is based in Indonesia?

A: The British Council is only one partner in the International Science Partnerships Fund. While we would not want a Project Leader to hold two Research Collaborations grants under the British Council – Project Leads could apply for funding from one of the other partners in ISPF, such as UKRI, the British Academy or the Royal Society

Q.3: Is the dissemination cost covered under the funding scheme? Such as publication and attending conference.

A: No, Research Collaboration grants are intended to contribute to the direct costs of establishing and operating your collaboration, (i.e., costs directly related to implementing activities contained in the proposal). It is not anticipated that the research would reach a stage in the lifetime of the grant where dissemination would be possible. Costs related to writing up, promoting, or disseminating previous research are not eligible.

Q.4 How is the funding transferred from ISPF to the receiver, considering the organization of the receivers might applied different strategies in regards with what can be funded, what cannot? Would you please explain more on the difference between direct cost and allocated cost?

A: Funds will be disbursed directly to the UK Lead Institution(s), according to the approved final budget. Refer to the Application Guideline section 6.1 and 6.2 re: eligible and ineligible cost

Q&A - General

Q.1: Is the thematic priority areas fixed? Is green economy doable as a research theme? Is machine learning application in pathological image analysis within the scope of this research grant?

A: Please refer to the four ISPF Global Themes. The Research Collaboration Programme is designed to be flexible and responsive to in-country/territory needs, allowing applicants to establish collaborations on specific areas linked to country priorities and development needs

Q.2: Will there be any platform to connect the Indonesian researchers with potential UK researcher? Or the connection is solely based upon the approach from the Indonesian researcher to the UK ones?

A: There is no plan to organise matchmaking event to connect Indonesia and UK researchers. We suggest Indonesian researchers who are based in the Higher Education Institution to contact the International Office and explore connection through the alumni network within the campus.

Q.3: If the UK and Indonesia institutions have no MoU or Lol, can it be waived until the proposal is accepted for funding? At the proposal submission stage, there is a possibility that the proposal won't be accepted for funding. Or what is the goal of having the MoU and Lol at the proposal submission stage?

A: Upon submission of application, we require applicant to submit a document that expresses 2 parties-agreement to complete the research collaboration. The Letter of Support which the Indonesia partner will submit as part of the application would normally be backed up by other agreements between the two institutions. We only ask for that letter as part of the application.

Q&A – General

Q.4: Can the proposed research project become a continuation of the previous projects that have been part of the collaboration between institutions in the UK and Indonesia?

A: Projects previously part of the collaboration between the UK and Indonesia, under the Newton Fund for example, are eligible to apply for ISPF funding, but there is an expectation that it will not be a simple continuation of the previously funded project.

Q.5: In arranging the research team members, are we allowed to include personnel/members from countries outside the listed partner country/territory?

A: This programme has been set up for collaborations between the UK and Indonesia, we would expect the research team members are from the respective countries.

Q.6: My colleague is probably leading a proposal with Egypt. Can my colleague can be project lead for Egypt and a member of team in another proposal for Indonesia?

A: We would expect that the project leader to focus on one project only.

Q.7: How this proposal will be scored?

A: Assessment of the quality and development relevance of the proposals will be performed by expert reviewers, and the final funding decisions will be made in discussion with British Council country office and in country partners. More info on assessment criteria and scoring system is in the Applicant guideline Appendix 3

Q&A – General

Q.8: Our proposal falls into two themes; transformative technologies with application to resilient planet. Is it acceptable? Can we choose more than one theme?

A: Considering the broad descriptions of the global themes, we understand that a project proposal can relate to more than one sub-themes. However, we expect the proposal to have one underlying main theme for categorization under the panel assessment.

Q.9: What is the definition of early career researcher or new lecturer?

A: In the context of Indonesian researchers, early career researchers are doctoral students or young researchers who have recently graduated from a PhD programme.

Q.10: Would only academics who will review our proposal or also non-academics?

A. The review of the proposals will be conducted by academics, supported by the British Council. The British Council has the final decision on ODA eligibility and gender equality statements.

Q.11: Can associated partner be an institution instead of a person? Or would you please explain more on the roles of associated partner? Will she/he be a researcher in the team?

A. An associated partner is defined as a collaborating organisation that will have an integral role in the proposed research. More information on Applicant guideline on Partnerships section.

Q&A – General

Q.12 Do the applicants need to decide the panel who will assess the proposals?

If yes, how can we decide if a proposal falls onto two or more panels (for example, natural environment and social sciences)?

A: Yes, upon submission, you should indicate in the application which Review Panel should assess the proposal and select up to three subject areas in priority order. Please review the subjects listed under the panel to help make the decision and choose the best fit.

Q.13 Can Indonesian lecturer who is pursuing PhD abroad (but in Australia, not in UK university) be a member of team? Thank you.

A: This pertains to the Lead PI decision. We would expect the research team from Indonesia to be based in the country during the duration of the project.

Contact us



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www.britishcouncil.id



[@idbritish](https://www.instagram.com/idbritish)

More information and guideline on
ISPF Research Collaborations Grant
at <https://tinyurl.com/bder5zz8>

