

# Our work in education



# About us

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

We work in two ways – directly with individuals to transform their lives, and with governments and partners to make a bigger difference for the longer term, creating benefit for millions of people all over the world.

We help young people to gain internationally recognised qualifications. Our work in arts and culture stimulates creative expression and exchange and nurtures creative enterprise.

We connect the best of the UK with the world and the best of the world with the UK. These connections lead to an understanding of each other's strengths and of the challenges and values that we share. This builds trust between people in the UK and other nations which endures even when official relations may be strained.

We work on the ground in more than 100 countries.

In 2019-20 we connected with 80 million people directly and with 791 million overall, including online and through our broadcasts and publications.

We have been in the Philippines since 1978. Every year, we connect with thousands of students, educators, policymakers, academics, researchers, creatives and entrepreneurs in the Philippines.

## Our work in education

We build trust and international opportunities that support efforts to promote international mobility, partnerships and policy dialogues; enrich the quality of education in schools; and enhance the skills and employability of young people.



# ACT-IHE

## Going Global Partnerships

The Access and Competitiveness through Internationalisation of Higher Education (ACT-IHE) programme is a new flagship project of the British Council and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). It seeks to widen access of learners to quality higher education and to build the global competitiveness of Filipino universities.

Together with CHED, we will create new postgraduate degrees offered jointly by UK and Philippine universities, increase student

mobility to the UK, enhance English-medium education across Philippine universities and promote a flexible and resilient teaching and learning in the country.

It builds on the success of the Joint Development of Niche Programmes through Philippine-UK Linkages which pioneered Philippine-UK postgraduate degree programmes and resulted to 17 transnational education (TNE) degrees on niche areas that were not available in the Philippines.



## Newton Agham Programme

The Newton Agham Programme develops science and innovation partnerships that promote the economic development and social welfare of the Philippines.

The programme supports multi-year research and workshop partnerships between Philippine and UK institutions.

We also offer full-time PhD scholarships for Filipino researchers at a UK university. Currently jointly funded with CHED and the Department of Science

and Technology, Newton Agham aims to support the production of highly trained researchers in the Philippines with international experience.

### **The programme focuses on the following local development**

- Health and life sciences
- Environment resilience
- Energy security
- Future cities
- Agritech
- Digital, innovation and security

# Internationalisation of SMEC

The Internationalisation of South Manila Educational Consortium (SMEC) programme seeks to expand the SMEC members' international collaboration by building their capacities in internationalisation and linking them with their counterparts in the UK.

The partnership was launched in 2016 through a training programme on internationalisation delivered by the Cardiff Metropolitan University to 120 leaders from Philippine universities. This was followed by mission visits and partnership meetings in the UK in 2017 and 2019 to explore a consortium approach to partnerships with UK universities. In 2020, select staff members from SMEC institutions started their Professional Doctorate programme in Aberystwyth University, a unique programme which enables professionals to study for a doctorate through distance learning.

SMEC is a group of 12 higher education institutions in Manila.

The programme supports the consortium's mission of having a globally oriented, internationally competitive faculty and research contribute to their goal of being an



# Embedding Internationalisation in Philippine Quality Assurance Standards

The Embedding Internationalisation in Philippine Quality Assurance Standards programme is a collaboration with CHED and the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA).

We support accrediting agencies by co-developing a set of metrics in

quality assurance and accreditation standards, specifically to measure internationalisation and performance of Philippine universities based on research, instruction, extension and resource management. Through these partnerships, we help public and private universities institutionalise internationalisation.

## Policy reforms and discussions

Over the years, we have provided platforms where international and local education stakeholders share insights, exchange knowledge and discuss issues with the aim to influence policy reforms. Among these are the following:

- English-medium Instruction for Higher Education (2020)
- Strengthening Internationalisation of State Universities and Colleges: Sustainable Development Goals and Post-Covid-19 Agenda (2020)
- Regional Policy Forum on University Links for Industry Engagement (2019)
- Orientation and Workshop on the Internationalisation of Higher Education and Transnational Education (2019)
- The Inclusion, Mobility and Multilingual Education Conference (2019)
- Quality Assurance Approaches and TNE Workshop (2017)

# Our impact



**17 UK-Philippine TNE postgraduate degrees** on niche disciplines built through **13 TNE partnerships**



**21 universities awarded with Institutional Links Grant**, establishing a multi-year institutional research collaboration on national development areas



**27 Filipino researchers awarded with PhD Scholarship Grants**, helping build local expertise in national priority disciplines



**Over 40 TNE scholars supported**, increasing access of Filipinos to internationally recognised degrees



**11 Joint Research Workshops and 5 Researcher Links Travel Grants** conducted, equipping local early-career researchers with sustainable international links with the UK



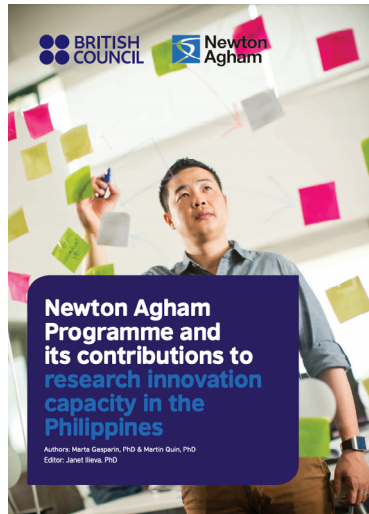
Supported the crafting of the **Transnational Higher Education Law**



Influenced the development of the **CHED Policies, Standards and Guidelines for Graduate Education**

# Reports and publications

- [Internationalisation of higher education institutions in Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao \(2021\)](#)
- [Newton Agham programme and its contribution to research innovation capacity in the Philippines \(2021\)](#)
- [Leveraging on the Newton-Agham Programme: Improving Innovations Capacity and University-Industry Relationships in the Philippines \(2021\)](#)
- [Social Innovation in Higher Education Landscape in the Philippines country report](#)
- [Opportunities, Models and Approaches for UK-East Asia Higher Education \(2020\)](#)  
[Partnerships to Deepen University Collaboration – Report \(2019\)](#)
- [Capacity Building and Institutional Development of Higher Education in the Philippines through Transnational Education \(2019\)](#)  
[TNE Engagements in the Philippines \(2016\)](#)



© British Council

- [Transnational Education in the Philippines - Opportunities and Challenges \(2016\)](#)
- [Incentivising Foreign Investments and Partnerships in Higher Education in the Philippines: A Development Blueprint \(2016\)](#)
- [Opportunities and Challenges on Internationalisation of Philippine Higher Education \(2015\)](#)

# Contact us

**British Council**  
**7th Floor The Curve**  
**32nd Street corner 3rd Avenue**  
**Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City**  
**1634**  
**Philippines**

**[www.britishcouncil.ph](http://www.britishcouncil.ph)**

Cover photo © Mat Wright

---

**© British Council 2020**

The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities.