

Connections Through Culture UK-Southeast Asia 2021

Notes for Applicants

Connections Through Culture (CTC) was established in Southeast Asia (SEA) to provide grants to nationals of the **UK, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand,** and **Viet Nam** from the following groups:

- Artists, cultural professionals, and creative practitioners
- Art and cultural organisations, hubs, networks, and collectives.

We are delighted to announce that the 4th grant application is open from 6 August to 5 September 2021 and we look forward to receiving your proposals.

The primary objective of CTC is to support new connections, exchanges, and collaborations between the UK and Southeast Asia that build long-term relationships among artists, creative practitioners, and art and cultural organisations, hubs, networks, and collectives.

For 2021 (4th round) we added an additional grant category **Alumni Grants** aimed to provide additional support to past UK-SEA CTC grantees.

With global travel in 2021 still highly restricted and uncertain, the CTC grant should be used to develop new and strengthen existing relationships between the UK and Southeast Asia via online/digital means.

What are the available grants?

	UK-SEA Collaboration Grants	UK-SEA Alumni Grants (New!)
Value	Up to £8,000	Up to £2,000
Purpose	Support online/digital networking and collaboration between the UK and Southeast Asia to develop art and cultural projects together or facilitate skills and knowledge exchange.	Support previous CTC UK-SEA grantees to build on the online/digital collaborations from the previous grant projects. Activities can be follow-up activities, wrap up conversations, or exploration of new collaborative ideas.
Who can apply	Open to applicants who have not yet received a CTC UK-SEA grant.	Open to previous CTC UK-SEA grantees (2019 and 2020) who have completed their projects.

Minimum eligibility conditions

To be assessed, your application must meet the following conditions:

- a) A complete application (including project budget and timeline) should be received by **5 September 2021** in [Submittable application site](#).
 - **Viet Nam**-based applicants need to have budget proposals that include all applicable taxes for Viet Nam. We require you to submit clear supporting documents (i.e. quotations, VAT invoices, receipts) for project expenses following requirements by the Vietnamese Government.
- b) Each application must comprise of at least one (1) UK applicant and one (1) Southeast Asia applicant.
 - **Thailand**: Due to our office's foundation status in Thailand, grants can only be processed through the Thai partner (Lead Applicant or Counterpart Applicant) of the CTC UK-Thailand grants.
 - **Viet Nam**: We prefer the Lead Applicant to be Viet Nam-based.
- c) Organisations should be registered in the UK or in any of the six Southeast Asia countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam).
- d) Project proposal should have a timeline ending no later than **28 February 2022**.

What are the grants for?

- The grant should be used to support the processes and time to develop projects with artistic expression or creativity at the core and that will result in collaborative activities including artistic and creative exchange of either skills, knowledge, and practice or the co-production towards new artistic and creative content. Various approaches can be employed such as art residencies, exhibitions, performances and showcases, publications, webinars, and conferences.

Who is not eligible to apply?

- Not for academic institutions
- Not for funding bodies
- Not for organisational overheads and general running costs
- Not for Southeast Asian nationals living outside of Southeast Asia
- Not for UK individuals based/living outside of the United Kingdom unless temporarily living 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](#).

How will my application be assessed?

All applications will be evaluated by the British Council based on the following criteria and weighting.

Partnerships - The project proposal is mutually and equally benefitting both UK and SEA applicants.	25%
Management - The project proposal is well planned and resourced and demonstrates equitable use of the budget between the UK and Southeast Asia applicants.	25%
Relevance - The project proposal addresses equality, diversity, inclusion, or environmental sustainability.	25%
Quality - The project proposal is of a high artistic/creative quality and is innovative in its approach.	25%
Total	100%

CTC UK-Southeast Asia 2021 Grant Timeline

The application site will be open for four weeks from **6 August to 5 September 2021**. All applications must be done through the **Submittable site**.

Information Sessions happen per SEA country between **11-13** and **16-18 August 2021**. Applicants are invited to attend. Please check our country social media for final schedule.

Your application will be evaluated by British Council staff from the UK and Southeast Asia in September.

We will let all applicants know the outcome of their applications via email by **30 September 2021**.

Successful applicants will sign a British Council Grant agreement and share payment details for the transfer of the funds. Payment will be done in **October-November 2021**. There may be specific eligibility and payment conditions per country.

British Council will have an Orientation Session for Grantees, covering all requirements for grant project delivery, **October 2021. (Exact date to be confirmed.)**

As you deliver your grants, British Council staff will be in communication with you for support and progress updates.

As part of the grant agreement, you will be required to have a final public presentation with your wider audience/stakeholders.

The grant activity must be completed by **28 February 2022** and project end reports to be submitted by grantee.

Complete the [online application form here](#) and upload your CV(s), project timeline and budget, and letter(s) of support.

FAQs

Is travel permitted?

- Due to global travel restrictions, we anticipate that a large majority of the activities will need to take place online. Under this round, international travel and accommodation is not permitted. However, where national guidelines permit, face to face activities may be held and local travel may be covered.

Can an individual or organisation be part of more than one application?

- Yes. However if successful, only one grant per individual/organisation will be awarded.

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 managing the grant.

Can this be for a multi-country project? 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.

Can CTC be used to complement or supplement an existing project?

- Yes. The CTC grant may support new ideas, interventions, or processes for existing projects, and will be reviewed based on the four criteria set for this open call.

Can British Council support with additional funding?

- British Council will not be able to support with any additional funding. Please ensure that additional funding details (if any) are clearly mentioned in your proposal. Successful applicants are however encouraged to seek funding from other external sources.

Can project delivery by a grantee team be extended beyond 28 February 2022?

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- Ideally, we want you to finish the grant project by 28 February 2022, however we may consider extensions on a case by case basis.

What support can I expect?

- During the application period via the [Submittable application form](#), we welcome and encourage applications from candidates who require support workers (someone who supports you to be independent) 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. Please email us at ctc@britishcouncil.org to discuss alternative application formats.
- 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. If needed, applications should include access support in their budget.
- 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 of your project, or connecting you with those outside of your network.
- Please note that successful applicants will be required to report about their projects/activities using forms provided by the British Council. All grant notifications, disbursements, and evaluation will be done online.
- Grantees will also be asked to give a final public presentation at the end of the project, to be shaped during the delivery of the project.
- There will be a sharing session among grantees in March 2022. Details to be confirmed.

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 UK-Southeast Asia grant projects in 2019 and 2020

d/Deaf project between the UK and Malaysia

CTC 2019 Round 1 grant recipient Elaine Foster (UK-Malaysian performance artist and teacher) started collaborating in early 2020 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.

The collaboration was impactful through a series of online knowledge-sharing workshops and composing-designing a multimedia poem incorporating Bahasa Malaysia, Malaysian Sign Language, English, film and video, and a manual for teachers for Malaysian Sign Language using poetry. The project culminated in an online event called [The Poet is the Poem](#) promoting poetry in translation, Malaysian Sign Language and deaf culture, poetry education, deaf poetry/ arts, disability and access in the arts.

For other CTC UK-Malaysia projects, read [here](#) and [here](#).

Online archive of Contemporary Vietnamese Art

As a recipient of a CTC grant in 2019, Dr. Anh Tuan Nguyen (Vietnam) formed the back-end work for an online Vietnam Art Archive with the collaboration and support from UK art researchers and museum experts. He worked 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 will be formally publishing in 2021 the online archive of contemporary art. The first framework of the website will present a collection of videos from artists in Vietnam since the beginning of 1990s to 2020, and the second framework will feature works of more than 20 Vietnamese acclaimed artists.

For other CTC UK-Vietnam projects [browse the Vietnam page of the programme](#).

NOODS Radio UK x Indonesian crews

Leon Patrick of [Noods Radio](#) (Wales) hoped to travel to Indonesia as their plan in 2019 was to connect with Indonesian radio crews in the first quarter of 2020. Through a series of consultation with the British Council, the grant activities transformed into radio [guest shows](#) and [takeovers](#), including support to [regular and new residencies](#) of Indonesian radio talents. Some takeovers took place in September and October 2020 featuring UK and Indonesian crews. Radio guest shows by artists across Java already happened prior to September, while some Indonesia artists became online residents of Noods Radio.

Graphic designer and Domestik boss Ryan Putra also designed a t-shirt for Noods Radio shared at the end of September 2020 to coincide with the takeovers. Through the CTC grant, Leon's crew also did a live broadcast with the Bandung-based [Norrn Radio](#). Beyond

the CTC project, one goal is to hopefully release Indonesian artists' music, mixtape, or live recording via cassette, which will entail travel in the future.

For other CTC UK-Indonesia projects, [browse our CTC Indonesia page's sidebar](#).

Comics festival in the Philippines with UK collaboration

September 2020 was a busy month for the Philippines comics organisation KOMIKET led by Paolo Herras as they presented the first [Philippine International Comics Festival \(PICOF\)](#). Initially slated as a live gathering of guests and speakers from everywhere, the festival happened digitally in four weekends. Komiket shared the UK comics scene and community through Julie Tait of Lakes International Comics Art Festival (LICAF) as she led a [webinar](#) about her festival and gave a short lecture about UK's graphic novels and the comics creator community that the Lakes festival was able to build through the years. Conversely, KOMIKET also took part in the digital 2020 festival of LICAF in October 2020 as one of its exhibitors.

This CTC 2019 Round 2 project of Herras paved the way to continue the work among Philippine and UK comics mavens as KOMIKET was also accepted for the British Council's 2021 [Creative Commissions for the climate](#) grants, with counterparts from LICAF and Manchester-based Creative Concern. Titled *10 Years to Save the World*, the new digital comics anthology is for young adults tackling stories and action for climate change.

For other CTC UK-Philippines projects browse [here](#).

Performance solidarity between Nan and Belfast

As the pandemic continues on in 2021, a group led by Thai artist-activist Chumpon Apisuk with counterpart Northern Ireland artist Sinead O'Connell pushed for [Closer Distancing](#), a transitive project composed of live and recorded posts for four days in March 2021 capping into a 2-hour live stream of performance between the two places. After initial workshops and meeting online, Thai collaborators traveled locally to gather at the Asiatopia House in Nan in northern Thailand, activating the travel itself as a part of the streamed performance whilst in communication with a counterpart in New Zealand, and in Belfast (through support of Flax Art Studios). As a space for discourse and as an attempt to break performance art into the online space, the CTC 2020 grant equipped the team of artists their time and space (online and offline) to overcome the disruption caused by the pandemic.

For other CTC UK-Thailand projects [check the Thailand tab on this page](#).