Connections Through Culture UK-Southeast Asia Online Grants

Notes for Applicants

Connections Through Culture (CTC) was established in August 2019 in Southeast Asia to provide grants to residents of the UK, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam from the following groups:

- Artists
- Cultural and arts professionals
- Representatives of art collectives, networks or organisations

It was created to further international face-to-face discussions needed to develop projects beyond initial expressions of interest. It built on the wider CTC programme that has been running in China since 2006.

For the 2020-2021 part of the programme, we will be supporting online collaboration projects between Southeast Asia and the UK.

In October 2020 we will be accepting applications for Connections Through Culture Online Grants. Projects will be needed to be completed between January to June 2021.

The primary objective is to support exchanges and collaborations between the UK and Southeast Asia. Prior to Covid-19, this would have most likely involved international travel. However, with travel restricted and uncertain, the CTC grant should be used to develop and strengthen new and existing relationships between the UK and Southeast Asia, by providing funding to allow conversations to happen, and for the possibilities of online collaboration to be explored.

What is the value of each grant?

- For individual artists or professionals or, for cultural organisations or collectives living in **the UK** or in any of the five (**Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam**) Southeast Asian countries featured in this programme: **£2,500 to £7,500.**

What is the grant for?

- **Time.** Time for those **from the UK and Southeast Asia to initiate connections together** for new digital/online networking and new art and cultural projects through **conversations or platforms**
  - o Online or digital art residencies
  - o Online or digital exhibitions or showcases
  - o Online or digital conferences or webinars
  - o Art and cultural online or digital archives and research
  - o Online or digital toolkits

- **Face to face versions of the activities mentioned above in your home country** (subject to any local health restrictions that may be in place).

- **70% of the grant** is an **artistic fee**, and must be split equally between the Southeast Asia applicant(s), organisation or collective, and the UK applicant(s), organisation or collective. In your application, list 70% of the grant requested for this purpose.

- **The remaining 30%** can be used as a **per diem** for those who will be supporting you with the project (e.g. if you need a graphic designer as you don't have those skills), **software** (e.g. zoom account), or **local travel and accommodation** costs that may be required. With regards to local air travel, we are encouraging digital/online collaboration, so if you do plan local air travel, please explain why this is essential in your application. In your application form it is important you make it clear how this 30% will be spent.

What is the grant *not* for?

- International travel and accommodation.

- Not for academic institutions

- Not for funding bodies

- Not for Southeast Asian nationals living outside of the five countries mentioned in this call.

- Not for UK individuals based (living) outside of the United Kingdom, unless temporarily living outside of the United Kingdom but retaining a home address in the United Kingdom and defined by Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs as 'resident the in the UK' for tax – see **here**.

What is the application process?

Stage	Description
Application	• The application site will be open for three weeks. All applications must be done through the site.
Selection	• Your application will be evaluated by British Council staff from the UK and Southeast Asia.
Results	• We will let all applicants know via email by the end of November.
Agreement	• On accepting the grant, you need to sign the grant agreement and share payment details for the transfer of the first part of the funds.
Development	• You will have the opportunity to discuss your idea through conversations with British Council staff in the UK and in Southeast Asia.
Grant activity	• The grant activity must take place between January and June 2021.
Sharing	• Once you have completed your main activity, you will need to organize an online sharing event for those from your sector and beyond to join. This will be open to all CTC grantees to attend.
Completion	• The remaining portion of the grant will be transferred to you.

Complete the <u>online application form here</u> and upload your CV(s), and a letter of support from a confirmed applicant, organisation or collective

How will my application be assessed?

Applications will be evaluated by the British Council, drawing on input from your Southeast Asian or UK partners and contacts where appropriate. In order to be assessed, your application must meet the following conditions:

- Have both a UK, and a Southeast Asia based applicant. One as lead applicant, and one as counterpart applicant.

- Project to be completed between January and June 2021

Applications will be scored on:

• Evidence of mutual exchange and awareness of the local context(s)	25%
• Evidence of activity outline and developed discussions	20%
• Evidence of a sound partner	15%
• Usefulness of the grant to further development of the activity	10%
• Evidence that experience of CTC will be shared	10%
• Evidence of estimated cost breakdown and timescales	10%
• Evidence of innovation through digital exchange	10%

We particularly invite collaborations that focus on gender, race, ethnicity, disability, inclusion, ageing and other areas of diversity.

For this grant, what is meant by digital vs online?

- Digital refers to the form or process, and online to something that is connected to the internet. We accept that definitions are open to interpretation though, and ask that in your application you explain if you will be using the terms in a different way.

Can one project/idea apply for more than one grant?

No. However, if you have received and completed the activity for a CTC grant in previous rounds, you may apply to develop that project/idea further.

Can all art forms/practices apply?

Yes.

Can groups/collectives apply?

Yes. A group from Southeast Asia can apply with a group from the UK. One individual will need to be named as the lead applicant, and one as the counterpart applicant. The lead applicant will be responsible for ensuring the grant is split as per the overview you submit in the application.

Can this be for multilateral ideas? E.g. a group of people from across Southeast Asia applying together to collaborate with individuals/ a group from the UK?

Yes, with the focus on the exchange being mutual.

What support can I expect?

- We welcome and encourage applications from candidates who use support workers (someone who supports you to be independent) to complete their application, such as sign language interpreters, personal assistant support, communication support workers etc. Please submit the format of application which is most accessible to you using your support workers as necessary, to ensure we receive it in proficient written or spoken English.

- There is a section in the application where you have the opportunity to let us know about the kind of access support you may require to complete the activity in the grant: e.g. this could include a translator or interpreter to ensure smooth communication. It is important that you complete this section in order to provide us with the information we need to support you with access, should this be required.

- The activity, upon confirmation, is expected to be self-directed. However, if selected for a CTC grant, British Council staff based in Southeast Asia and the UK can offer support in discussing your idea. This could be helping you think through certain aspects, or connecting you with those outside of your network. Grant notifications, disbursements and evaluation will be done online.

- Please note that successful applicants will be required to share feedback on their visit in the form of a short written summary, and any photos, audio or videos that you wish to share. The photos, audio and videos will be used by the British Council when sharing CTC to a wider audience.

What if the project plans to work with those under 18, or with vulnerable adults?

In the application form you will be able to declare if your project is planning to work with these groups. If you plan to, you then can provide details such as age group, do they have special vulnerabilities, how do you plan to work with them etc. If your project is selected, we will run a webinar for you on how to complete a risk assessment, the British Council's child protection policy, and our adults at risk policy. You will need to sign these documents. For further reading, please see the British Council's statement on safeguarding.

Examples of CTC grantees' projects (in-progress) which can be inspiration in creating proposals for the 2020 CTC Online Grants:

d/Deaf projects between UK and Malaysia

Since April 2020, CTC round 1 grant recipient **Elaine Foster** (UK-Malaysia) started collaborating with Anthony Chong (Malaysian Deaf Educator), Sheena Baharudin (Malaysian Multimedia Poet) and Ana Jonessy (Malaysian Sign Language translator) to create a cultural exchange, sharing and learning opportunity between British and Malaysian poets, artists and deaf educators to share experiences around Deaf people and the Deaf experience, Deaf arts, sign languages and poetry. She hopes that the collaboration will be impactful through a series of **online knowledge-sharing workshops**, **composing and designing of a multimedia poem** that incorporates Bahasa Malaysia, Malaysian Sign Language, English and film and video, **a manual for teachers** for Malaysian Sign Language using poetry, and **an online or physical event** either in Malaysia or the UK to share and promote poetry in translation, Malaysian Sign Language and deaf culture, poetry education, deaf poetry/ arts, disability and access in the arts.

Online archive of Contemporary Vietnamese Art

As a recipient of a CTC grant in 2019, **Anh Tuan Nguyen** (Vietnam) is forming the first part of the online 'Vietnam Art Archive' with the collaboration and support from UK art researchers and museum experts. He is currently working with colleagues from the UK (SOAS London, Tate Research Centre Asia, among others) and Vietnam (Salon Natasha Archive, FCAC Vietnam, and other independent curators) for this project. **He is collecting data, building a web platform, and will soon be publishing the online archive of contemporary art.** The first part of archive will be

focusing on a collection of video art / artists in Vietnam since the beginning of 1990s to 2020, and will feature works of more than 20 Vietnamese acclaimed artists.

Radio exchange: NOODS Radio UK x Indonesian crews

Although **Leon Pattrick of Noods Radio** (Wales) is still waiting if it's possible to travel to Indonesia as their initial plan was to connect with local radio crews in the first quarter of 2020, his team have been working with partners to curate several shows to be aired on their station. Their activities are radio **residences, guest shows and takeovers:** Some takeovers are already in place in September and October featuring UK and Indonesian crews. Radio guest shows by artists from across Java already happened, while some of them are already residents of the show. Graphic designer and Domestik boss Ryan Putra also designed a t-shirt for Noods Radio which they will share at the end of September to coincide with the takeovers. Leon's team is also thinking of taking over another UK station, Norrm Radio. As we revised our CTC agreement with Noods Radio during the pandemic, one project of Noods Radio hopefully is to **release artists' music, mixtape** or **live recording via cassette**. They believe this may be a project they can look to work together when they do eventually visit Indonesia.

Comics festival in the Philippines with UK collaboration

September 2020 is a busy month for the **KOMIKET team of Paolo Herras** (Philippines) as they present the first **Philippine International Comics Festival (PICOF)**. Initially slated as a live gathering of guests and speakers from everywhere, the digital festival happens digitally in four weekends. Komiket shares the UK comics scene and community through Julie Tait of Lakes International Comics Art Festival (LICAF) as she leads **a webinar** about her festival and gives a short **lecture** about UK's graphic novels and the comics creator community that the Lakes festival was able to build through the years. **KOMIKET also takes part in the digital 2020 festival of LICAF in October 2020 as one of its exhibitors**.