

**Going Global Partnerships**

**Mentoring in Science for HEIs**

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# **Application Guidance**

June 2023

## 1. Introduction

[Going Global Partnerships](#) builds stronger, more inclusive, internationally connected higher education and TVET systems which support economic and social growth. Through this British Council programme, you can connect, collaborate and innovate with universities, colleges, education policy makers and other partners in the UK and around the world.

The overall expected outcomes of the programme include:

- **Enabling research:** supporting research, knowledge, and innovation collaboration to address local and global challenges and promote inclusive growth
- **Internationalising higher education and TVET institutions:** creating an enabling environment while supporting institutions and individuals to benefit from internationalisation
- **Strengthening higher education and TVET systems:** improving the quality and efficiency of institutions and systems
- **Enhancing student outcomes:** improving the qualities of global graduates (e.g., soft skills, employability, community outcomes).

Gender equality issues impact and are reflected in higher and further education systems worldwide – with unequal access to higher and further education in many countries, women having less access to resources and fewer opportunities, the existence of violence against women affecting students and staff and sustained underrepresentation of women in leadership positions in higher and further education institutions. Despite women succeeding academically, evidence shows that it is more challenging for women to succeed in their future careers both within and outside education following their studies, particularly in fields where men are overrepresented, including Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). For further information please see [Gender Equality in Higher Education: Maximising impacts](#) report.

The British Council has put an increasing emphasis on gender equality over the past five years and this is reflected in our Strategy 2025. Our cultural relations expertise and our neutrality in many countries worldwide enables us to broker relationships, build trust and facilitate dialogue on gender inequalities in ways that might be difficult for other organisations. In our higher and further education work in particular, we build partnerships and networks, support learning and collaboration, convene policy dialogue and support innovation through international engagement. This creates many opportunities to make a difference and to facilitate learning between the UK and the rest of the world on how values of equality can be put into practice.

The Going Global Partnerships - Mentoring in Science for Higher Education Institutions in Mexico is one of our responses to a report that the British Council recently commissioned, entitled Gender Equality in Higher Education: Maximising the Impacts. This report identified some key global gender equality challenges – as well as some examples of how governments, higher education institutions, sector bodies and funders are successfully addressing these issues.

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## 2. Opportunities

Going Global Partnerships offers you vital international opportunities - the chance to build relationships, to share ideas and good practice, to access grant funding for collaborative partnerships and more. You can see current and upcoming Going Global Partnerships opportunities on our website: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/he-science/going-global-partnerships/funding-calls-opportunities>. We have many opportunities being launched at this time, so please check this page regularly.

This document refers to the following opportunity: Mentoring in Science for HEIs in Mexico

## 3. Privacy Notice

The British Council and UK partners comply with UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the UK Data Protection Act 2018 as well as 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 any necessary application data with our UK partner(s) institution(s), our national partners in your country and with our funding partners, in order to assist with management of the application process. We may share selected non personal data with agencies responsible for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

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.

# Call for Applications: Mentoring in Science for HEIs

## 4. Overview of the funding opportunity

The Going Global Partnerships - **Mentoring in Science for HEIs in Mexico** will support higher and further education institutions and sector bodies to progress gender equality – building on the potential of sector to influence wider society.

The Going Global Partnerships programme aims to enable partnerships that focus on the following gender strategic outcomes:

Going Global Partnerships Gender - Outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An improved legal &amp; policy environment supporting gender equality</li> <li>• Women are empowered to participate in political, social and economic spheres</li> <li>• Increased participation of women in STEM occupations</li> <li>• Higher and further education institutions develop inclusive policies and practice that support gender equality and safer learning environments</li> <li>• Improved employability outcomes for women</li> <li>• Increase in quality research outcomes that address local and global challenges through a gendered lens</li> <li>• Increased agency and self confidence amongst women</li> <li>• Women develop international outlook and networks</li> <li>• Increased awareness and recognised value of women in tertiary education</li> <li>• Increase in women in leadership positions in tertiary education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Female students are upskilled with relevant skills, including employability or entrepreneurship, community outcomes or soft skills</li> <li>• Increased quality, inclusiveness and relevance of learning and female student experience</li> <li>• Increased participation of women in STEM Subjects</li> <li>• Increased participation and retention of women in research and knowledge production in HE</li> <li>• Increased participation of women in international mobility opportunities</li> <li>• New or improved regulatory frameworks to enable gender equality – including recruitment and assessment policies for students and staff</li> <li>• Policy and quality indices and quality assurance mechanisms and indices are addressed through a gendered lens</li> <li>• Curriculum teaching practice and materials support gender equality and challenge gender stereotypes</li> <li>• Complementary, extra-intra-curricular based opportunities for female students</li> </ul>

Applicants are encouraged to check the [“Guide to addressing gender equality”](#) document when discussing and designing the proposal.

Intersectional proposals, which address one or more of the priority themes above **and** one or more Equality, Diversity and Inclusion areas are encouraged (e.g. age, disability, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and socio-economic background).

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## 5. Relevance to economic and social welfare

For the purpose of this **Mentoring in Science for HEIs** call, capacity strengthening activities with development relevance are defined as activities that have the potential to contribute to the economic development and social welfare of partner countries, benefitting low-income and vulnerable populations specifically. The funding is Official Development Assistance (ODA).

In order to be considered for funding under the programme, all **proposals must** clearly articulate a plausible **route to positive impact** on these populations within a short- to medium-term timeframe (3-5 years). Applications which do not meet the **ODA criteria** cannot receive funding.

Applicants should therefore consider, within their proposals, how the proposed capacity strengthening activities will address issues related to development effectively and efficiently, working in areas of demonstrable relevance to local challenges and using the strengths of the UK to address them.

Applicants are asked to highlight relevant SDGs that the programme will support (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>), with particular reference made to SDG 5.

In some disciplines, development relevance can be longer-term and less direct than in other areas and impact may be harder to measure. However, in all cases, it remains the responsibility of the applicant to articulate how the activity proposed will aim to meet the ODA criteria and has the potential for lasting impact. Applicants should not expect reviewers to make assumptions about development impact that is not clearly described within the proposal.

For general information about ODA, please visit the OECD website at <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/official-development-assistance.htm>

**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.**

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

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

## 6. Funding

The Mentoring for HEIs in Mexico expects to support **12 to 24** projects of between MXN \$29,000 and \$58,250 in value each, for a 8-month period, starting from **September 2023**.

Funds will be disbursed directly to the Lead Institution in Mexico. Please complete the budget spreadsheet and a brief justification for the amounts applied for, as provided on the call website with details of all costs, considering the eligible items.

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The maximum duration of the proposed collaboration is 6 months. Funding, if approved, begins from signature of the Grant Agreement by the British Council. The project start and end dates are provided in the Grant Agreement. The 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. The British Council Grant Agreement will be signed with the Lead Applicant in Mexico, who is then wholly responsible for the financial and logistical administration of the project.

Grant Agreements will include a requirement to fulfil a detailed monitoring and evaluation process with the British Council where all non-financial contributions would have to be supported by the relevant documentation. This framework will be the mechanism by which quality control of project implementation is achieved.

To ensure value for money, the budget requested in your proposal should cover only costs that are essential, appropriate and relevant to the implementation of the capacity strengthening activities. The proposal should maximise cost share through direct and indirect institutional contributions, in-kind funding, other funding sources, and private sector support.

## 7. Ethics

It is essential that all legal and professional codes of practice are followed in conducting work supported by this Programme. 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.

## 8. 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>

## 9. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Applicants are encouraged to ensure equal opportunities in the teams implementing their proposed activity. 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>

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## 10. 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. It is expected that all the proposals submitted to this call will have a primary objective of addressing gender inequality in the outputs and outcomes of the programme.

### 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 programme.

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.

## 11. Impact on the Environment

The British Council is committed to minimising its environmental impact. For this call, we have developed a question which will enable us to understand the expected impact of a proposed project on the climate (and environment more broadly). We welcome information from Lead Applicants regarding environmental considerations such as reducing carbon emissions for their projects (for example, alternatives to printing training materials), minimising waste or promoting resource efficiency.

Please note, responses to these questions will not form part of the grant assessment criteria. The British Council collects this information for internal purposes only.

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## 12. 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.

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

## 13. Implementation

All projects must be implemented in accordance with the submitted proposal and other formal/written communications provided by the British Council. Any changes to the proposed project activities must be approved by the British Council prior to execution.

## 14. Project Reporting, Monitoring, and Evaluation

The delivery partners and associates are required to submit a final report to the British Council on their progress with a final narrative and financial report within 30 days after the project ends (refer to the Timeline published in the Call for reporting). Report templates will be provided. Please note if the final report and deliverables are not completed on time, the British Council will reserve the rights to recoup funds or not give future instalments of funds that are due.

Applicants are also expected to report gender equality-related indices, such as the benefits to participants from working on the project.

The British Council will conduct regular monitoring and evaluation, including the commission of independent evaluations for selected activities of strategic importance to the project.

A record should be kept of project activities, contracts, expenditures, financial transactions, and other important documentation for external auditing purposes.

## 15. Covid-19 guidance

Should COVID-19 continue to impact global travel into 2023, we would advise that applicants consider, 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.



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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 Council from time to time (see: [www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/structure/status](http://www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/structure/status)).
- (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 [monica.angulo@britishcouncil.org](mailto:monica.angulo@britishcouncil.org) 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. Contact details

All queries relating to this open call should be addressed to [monica.angulo@britishcouncil.org](mailto:monica.angulo@britishcouncil.org)