

Going Global Partnership Programme

InterLinks

UK-Kazakhstan

Small Grants

Scheme for TNE

strategy design

2023, Round III

Guidelines for Application

1. Background information

The internationalisation of higher education has become one of the main priorities for the Kazakhstan government. There is a deep interest in connecting Kazakhstan universities with UK educational institutions for various types of partnership: from opening campuses to joint academic, research and mobility programmes, especially in engineering, green technologies (clean mining), medicine, pedagogy, IT (computer science), agriculture, food technology.

The recent opening of a branch campus of De Montfort University in Kazakhstan has demonstrated the possibility for other universities to work with Kazakhstan. The successes of nine university partnerships under the British Council's 'Creative Spark' programme in Kazakhstan demonstrated that the provision of grants and multi-year support can boost transnational education development.

The British Council's 'Going Global Partnership' programme aims to increase the number of long-term partnerships between higher education institutions. The 'InterLinks Small Grants' programme allows UK and Kazakhstan universities to establish dialogue and start planning the development of a strategy for transnational education. In the first round of the programme in 2022, four partnerships were established. In the second round, we launched ten more partnerships between UK and Kazakhstan universities. The third round in 2023 will be the last one and will provide five grants.

2. Terms and Conditions

The InterLinks Small Grants Programme is a small-scale grants programme. The application process is as follows:

2.1. Eligibility criteria

We invite UK universities to apply in partnership with a Kazakhstani university. The UK universities participating in the 'Creative Spark' programme with Kazakhstan universities may apply. The UK universities which received grants in the previous rounds of the InterLinks Small Grants Programme may not apply.

2.2. Partnerships

The leading partner is the UK university. Unless required by the Kazakhstani university, there is no need to sign long-term agreements or a memorandum of understanding with the Kazakhstan university to apply for the grant.

2.3. Areas of partnerships

We welcome applications targeted at the design of transnational education tools or structures in any disciplines or subjects for co-operation. There is a deep interest from Kazakhstan universities in various types of partnership: from opening campuses to joint academic, research and mobility programmes, especially in engineering, green technologies (clean mining), medicine, pedagogy, IT (computer science), agriculture, food technology. It can be as a mono discipline co-operation or as cross-discipline.

2.4. Project duration

The strategy design process should take up to six months – from 1 September 2023 to 29 February 2024 – with reports to be submitted by 31 March 2024.

2.5. Expected outputs

The grant scheme allows us to understand common areas of interests, learn about each other's internal procedures and develop a roadmap or action plan in the form of a document describing a strategy towards creating specific transnational education tools, product and/or structures. Such tools may include a joint programme (academic course, dual awards, faculty staff and/or student mobility, research project, etc.), establishing a campus (use of franchise) or delivery via a partner institution. It is not expected to have the product designed by end of the grant scheme.

2.6. Funding

The total amount of the grant is £10,000 per partnership, where at least 30% of the funding should be assigned to the university partner in Kazakhstan. The grant agreement will be signed with the UK university which will transfer the assigned funding to the Kazakhstani university. The grant is paid 100% in advance and therefore the British Council team will hold monthly brief monitoring meetings with each partnership to track project delivery and solve any issues.

Five bilateral projects will be funded.

2.7. Eligible costs

Paid staff time, hired consultants (justified in lieu of experts at the university, for example, market research, specific workshop), translation/interpretation costs, travel costs.

Supporting financial documents will be requested for the financial report.

3. Application process

3.1. How to apply

A UK university should submit a full proposal by **30 July 2023, 23.59 (Astana, Kazakhstan time)**. Please submit any clarification questions to Nadia Trubova, Head of Education, British Council in Kazakhstan, via email: Nadia.Trubova@britishcouncil.org by 5 July 2023.

The final proposal should be submitted in electronic format by email to Nadia.Trubova@britishcouncil.org. Please attach to the email the following annexes:

- **Annex 1** – Application Form filled out with all details.

3.2. Grants Scheme Timeline

Period/Date	Activity
5 June 2023	Launch of the InterLinks Small Grants Programme
5 June 2023 – 5 July 2023	Period for clarification questions
30 July 2023, 23.59 Astana, Kazakhstan time	Submission deadline
15 August 2023	Final Decision (five projects selected)
15 August 2023 – 1 September 2023	Contracts with the UK and Kazakhstan partners signed, funds will be paid within 30 days after the contract is signed
1 September 2023 – 29 February 2024	Project implementation (six months) Monthly monitoring online meetings with British Council staff
By 31 March 2024	Final Reports submitted

4. Selection process

The British Council will review the applications at two levels:

1. The British Council Kazakhstan 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.

4.1 Eligibility Checklist

Criteria	Yes or No
1. The project proposal clearly articulates how the partnership will deliver specific outcomes (Section 2).	
2. The Application Form (Annex 1) was completed.	

3. The lead applicant institution is based in the UK and the application includes a Kazakhstan partner university/ies.	
4. The Budget shows 100% of expenses in detail, with at least 30% assigned to the Kazakhstan partner university.	

4.2 Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Weighting
1. Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Institutions' evidence of a track record of excellence in designing and delivering projects in transnational education. (10%) b. Evidence of an appropriately qualified and experienced team bringing value to this project. (10%) c. Outline of roles and responsibilities on how the team will deliver the project activities. (10%) 	30%
2. Project Proposal, Methodology and Approach A clear project summary with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Clear objectives and outcomes in line with the grants scheme. (20%) b. Clearly articulated expected results from the collaboration and potential for further long-term cooperation. (15%) c. Clear structure for the strategy design. (15%) 	50%
3. Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Budget is based on the eligible costs identified, a clear and realistic budget plan for the project delivery (£10,000). (10%) b. Budget is fairly split between the UK and Kazakhstan partners (at least 30% for Kazakhstan partners) (10%) 	20%

4.3 Scoring Model

Points	Interpretation
10	Excellent – Overall the response demonstrates that the bidder meets all areas of the requirement and provides all of the areas evidence requested at 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	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 the bidder's failure to provide all information at the level of detail requested.

5	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.
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.

5. Safeguarding

As an international organisation, the British Council’s definitions of safeguarding that guide our work in the British Council are taken from the statutory guidance below:

Safeguarding children as defined in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and the UNCRC. Specifically, the British Council seeks to uphold Article 19 of the UNCRC, which states that ‘All children have the right to be protected from all forms of physical and mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse’. In addition, to the UNCRC, there may be domestic/national laws within countries which also seek to protect children and safeguard adults at risk as defined in the Care and Support Statutory Guidance issued in the Care Act 2014. In line with Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and the Care and Support Statutory Guidance issued in the Care Act of 2014, and as a UK-based organisation working overseas and in addition to local legislation, the British Council has specific and regulatory obligations under UK law to ensure that services and or responsibilities we deliver ourselves and we contract to others are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of both children and adults at risk.

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

In the online application form, applicants must clearly articulate how any potential safeguarding risks have been considered and how they will be addressed, ensuring that all necessary preventive and reactive measures are in place before the project commences and all risks are minimised.

Where proposals involve any contact with children and/or adults at risk, each organisation and individual will need to adhere to the relevant national requirements to ensure that all those who will be working with and for the British Council are properly vetted and pre-screened¹. Further information on the British Council Safeguarding Policy is available here: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/how-we-work/policies/safeguarding>.

¹ The British Council has a legal obligation to ensure that we are not negligent in our recruitment practice. Whatever the background, making sure that we do everything we can to prevent appointing people who may pose a risk to children and adults and is an essential part of safeguarding. The robust screening of applicants is proven to act as a deterrent for offenders seeking employment with access to children and adults in order to offend, but none of these measures will deter the overwhelming majority of candidates who are genuine applicants.

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

The British Council will be available to support all partners and individuals in building and improving their safeguarding capacities.

If you have further questions, please contact Nadia.Trubova@britishcouncil.org.

6. Equality, diversity and inclusion

Our work is based on building meaningful, enduring and respectful relationships across different cultures. We cannot do this without a strong commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.

Our equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI), anti-racism policies explaining our approach can be found at [Equality, diversity and inclusion | British Council](#), which is to try to make sure that EDI and anti-racism is central to everything we do.

We expect our partners to familiarise themselves with these policies and adhere to them while designing the proposal and implementing the project under InterLinks Small Grants Scheme.

If you have further questions, please contact Nadia.Trubova@britishcouncil.org.

7. 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 grant call.

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

8. Data protection

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

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

Under UK Data Protection law, you have the right to ask for a copy of the information we hold on you, and the right to ask us to correct any inaccuracies in that information.

If you want more information about this, please contact Nadia.Trubova@britishcouncil.org or visit our website: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/privacy-cookies/data-protection>.