



# **DOST - Newton PhD Scholarships**

## **GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATIONS**

June 2015

## 1. Background

The Newton Fund is an Emerging Powers Research and Innovation Fund to support science and innovation partnerships with emerging powers. Through the Newton Fund, the UK will use its strength in research and innovation to promote the economic development and social welfare of partner countries. The Fund forms part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment and its primary focus is to develop partner countries' research and innovation capacity for long-term sustainable growth.

By working together on bi-lateral and multi-lateral programmes with a research and innovation focus, the UK will build strong, sustainable, systemic relationships with partner countries. This will support the continued excellence of the UK research base and innovation ecosystem and act as a golden key to unlock opportunities for wider collaboration and trade.

On behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills of the UK Government (BIS), the British Council and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) will co-fund the DOST-Newton PhD Scholarships.

## 2. Programme overview

The aim of the Newton PhD programme is to facilitate the capacity building of individuals, and the building of sustainable, long-lasting links between UK and Philippine institutions, through the DOST-Newton PhD scholarships. The spread of opportunities from individuals to institutional partnership will ensure that individual excellence and potential is recognised, as well as embedding the approach in institutions to bring benefit to future generations of students and allow them to build on the strengthened relationships between the UK and the Philippines. These opportunities will be focussed on research areas which have been identified at the country level as important for fulfilling Newton Fund goals.

The programme will be managed in partnership by British Council and the HE International Unit, together with the Department of Science and Technology. Calls for proposals will be open, competitive and coordinated in the UK and the Philippines.

The objectives of the programme are to:

- provide opportunities for international training and development at the doctoral level;
- develop international joint training pathways;
- build links at the institutional level to facilitate two-way exchange of students and staff;
- support knowledge transfer of the UK approach to PhD training and skills development to the Philippines; and
- support the production of highly-trained researchers in the Philippines with international experience.

This opportunity is open to students who are eligible to apply for the DOST-Engineering Research and Development for Technology (ERDT) and the DOST-Accelerated Science & Technology Human Resource Development Programme (ASTHRDP), as detailed in section 5.

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

For the purpose of the Newton Fund, we define research and innovation with development relevance as activities that have the potential to contribute to the economic development and social welfare of low- and middle-income countries<sup>1</sup>, benefitting poor and vulnerable populations in these countries. In order to be considered for funding under this Programme, **all proposals must clearly articulate a plausible pathway along which the research and innovation work may lead to positive impact on these populations within a short- to medium-term timeframe (3-15 years)**. For the Philippines, topics can fall in one or more of the following priority areas listed in section 4.

### 4. Philippine priority areas

The Newton Fund forms part of the UK's ODA commitment to develop the Philippines, and each project must fall within the following priority areas:

- **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.

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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/daclistofodarecipients.htm>).

## 5. Eligibility

For an applicant to be considered for the DOST-Newton PhD Scholarship, the applicant must:

- be a Filipino Citizen not over 45 years of age at the time of admission to the Graduate Program;
- have a Master's degree in a related field;
- be in good health condition, as certified by licenced medical doctor;
- have no pending criminal/administrative charges or must not have been convicted for violation of any Philippine Law (certification must be obtained from National Bureau of Investigation); and
- pass all screening procedures, including a formal letter of acceptance to a PhD programme in a UK university.

The programme is jointly funded by the Newton Fund and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and offers full-time PhD scholarships for Filipino researchers at a UK higher education institution **from December 2015 until January 2019**.

## 6. Application process

Each applicant should have already been accepted to a PhD programme in the UK, and the application should come with the appropriate formal letters of acceptance. The application should also come with endorsement letters from both home and host institutions. The host supervisor's letter must confirm

- that they will host the PhD student;
- the length of the PhD study;
- tuition fees; and
- that they will give the scholar all necessary mentoring to support the research.

Optional letters of endorsement from the DOST can also be added to the application. The formal letters of acceptance and supporting letters from home and host institutions must be uploaded at the time of submission of the form or the application will be considered ineligible.

**All applicants should submit the form online** at the following link [https://britishcouncil-cxobw.formstack.com/forms/application\\_form\\_dost\\_phd\\_scholarships](https://britishcouncil-cxobw.formstack.com/forms/application_form_dost_phd_scholarships) **and upload the supporting documents.**

The deadline for receipt of applications is **17th August 2015**. The announcement of the selection results will be made by **late October 2015**.

## 7. Key dates

Call opens	24 June 2015
Submission deadline	17 August 2015
Notification of outcome of selection process	19 October 2015
Grant agreements signed and grant released	9 November 2015
Start of PhD study	1 December 2015

## 8. Funding arrangements

The Department of Science and Technology will cover the following costs:

- Filipino scholars' travel, visa, and insurance fees; and
- Monthly accommodation and living allowance for the duration of the study.

The Newton Fund will cover the following costs:

- Tuition fees, including bench fees, at the UK institution; and
- One-time grant for consumables and special needs costs.

A guide to the amounts you can request per category is provided below. All amounts reflect the maximum that can be applied for.

Home Country	Travel costs	Accommodation and subsistence	Maximum duration of PhD	Visa costs	Travel insurance costs	Consumable costs/Special needs
Philippines	£1,500	£1,165 per month	38 months	£150	£50 per month	£3,000 per year

## 9. Evaluation criteria

The applicants should ensure their applications meet the criteria set out below. The principles underlying the assessment of applications will be:

- All questions on the application form are answered;
- The proposed PhD project outlines a clear pathway to development;
- The support offered to the researcher will ensure that the scholarship is as productive as possible;
- The research is relevant to the priority areas of the country; and
- The researcher clearly outlines how he/she can contribute towards long-term sustainable partnership between UK and the Philippines.

The British Council and the Department of Science and Technology will conduct eligibility checks. All eligible applications will then be reviewed by both a UK and a Philippine reviewer prior to any grant awards.

## **10. Reporting and Monitoring**

Each successful applicant will submit monitoring and evaluation data and reports on the use of the grant, detailing progress and financial accounts, to the British Council and the DOST as detailed in the grant agreements.

## **11. Contact information**

To learn more please contact:

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