

Going Global Partnerships

Guidance Notes

**Partnership opportunities for the
UK-PH Higher Education Partnership
Catalyst Grant**

September 2023

Country: Philippines. Going Global Partnerships

[Going Global Partnerships](#) supports universities, colleges and wider education stakeholders around the world to work together towards stronger, equitable, more inclusive and internationally connected higher education, science and TVET.

Through international partnerships, system collaborations and opportunities to connect and share, we enable stronger transnational education, more collaborative research, higher quality delivery, enhanced learner outcomes and stronger, internationalised, equitable and inclusive systems and institutions.

We help to strengthen higher education and TVET in five core areas:

- **Enabling research** – supporting research, knowledge and innovation collaborations to address local and global challenges and promote inclusive growth.
- **Internationalising higher education and TVET** – supporting systems, institutions and individuals to benefit from internationalisation, including enabling transnational education and system alignment.
- **Strengthening systems and institutions** – improving the quality and efficiency of higher education and TVET institutions and systems.
- **Enhancing learner outcomes** – addressing the qualities of the global graduate, including soft skills, employability and community outcomes.
- **Increasing equality, diversity and inclusion** – making higher education and TVET more accessible, equitable and accountable.

See open and upcoming Going Global Partnerships opportunities [on our portal](#).

Opportunities are being launched continually, so please check this page regularly.

Call for interest: Partnership brokering for the UK-PH Higher Education Partnership Catalyst Grant

In 2022, the British Council partnered with the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP), a state university, for the UK-PH Higher Education Partnership Catalyst Grant.

The project aims to (i) modernise Philippine higher education through internationalisation and TNE, (ii) strengthen the country's globally competitiveness by bringing in international quality standards and expertise, (iii) and widen access of Philippine universities to partnership opportunities with the UK and enable both countries to deliver high-quality partnership programmes or activities that provide opportunities for learners, academics, researchers or education leaders to gain valuable experience, skills, knowledge and international qualifications.

Under the project, we provided PUP with a seed funding to enable them to pursue a partnership engagement with a UK university in the field of **railway operations and management**. Through the seed funding, PUP and the UK partner will implement a small-scale partnership activity (e.g. workshops, conferences, capacity building activities) that will stimulate bigger, more impactful collaboration in the future including, but not limited to, a transnational education partnership.

We are looking for a UK university interested to work with a Philippine institution for partnership activities in railway operations and management. UK universities who will respond to this call will be included in a screening process that will determine the final institution who will collaborate with PUP for this project.

This call for interest is an opportunity for UK universities to showcase their institution and programmes, expand their networks in the Philippines and explore possible TNE partnerships with local institutions through a British Council-supported project.

The UK university, once selected, is expected to:

- Enter into a memorandum of understanding with PUP that outlines the general areas of collaboration
- Develop with PUP a proposal for a small-scale partnership activity in late 2023 or early 2024 that will be supported by the seed funding provided the British Council. Further guidance on the proposal will be shared.
- Develop with PUP a partnership roadmap, working towards a long-term engagement strategy that could include a potential TNE degree in railway operations and management.

A profile of PUP has been attached together with this call for interest.

Eligibility criteria

The expression of interest must fulfil the following criteria:

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA		Y/N
<p>The UK institution must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher Education provider with degree awarding powers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ England - Check the 'awarding degrees' drop down section on the specific provider's entry on the OFS register. The OFS register lists all institutions which offer UK degrees, not all of which have degree awarding powers. ○ Northern Ireland – https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/universities-and-colleges-northern-ireland ○ Scotland – https://www.gov.scot/policies/universities/ ○ Wales – https://www.gov.uk/check-university-award-degree/recognised-bodies-wales 		
The UK institution must have a demonstrated expertise in railway operations and management.		
The UK institution must have the capacity to develop and implement the partnership activities with the Philippine university.		

Note: As this is an expression of interest, a full proposal of potential partnership activities is not expected.

Please send an enquiry to education@britishcouncil.org.ph if you are in doubt about the eligibility of your organisation.

Eligibility checks will be applied to all applications after the grant call closes. Those which are not led by an eligible institution will be rejected during these checks.

Funding

A seed funding of GBP 5,000 has been provided by the British Council to the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) who, in turn, is responsible for spending the grant. The British Council will not be disbursing any grant to the UK university.

Depending on the partnership activity developed by both PUP and the UK partner, the grant funding can be used to support costs to be incurred by the UK in the implementation of the activity such as travel-related expenses.

PUP may also provide counterpart funding to augment the seed grant. Matching funds are encouraged but not a requirement.

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>

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

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

We will provide further guidance and instructions on ensuring EDI integration into the project in a separate document to be used by PUP and the selected UK partner in submitting the project proposal. This document will be shared once PUP has identified a UK university to partner with (out of the institutions who will submit an expression of interest).

In the meantime, 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>

Impact on the Environment

The British Council is committed to minimising its environmental impact. We will be developing a set of questions (in a separate document to be used by PUP and the selected UK partner) in submitting the project proposal which will enable us to understand the expected impact of a proposed project on the climate (and environment more broadly). This document will be shared once PUP has identified a UK university to partner with (out of the institutions who will submit an expression of interest).

We welcome information from Applicants regarding environmental considerations such as reducing carbon emissions for their projects (for example, alternatives to national or international travel such as virtual delivery), minimising waste or promoting resource efficiency.

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

Please contact us via email at education@britishcouncil.org.ph, if you have any queries about the environmental impact section.

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 grantcall.

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

Contractual requirements

The UK university will not enter into a contract with the British Council. They are, however, expected to sign a memorandum of understanding with PUP that will outline the areas of collaboration.

Privacy Notice

The British Council and UK partners comply with UK GDPR and the UK Data Protection Act 2018 and 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 all application data with PUP in order to assist with management of the application process. We may share selected non personal data with agencies responsible for monitoring and evaluation of the UK-PH Higher Education Partnership Catalyst Grant.

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.