Newton PhD Scholarships

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATIONS

April 2016
1. Background

The Newton Agham Programme is an integral component of the Newton Fund, which forms part of the UK Government’s official development assistance programme. The Newton Agham Programme will provide £3 million from 2016 to develop science and innovation partnerships that promote the economic development and social welfare of the Philippines. The British Council in the Philippines is working in partnership with the Government of the Philippines to deliver programmes under the Newton Agham Fund that benefit Filipino researchers.

The Newton Fund was launched in 2014 and originally consisted of £75 million each year for 5 years. In the 2015 UK Spending Review it was agreed to extend and expand the Fund. The Newton Fund was extended from 2019 to 2021 and expanded by doubling the £75 million investment to £150 million by 2021, leading to a £735 million UK investment to 2021, with partner countries providing matched resources within the Fund.

On behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills of the UK Government (BIS), the British Council and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) will co-fund the 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 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 Agham Programme goals.

The programme will be managed in partnership by British Council and the HE International Unit, together with the Commission on Higher Education. 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 **Foreign Scholarships for Graduate Studies for Faculty and Staff during the K to 12 Transition Period**, as detailed in section 5.

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

For the purpose of the Newton Agham Programme, 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, benefitting low income 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 Agham Programme 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

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1 As defined by the OECD DAC list of official development assistance (ODA) recipients ([http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm](http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm)).
creation of effective innovation systems and long term planning will be essential to encourage sustainable development.

5. Eligibility

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

- be a Filipino Citizen and must be in the first five years of their research career (measured from date when applicant obtained Master's degree);
- be a faculty or staff member of a Philippine higher education institution (HEI);
- have a Master's degree in a related field;
- be in good health, 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);
- pass all screening procedures, including formal acceptance to a PhD programme in a UK university; and
- fulfil all the Terms and Conditions of the grant, including a return service obligation.

The programme is jointly funded by the Newton Agham Programme and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and offers full-time PhD scholarships for Filipino researchers at a UK higher education institution from January 2017 until April 2020.

For full information on CHED eligibility and requirements, the CHED Guidelines for Foreign Scholarships is available at https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0J2HlB6odTaLWJmOGdCNW11VDQ/view.

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.

It is strongly advised that the applicant’s supervisor or other senior researcher at their home institution assists the applicant in the completion of the form in order to give them the best chance of succeeding with 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.

Additionally, the **International Unit is running a bespoke support service** aimed at assisting prospective PhD students at [http://www.international.ac.uk/programmes/current-opportunities/the-newton-fund/postgraduate-support-service.aspx?sm_au=\{iVVDPjWs707H0Rpj](http://www.international.ac.uk/programmes/current-opportunities/the-newton-fund/postgraduate-support-service.aspx?sm_au=\{iVVDPjWs707H0Rpj].

**All applicants should complete the form online** at the following link: [https://britishcouncil-cxobw.formstack.com/forms/application_form_phd_scholarships_phl_2016](https://britishcouncil-cxobw.formstack.com/forms/application_form_phd_scholarships_phl_2016) and upload the supporting documents.

The deadline for receipt of applications is at **16.00 GMT on 27th June 2016**. The announcement of the selection results will be made by **November 2016**.

### 7. Key dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Call opens</td>
<td>21 April 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submission deadline</td>
<td>24 June 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notification of outcome of selection process</td>
<td>November 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant agreements signed and grant released</td>
<td>December 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Start of PhD study</td>
<td>1 January 2017</td>
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### 8. Funding arrangements

The Commission on Higher Education 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 Agham Programme will cover the following costs:

- Tuition fees at the UK institution; and
- One-time grant for consumables and special needs costs (maximum of £3,000).

A guide to the amounts you can request per category is provided below. All amounts reflect the maximum that can be applied for.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home Country</th>
<th>Travel costs</th>
<th>Accommodation and subsistence</th>
<th>Maximum duration of PhD</th>
<th>Visa costs</th>
<th>Travel insurance costs</th>
<th>Consumable costs/Special needs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>£1,500</td>
<td>£1,200 per month</td>
<td>40 months</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
<td>£50 per month</td>
<td>£3,000 per year</td>
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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 Commission on Higher Education 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 CHED as detailed in the grant agreements.

11. Contact information

To learn more please contact:

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