

# RESEARCHER LINKS

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## NEWTON FUND RESEARCHER LINKS TRAVEL GRANTS – GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS July 2016 - Version 4 – updated 25/07/2016 to include Philippines

**Countries included in this call are Thailand, South Africa, Vietnam, Indonesia and Philippines**

**Call opens: 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

**Call closes: 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016 16:00 UK time**

### 1. Background

The Newton Fund aims to build UK-partner country collaborations centred on shared research and innovation challenges which have **direct** relevance to Newton partner countries' social welfare and economic development. It is managed by UK Government's Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, and delivered through 16 UK delivery partners in collaboration with 16 partner countries.

Tackling global challenges – such as extreme weather conditions, urbanisation, access to affordable health care, food and energy security, and meeting the social and economic needs of a growing population – requires an integrated research and innovation approach, bringing together communities from different disciplines, sectors, and countries in high-quality collaborations.

Newton Fund Researcher Links Travel Grants provide financial support for early career researchers in a Newton Fund partner country to visit an institution in the UK or vice versa.

### 2. Overview of the funding opportunity

Researcher Links Travel Grants are designed to enhance and strengthen links for future collaboration, build research capacity in developing economies and enhance the researchers' career opportunities. In most countries, the call is open to early career researchers meeting the requirements listed below, including, but not limited to, previous participants in Researcher Links workshops. The permitted duration of the visit depends on the country of origin and country of destination. The programme is supported by UK government and partner country funding and forms part of the Newton Fund (Researcher Links:

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/researcher-links> Newton Fund:

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/newton>).

Proposals may be for visits for research in any discipline listed in section 4 below, from the natural sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities, unless specified otherwise for individual countries.

Please see Annex 1 for country specific guidance.

In the July 2016 call, we are inviting proposals for Researcher Links Travel Grants for travel to or from the following partner countries and UK:

## South Africa, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and Philippines

Further countries may join the call later so please check the website periodically for updates and announcements.

Subsequent calls for proposals may involve different partner countries.

### 3. Scope of the Programme

All Newton Fund Researcher Links Travel Grants have the following three overarching objectives:

- **Support international development-relevant research** – Travel Grants are intended to support research areas relevant to the economic development and social welfare of partner countries.
- **Contribute to capacity building of early career researchers** – The proposal should include a description of the capacity building potential of the project (both for the individual applicant, and other potential beneficiaries), and the longer term impact that the project could achieve.
- **Establish new research links or develop existing links** – Travel Grants are intended to either support new links, or to develop existing links with the potential for longer term sustainability. Applications to return to the research group where the applicant carried out their PhD research or have previously taught will only be considered if they clearly demonstrate the latter.

In their proposal applicants must include:

- the specific outputs anticipated from the visit
- an explanation of the benefit to researchers and their institutions
- exploration of any potential longer term benefit that might arise, thinking about who might benefit and how, and describing the actions that will be taken to ensure that potential impact is realised a clear description of how the individuals and research groups involved intend to sustain their collaboration.

Travel grants are not intended to cover travel costs for a conference abroad, or to fund travel as part of PhD studies.

### 4. Relevance to economic development and social welfare

Researcher Links Travel Grants are intended to support research areas relevant to the development of partner countries.

We define research with development relevance as research (applied or fundamental) that has the potential to contribute to the economic development and social welfare of low- and middle- income countries<sup>1</sup>, benefitting low income and vulnerable populations in these countries. **In order to be considered for funding under this programme, all proposals must clearly articulate a plausible pathway showing how the research may lead to positive impact on these populations within a reasonable timeframe (within 3-15 years). Applications which do not meet this criterion cannot receive UK Newton Fund support.**

In some disciplines, development relevance can be longer-term and less direct than in other areas and impact may be societal. In all cases, it is the responsibility of the applicant to articulate how the research area or activity proposed will meet these criteria. Applicants should not expect reviewers to make assumptions about development impact that is not clearly described within the proposal.

In order to show development relevance within the context of their proposed project, applicants are encouraged to include reference to any local or national consultation, links to government policies, and any links with government institutions.

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<sup>1</sup> As defined by the OECD DAC list of official development assistance (ODA) recipients ( <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm>).

For more on our approach to ODA, please see <http://www.newtonfund.ac.uk/about/what-is-oda/>

Agreements for ownership and exploitation of intellectual property generated through project activities must be consistent with the primary aim of addressing development issues.

Under this call, the following research and innovation challenge areas will be given priority (**unless specified further in Annex 1 for individual countries**). Multidisciplinary proposals are welcome, and may include Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities. The challenge areas are as follows:

- Agriculture (e.g. irrigation, crop yields)
- Climate and environment (e.g. climate change, green technology, sustainable development, ecosystem services, resource scarcity)
- Sustainable energy for all
- Education research and innovation for development
- Economic growth (e.g. equitable growth, financial sector development, private sector development)
- Health (e.g. HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, neglected tropical diseases, child mortality, maternal health)
- Water and sanitation
- Food and nutrition (including food security)
- Demographic change and migration
- Rural and urban development
- Infrastructure (including civil engineering, information and communication technologies, big data for social and economic development)
- Humanitarian disasters and emergencies, disaster risk reduction
- Resilient and connected communities
- Governance, society and conflict (e.g. transparency, accountability, effective institutions, land and natural resource rights, poverty alleviation, social development, structural inequalities, violence and security, peace building, civil society)
- Development-relevant data collection, quality and access (including administrative data and macroeconomic statistics).

Please see Section 10 for a list of our review panels.

## 5. Eligibility

- Applicants must be based either in the UK, or in one of the partner countries listed in Annex 1, and be affiliated with a recognised publicly funded research establishment or public or private Higher Education Institution. **For-profit organisations are not eligible to receive any grant funds.** Please see a list of eligible UK research institutions [here](#). This includes UK universities.
- In most cases, applicants must be early career researchers For the purpose of this call, we define 'early career researcher' as being at the level of 'R2 – Recognized Researcher' or at the very beginning of R3 level as specified in the European Framework for Research Careers 'Towards a European framework for research careers' for guidance on early career researcher profiles ([http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/pdf/research\\_policies/Towards\\_a\\_European\\_Framework\\_for\\_Research\\_Careers\\_final.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/pdf/research_policies/Towards_a_European_Framework_for_Research_Careers_final.pdf) ). We would expect early career researchers to be at the beginning of their research careers and to have been awarded their PhD not more than 10 years prior to applying for the Travel Grants, but allowances can be made for career breaks or other extenuating circumstances. If a researcher does not hold a PhD, but has research experience equivalent to a PhD holder and works in a field where a PhD is not a pre-requisite for established research activity, they will still be considered eligible. Please see Annex 1 for country-specific exceptions.
- A supporting letter must be provided to confirm that the applicant will return to his/her home institution in a research capacity for at least six months after the end of the visit.

- Applicants can be of any nationality, but they must be able to secure a visa for the country which they plan to visit (please see Annex 1 for exceptions).
- Travel may only be between the UK and partner country, but can be in either direction.
- Individuals who have participated in Researcher Links Workshops are eligible and are welcome to apply for a Travel Grant to build on any research links made at the workshop.
- Individual applicants who have previously received a Researcher Links Travel Grant are not eligible.
- **Only one application may be submitted per researcher.** Duplicate applications are ineligible, even if they are to different countries.
- **Travel must take place between 1st February 2017 and 31 January 2018.**

## . Funding

Applicants must provide a budget request with their proposal.

The Travel Grant is calculated using five flat rate categories: Travel, Visa, Insurance, Subsistence, Consumables.

Additional support based on direct costs can be requested to contribute towards extra costs of the visit associated with childcare or special needs. These will be approved on a case by case basis.

**Please see Annex 4 for maximum amounts that can be requested in each budget category for each country and for details on financial reporting.**

The flat rates are designed to make funding easier to manage. Successful applicants will be able to use underspend under one budget category to cover the costs under a different category (e.g. any underspend on the budget to cover the travel can be used to cover other costs for subsistence), providing the total budget is not exceeded.

Please note that although the grant contribution will be calculated using flat rate contributions, researchers and their institutions will be asked to keep and submit receipts and invoices to demonstrate their spend until 31 December 2022.

Full checks of supporting documentation will be carried out on a proportion of the grants.

Further monitoring and evaluation will also be carried out, to be specified in the grant agreement.

Please also note that the final value of the award will be specified in the Grant Agreement. The British Council and partner funders will not increase the value of an award at a later stage.

**Travel:** travel costs for researchers travelling to the country where the visit takes place. This also covers costs for luggage and travel insurance as well as local transport on the day of travel. International (economy return) airfares should be booked as far in advance as possible to minimise costs.

**Visas:** costs for visas. Information on UK entry regulations for visiting researchers can be found on the UKVI website: <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>

**Insurance:** successful applicants must take out adequate insurance as the British Council cannot take responsibility for any problems which may occur during the visit. Successful applicants accept full responsibility for all aspects of the visit and take out insurance for any risks associated with taking part in travelling abroad, including all unexpected and uncontrollable events. The British Council will not be liable for the consequences of any such risks or any costs incurred.

**Subsistence:** costs for accommodation and other daily expenses such as phone and local transport. Subsistence is calculated using unit costs for each month (1 month is intended as 4 weeks), and is specific to the country of destination.

**Consumables:** a small amount can be requested to cover consumables. Above this amount, it is expected that the receiving laboratory or department will provide any additional resources.

**Equal opportunities and diversity:** The British Council is committed to equal opportunities and diversity and will consider, on a case by case basis, requests for support to encourage under-

represented groups to engage in Institutional Links activity, so long as sufficient justification is provided.

**Successful applicants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. The British Council cannot give advice on visas or insurance.**

### **Payment of the grant**

The British Council will usually sign the Grant Agreement with the successful applicant's home institution. The home institution then receives the grant payments and disburses the funds to the researcher. There may be exceptions to this in some countries.

Payments will be processed in two instalments:

**Pre-financing payment:** 90% of the budget approved following budget checks by the British Council will be transferred to the home institution within 30 days of British Council signature of the Grant Agreement.

**Post-visit payment or recovery of the balance:** the amount of the final payment to be made to the successful applicant's home institution will be established on the basis of a final report. If the visit has not taken place, or if the duration is shorter than planned, resulting in a reduction in costs, the final payment may be withheld and if necessary the entire grant, or a proportion of it, recovered.

Successful applicants must submit a final report within 30 days of their visit. A final report template will be sent to successful applicants and will include a financial and a narrative part.

As the Newton Fund Researcher Links Travel Grant is calculated using flat rates, in most of the countries, successful applicants will not need to submit detailed receipts for each category of expenditure but only proof that the visit took place (e.g. boarding cards, proof of insurance, visa, accommodation) and a signed certificate of attendance from the host institution. However, please see Annex 4 for details on reporting requirements for individual countries.

If there is insufficient evidence in the final report that the visit took place as proposed in the application, then additional information may be requested prior to the final payment, or any underspend of the grant may need to be returned to the British Council.

**Different reporting rules may apply where visits are fully or partially funded by in-country partner organisations**

### **Underspend**

In cases where beneficiaries have spent less than the budget awarded, underspend cannot be used for further research activity unless agreed by the British Council. Requests to utilise underspend should be sent to [UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org](mailto:UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org) with a letter of support from the host institution before additional expenditure occurs.

## **6. Ethics and research governance**

It is essential that all legal and professional codes of practice are followed in conducting work supported under this Programme. Applicants must ensure the proposed activity will be carried out to the highest standards of ethics and research integrity. Specifically, applications that involve research on animals, human participants, human tissue or patient/participant data must be accompanied by necessary permission certificates from the relevant local ethical review committees/authorities in the UK and the partner country, or an undertaking to obtain this permission in advance of the activity commencing. Failure to do so will result in applications being rendered ineligible and any funding already committed through this Programme being rescinded.

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 at [UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org](mailto:UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org) for further guidance.

## 7. Diversity

The British Council encourages applications from people from under-represented groups. Applicants may apply for funding to cover extra costs for such participation (e.g. childcare costs, costs of support for those with disabilities).

Please include requests for such support in the budget submitted with your application.

Please contact us at [UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org](mailto:UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org) for further information on funding, and for more on the British Council's approach, see our Equality Policy at: [https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/equality\\_policy\\_1.doc](https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/equality_policy_1.doc)

## 8. Submission process

The submission deadline is **16:00 UK time on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016**. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered for funding.

Applicants **must** submit a completed online application form via the British Council system. Email submissions will not be accepted. The online form and a Word version can be found on the opportunity webpage: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/current-opportunities/travel-grants-newton-july-2016>

Online application form:

[https://apply.gmt.britishcouncil.org/outreach/Newton\\_RLTravelGrants\\_Application.ofml](https://apply.gmt.britishcouncil.org/outreach/Newton_RLTravelGrants_Application.ofml)

To commence your online application you will be required to Register as a New User. You will receive a password enabling you to log on to the Application system. There are British Council Applications Forms for several different programmes available.

Please ensure you select Apply for a Researcher Links Travel Grant. (The system will only allow you to select one application so it is very important to select the correct application at this time.

Submissions by email will **not** be accepted. The online form allows applicants to enter information and save it for a later date until final submission. There are strict character limits for each section which cannot be exceeded. Any problems with the online system should be reported before the application deadline to: [UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org](mailto:UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org).

To assist you in developing your application and sharing content with your partners, you can access a word version of the online form [here](#). However, the final version of your application **must** be submitted using the online form.

In addition to completing the online form, applicants are required to upload the following supporting documents:

- **A signed letter of support from the Head of Department (or equivalent) of your current home institution.** This should include:
  - how your institution will help you prepare for the visit
  - arrangements for support during your visit
  - how your institution will support you in sustaining the link
  - confirmation that your home institution is willing to sign the grant agreement and be responsible for managing the funds awarded to the successful applicant
  - confirmation that the applicant will return to their home institution in a research capacity for at least six months after the end of the visit.

The letter should be written on headed paper in Word or pdf format, and has to be attached and submitted online together with the application form.
- **A signed letter of invitation from the Head of Department (or equivalent) of the host institution where the visit will take place.** This should include
  - information on how the host institution will help the applicant prepare for the visit
  - arrangements for support during the visit (waiving of bench fees, support for finding accommodation and any language training needed, induction to the institution etc.)
  - support to the research, including how the researcher will be integrated into the research group

This should be written on headed paper in Word or pdf format, and has to be attached and submitted online together with the application form.

- The statements of support from the two Heads of Department should also include comments on the following questions:
  - Why is the research important, especially with respect to the international development impact?
  - Why do you want to make contact with this institution?
  - How will the link be sustained?
- Before the completed application form can be submitted to the system, applicants will be asked to confirm in the online form that they have satisfied British Council policies on prevention of fraud, bribery, money laundering and addressed any other financial and reputational risk that may affect a transparent and fair grant award process.

**IMPORTANT: Once you Submit this application you will not be able to edit your application in any way and you will not be permitted to create a second application. Please also be advised that the UK Researcher Links Team do not have permission to make changes to your application.**

Once the online application is submitted, applicants will receive a confirmation email containing the application reference ID number and a pdf copy of the application and supporting documents. This acts as acknowledgement of receipt by the British Council system. This reference number must be used in all communications with the British Council. Applicants who have not received an automated email confirmation should contact the British Council at [UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org](mailto:UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org).

## 9. Selection process

Selection begins with an eligibility check by the British Council against the eligibility criteria given in these Guidelines, including Annex 1 and the Eligibility Checklist at Annex 2.

Eligible proposals then undergo independent external quality review on the basis of quality, fit to development needs and country priorities and the overarching Researcher Links objectives.

Eligible applications will be assessed in the UK by one of five Review Panels:

- **Biological and Medical Sciences**
- **Environment, Agriculture and Food Sciences**
- **Engineering and Physical Sciences**
- **Social Sciences**
- **Arts and Humanities**

Applicants must indicate in their online application form which Review Panel their application should be assessed by, and the subject(s) their research covers. Up to 3 subject areas can be selected in priority order, but the applicant must indicate only one Review Panel.

Proposals are assessed by two reviewers against the criteria at Annex 3. The Review Panel then gives each application a final score from 0 to 60 and ranks them. Those receiving a final score from the Panel meeting of less than 30 will be considered not fundable. However, please note that achieving an average score equal to or above the threshold does not mean that the proposal will be funded.

The final selection decision will be made in-country in collaboration with national stakeholders and partner funding organisations. Country-specific priorities and challenge areas will be considered in the final decision, in addition to the general assessment criteria under this Programme. Please see Annex 1 for priority and challenge areas by country.

**Only proposals which have clearly articulated relevance to economic development and social welfare (as defined in section 4) of low- to middle-income countries benefitting low-income and vulnerable populations in these countries will be considered for funding.**

## Notification of results

Applicants whose application is rejected at the eligibility stage will have 1 week to appeal against the decision. Successful applicants will be notified approximately 4 months after the call deadline.

## 10. Data Protection

The British Council will use the information that you are providing for the purposes of processing your application, making any awards, monitoring and review of any award.

We shall share any necessary data on your application with the UK Department for Business Innovation and Skills, and with our funding partners in your country in order to assist with management of the application process; any decisions on grants will be made in collaboration with them.

Organisation details, where collected, are used for monitoring and evaluation and statistical purposes. Gender information, where collected, is used solely in preparing statistical reports.

The British Council collects country of origin for reporting and statistical purposes and to contact you within your own country.

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 [infogovernance@britishcouncil.org](mailto:infogovernance@britishcouncil.org) or see our website: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/privacy-cookies/data-protection>

## Contact details

All queries or comments about this call should be addressed to the Researcher Links email address [UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org](mailto:UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org).

## 11. 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 nor any of the applicant's employees, partners, directors, shareholders is 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.

Please read the text to this effect on the application form and tick the box to show that you understand this.



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## Annex 1 – Country-specific guidelines


In addition to the guidance given in the main body of this document, further conditions may apply to individual participating countries. These are specified in the table below. **Please refer to this annex for more information before developing your proposal.**

**Note on the definition of early career researchers:** For the purpose of this call, we define 'early career researcher' as being at the level of 'R2 – Recognized Researcher' or at the very beginning of R3 level as specified in the European Framework for Research Careers 'Towards a European framework for research careers' for guidance on early career researcher profiles

([http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/pdf/research\\_policies/Towards\\_a\\_European\\_Framework\\_for\\_Research\\_Careers\\_final.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/pdf/research_policies/Towards_a_European_Framework_for_Research_Careers_final.pdf)). We would expect early career researchers to be at the beginning of their research careers and to have been awarded their PhD not more than 10 years prior to applying for the Travel Grants, but allowances can be made for career breaks or other extenuating circumstances. If a researcher does not hold a PhD, but has research experience equivalent to a PhD holder and works in a field where a PhD is not a pre-requisite for established research activity, they will still be considered eligible.

**Note on country/partner research priorities:** Proposals must be within the research challenge areas listed in Section 4. If countries have specified research priorities within these areas they are listed below..

<p><b>1. Thailand</b></p>
<p><b>National co-funder:</b> Thailand Research Fund</p> 
<p><b>Minimum duration:</b> one month</p>

<p><b>Maximum duration:</b> six months</p>
<p><b>Research priorities:</b> Proposals from the Health and Life Sciences will be prioritised but the call is also open to proposals from the Humanities, Social Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering.</p> <p><b>Additional eligibility criteria:</b> None</p>
<p><b>2. South Africa</b></p>
<p><b>National co-funder:</b> Department of Higher Education and Training</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>
<p><b>Minimum duration:</b> 4 weeks <b>Maximum duration:</b> 6 weeks</p>
<p><b>Research priorities:</b> Please refer to list on Page 3</p> <p><b>Additional eligibility criteria:</b> Mobility will be from South Africa to UK only</p> <p>These travel grants will be open to applications from lecturers on the nGAP (New Generation of Academics Programme) only. This call is centred on academics' professional development, as <b>nGAPs are very early career researchers</b> who are either still to complete their PhDs or have recently completed. The early career academics on the programme each have a mentor in South Africa (and a supervisor if still completing their PhDs).</p>
<p><b>3. Vietnam</b></p>
<p><b>National co-funder:</b> National Foundation for Science and Technology Development (NAFOSTED)</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>
<p><b>Minimum duration:</b> 3 months <b>Maximum duration:</b> 3 months</p>
<p><b>Research priorities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; life sciences</li> <li>• Improving environmental resilience and energy security</li> </ul>

- Social Science
- Agri-tech
- Digital, Innovation & Creativity

**Additional eligibility criteria**

- Mobility will be from Vietnam to UK only
- Early career and more senior researchers can apply.
- Successful applicants from UK round will need to submit their proposal to NAFOSTED as per the instruction at link: <http://www.nafosted.gov.vn/>

BC Vietnam contracts and pays home institution in Vietnam for certain costs; Partner contracts travel grantees for others.

**4. Indonesia**

**National co-funder:** Directorate General of Resources for Science, Technology and Higher Education; Ministry of Research Technology and Higher Education

**Minimum duration:** 2 months

**Maximum duration:** 3 months

**Research priorities:** Same as generic guidelines

**Additional eligibility criteria:**

- Applicants from Indonesia must work for state universities; the applicant should give the registered employee ID (NIDN - Nomor Induk Dosen Nasional)
- PhD holder, graduated within ten years
- Applicant is currently inactive as a senior management position (in rectorate, department or faculties)

Required supporting documents in addition to the letters of support listed above are:

- A copy of latest education certificate (minimum doctoral graduate)
- Medical Declaration by a doctor
- IELTS certificate
- Permission Letter from the senior management level of University where applicant works
- Invitation Letter/Letter of Acceptance from the Indonesia/UK host institution

\*Please send these supporting documents by email to [newtonfund.indonesia@britishcouncil.or.id](mailto:newtonfund.indonesia@britishcouncil.or.id)

## 5. Philippines

**National co-funder:** Department of Science and Technology (DOST)



**Minimum duration:** 1 month

**Maximum duration:** 6 months

### **Research priorities:**

- Health and life sciences: Reducing the dual burden of infectious and lifestyle diseases on the fragile health system of the region including addressing the increasing threat of anti-microbial resistance and neglected tropical diseases; research on diagnostics, e-health systems, and biomedical device development.
- Improving environmental resilience: Improving understanding and mitigating the human and economic impacts of natural hazards.
- Improving energy security: Reducing carbon emissions by improving energy efficiency and provision of renewable energy.
- Future cities: Addressing the challenges and maximising the opportunities posed by the rapid urbanisation through support to the development of physical and virtual infrastructure and better understanding human impacts.
- Agritech: Increasing agricultural productivity and addressing food security issues as production is likely to be hindered by the impacts of climate change.
- Digital, innovation and creativity: The use of web technology, data analytics, big data, and creative industries as drivers of disruptive innovations that can deliver benefits to social and economic development. Similarly, facilitating development of policies and approaches to enable creation of effective innovation systems and long term planning will be essential to encourage sustainable development.

### **Additional eligibility criteria:**

Researcher Links Travel Grants in the Philippines are open to researchers who have a Master's degree and practical experience (including research) at an equivalent level to a PhD and have a publication track record, specifically three published articles or a book.

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## Annex 2 – Eligibility Criteria checklist

The application has been submitted by the applicant by the published deadline.	
The applicant has enclosed the 2 supporting letters required.	
The application form is completed in full and complies with instructions given.	
The application form and supporting documents have been completed in English.	
The applicant has submitted only 1 application under this call for Travel Grant proposals (July 2016).	
The applicant is an early career researcher ( <i>The term 'early career researcher' refers to researchers at the beginning of their research careers. We would expect early career researchers to have been awarded their PhD not more than 10 years prior to applying for the Travel Grant, but allowances can be made for career breaks or other extenuating circumstances. If a researcher does not hold a PhD, but has research experience equivalent to a PhD holder and works in a field where a PhD is not a pre-requisite for established research activity, they will still be considered eligible</i> )	
The mobility will take place between 1st February 2017 and 31st January 2018	
The applicant will return to his/her home institution in a research capacity for at least six months after the end of the visit (demonstrated via the supporting letter from the institution).	
The home institution is a recognised publicly funded research establishment or Higher Education Institution (can include private Universities).	
The host institution is a recognised publicly funded research establishment or Higher Education Institution (can include private Universities).	
The applicant has not received a Researcher Links Travel Grant within earlier Calls	
The home institution must have the capacity to administer a grant and satisfy British Council requirements to prevent bribery, fraud and professional misconduct. Applicants will confirm that they comply to British Council requirements by responding to pre-submission questions in the online application form	

### Annex 3 - Scoring system

Assessment of the quality and development relevance of the proposals will be performed by panel members in the UK, and the final funding decisions will be made in discussion with British Council country office and in-country partners, if applicable. Proposals with an average score of less than 30 points are considered not fundable. Equally, only proposals that have clearly articulated relevance to economic development and social welfare of the partner country will be considered for funding

<b>Section 1 – Relevance to economic development and social welfare</b>		<b>YES/NO</b>
<p>The proposal clearly articulates a plausible pathway for the research to lead to positive impact on the lives of people on low income and contribute to the economic development and social welfare of the partner country and within a reasonable timeframe (3-15 years).</p> <p>Please see section 4 of the guidelines for further details.</p>		
	<b>Score</b>	<b>Range</b>
<b>Section 2 – Research quality and background</b>		<b>0-20</b>
<p>The academic importance and timeliness of the research topic is clearly demonstrated.</p> <p>The applicant has sufficient relevant experience to undertake the proposed research visit and achieve the stated objectives.</p> <p>The collaborating institutions are of appropriate academic standing.</p>		<p><b>20 points:</b> Meets all criteria to an exceptional level</p> <p><b>16 to 19 points:</b> Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level</p> <p><b>11 to 15 points:</b> Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level</p> <p><b>6 to 10 points:</b> Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p><b>1 to 5 points:</b> Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p><b>0 points:</b> Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.</p>
<b>Section 3 – Research visit and proposal</b>		<b>0-20</b>
<p>The description of the proposed research visit includes clear, feasible and realistic objectives and outputs.</p> <p>There is clear evidence that the proposed research visit supports new links or significantly extends and develops existing links.</p> <p>The benefits and relevance of the collaboration to the UK and partner country institution, and to the research itself, are clearly described.</p> <p>If the applicant is returning to visit the research group where she/he carried out their PhD research or previously taught, there is clear evidence that the proposed research visit will expand added value to the collaboration.</p> <p>There is strong evidence of support from both the home and host institutions.</p>		<p><b>20 points:</b> Meets all criteria to an exceptional level</p> <p><b>16 to 19 points:</b> Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level</p> <p><b>11 to 15 points:</b> Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level</p> <p><b>6 to 10 points:</b> Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p><b>1 to 5 points:</b> Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p><b>0 points:</b> Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.</p>

<b>Section 4 – Sustainability and capacity building</b>		<b>0-20</b>
<p>The proposal includes a clear and feasible description of how the individuals and research groups involved intend to sustain their collaboration over the longer term.</p> <p>The potential in terms of professional development and capacity building for the applicant and other potential beneficiaries is clearly described.</p>	<p><b>20 points:</b> Meets all criteria to an exceptional level</p> <p><b>16 to 19 points:</b> Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level</p> <p><b>11 to 15 points:</b> Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level</p> <p><b>6 to 10 points:</b> Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p><b>1 to 5 points:</b> Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p><b>0 points:</b> Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.</p>	
<p><b>TOTAL SCORE FOR QUALITY ASSESSMENT</b> (Section 1 + Section 2 + Section 3)</p>		<b>0-60</b>

## Annex 4 - Budget

Newton Researcher Links Travel Grants are intended to be a contribution to the travel, subsistence, visa, insurance costs that researchers incur during their visit. Contributions towards these costs have been calculated using flat rates, depending on the country of the proposed visit and the duration of the visit. Please note that the unit costs given below constitute the maximum amounts that can be requested in each category and that all budget requests will be assessed for feasibility and appropriateness. While the maximum contribution cannot be exceeded, applicants can request less, in which case the amount requested cannot be increased at a later stage.

A small amount, see tables below, can be requested for consumables (above this amount, it is expected that the receiving laboratory or department will provide any additional resources). The maximum amounts for each part of the grant, and the maximum total grant that can be requested are shown in the table below, but it is expected that the requested budget reflects the actual costs expected to be incurred.

Additional support based on direct costs can be requested to contribute towards extra childcare costs associated with the visit (up to a maximum of 5% of the subsistence costs requested) and special needs.

Support for special needs should be requested in writing ([UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org](mailto:UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org)). Requests will be assessed and agreed on an individual basis.

Subsistence amounts have been calculated referring to EC Programmes and British Council local information.

Please note that the grant must not be used to cover staff costs.

### Direction of travel: UK to partner country

Country of departure	Country of destination	Maximum travel costs	Accommodation and Subsistence* (per month)	Maximum Visa costs	Maximum travel insurance costs per month	Maximum consumables / Bench fees per month	Maximum Total cost				
							2-month visit	3-month visit	4-month visit	5-month visit	6-month visit
United Kingdom	Thailand	£2,000	£1,500	£150	£65	£250	£5,780	£7,595	£9,410	£11,225	£13,040
United Kingdom	Indonesia	£1,000	£1,350	£100	£50	£500	£4,900	£6,800	N/A	N/A	N/A



United Kingdom	Philippines	£1,500	£1,000	£150	£50	£250	£4,250	£5,550	£6,850	£8,150	£9,450
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**Direction of travel: Partner country to UK**

Country of departure	Country of destination	Maximum travel costs	Accommodation and Subsistence* (per month)	Maximum Visa costs	Maximum travel insurance costs per month	Maximum consumables/ Bench fees per month	Maximum Total cost				
							2-month visit	3-month visit	4-month visit	5-month visit	6-month visit
Thailand	United Kingdom	£2,000	£1,700	£150	£65	£250	£6,180	£8,195	£10,210	£12,225	£14,240
South Africa	United Kingdom	£1000	£400 per week	£150	£16.25 per week	£62.50 per week			4-week visit £3065	5-week visit £3543.75	6-week visit £4022.50
Vietnam	United Kingdom	£1,200	£1,900	£150	£65	£250	N/A	£7,995	N/A	N/A	N/A
Indonesia	United Kingdom	£1,000	£1,350	£100	£50	£500	£4,900	£6,800	N/A	N/A	N/A
Philippines	United Kingdom	£1,500	£1,700	£150	£50	£250	£5,650	£7,650	£9,650	£11,650	£13,650