Going Global Partnerships

Strengthening Commercialisation Skills (SCS) programme

September 2023

——

Grant call for Strengthening Commercialisation Skills (SCS) programme

Country: South Africa

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 Name: Strenghtening Commercialisation Skills (SCS) programme grant

Introduction

Against the backdrop of high unemployment rates, especially for young South Africans, universities in South Africa have an opportunity to contribute to economic growth and positively influence change in youth employment levels by preparing and equipping their students and graduates to develop businesses, services, and products. In addition to the translation of academic research outputs for the benefit of the wider society, the commercialisation of research presents a pathway to economic growth in South Africa e.g., through setting up new businesses, therefore providing employment opportunities which maximize the impact of research outputs.

In 2022, the British Council with the support of Universities South Africa's (USAf) Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE) programme and the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), launched the pilot phase of the Strengthening Commercialisation Skills (SCS) programme. The programme is a collaborative capacity strengthening initiative that was developed as a response to the recommendations from the report: 2020-2021 South Africa University Innovation Ecosystem Mapping commissioned by the EDHE programme, with support from the British Council.

The initiative aligns with the British Council's Innovation for African Universities (IAU) programme which focuses on fostering the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship within universities in Sub-Saharan Africa as part of the Going Global Partnerships programme. With the first cohort, the programme focussed on strengthening the capacity of academics, researchers and technology transfer managers to maximise the outputs from Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities. The ambition is to integrate Science Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) aspects in subsequent phases of the programme. The SCS programme has been co-designed and co-delivered through a partnership with Oxentia, the world leading technology transfer company of the University of Oxford. Started in 2004, Oxentia provides innovation management and technology commercialisation consultancy services as an operating division within Oxford University Innovation Ltd.

The long term aims of this project are to upskill academics and technology transfer professionals in the commercialisation of research outputs, and to raise awareness about the different possible pathways to generate impact from these disciplines, to increase research commercialisation outputs in the sector and unlock new opportunities for collaboration for both UK and SA universities.

Overview

During the implementation of the pilot phase of the SCS programme, specifically the *Exchange* component the outputs and insights were used to develop a set of guidelines for commercialisation of research outputs from Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (HASS) fields in South Africa. The commercialisation guidelines aim to support and facilitate capacity strengthening by providing an overview of how HASS research can be harnessed through commercialisation.

The SCS programme grant opportunity is designed to provide an opportunity for South African partners to lead and support the contextualisation and dissemination of the guidelines in the South African context, focusing on all public Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Under this call, grant funding will be awarded to a **consortium of South African HEIs** and/or sector bodies to support the British Council and its partners with the dissemination and contextualisation of the HASS commercialisation guidelines. This consortium will also be expected to provide recommendations for the design of the next phase of the SCS programme.

Scope

This grant opportunity is targeted at a **consortium of three partners**, a Lead institution, partner institution and associate/support institution/partner (for information on who qualifies as a lead, partner, or associate institution, please refer to the eligibility section).

The Lead applicant should be based at a South African HEI.

Grant activities will be organized around three components:

- Local contextualisation and initial dissemination of guidelines.
- Design of the second phase of the programme leveraging the learnings and recommendations from the first phase and ensuring that the design is aligned with the realities and challenges faced by South African universities.
- Advocacy activities focussing on South African HEI leaders to raise awareness and secure buy-in for support of HASS commercialisation.

Objectives

The objective of this grant is to:

- Ensure contextualisation of and collaborative engagement with SCS programme outputs.
- Incorporate the findings and insights into the design of subsequent phases to enhance institutional buy-in and support for HASS research commercialisation.
- Strengthen collaborations and engagements between South Africa and UK HEIs in the exchange of HASS commercialisation knowledge and skill.

Key outputs

Output 1: Contextualisation and dissemination activities targeting South African HEIs and partners (to be held between November 2023 and February 2024).

Output 2: Contributing to the design of the programme- provide input and produce actionable recommendations for the design of the HASS commercialisation programming to ensure that it is aligned with the realities and challenges faced by South African HEIs.

Output 3: Advocacy activities and collaborations with SA HEIs and partners (to be held between March and May 2024).

Desired Outcome

The grant opportunity is designed to facilitate the contextualisation and dissemination of HASS guidelines and learnings while strengthening UK - South Africa HEI connections and collaborations through sharing knowledge, expertise, and principles of best practice.

Eligibility criteria

Proposals must fulfil the following criteria to be eligible for funding under this call:

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	Y/N
Each proposal must have both: • one Lead institution from South Africa; • one partner institution from South Africa; and • one associate institution from the UK- the proposal should include details on how the preferred UK institution or agency can be included in an advisory or ad-hoc-support capacity	
The South Africa Lead institution must be one of the following: Public HEI	
Partner or support institutions from South Africa and/or the UK must be one of the following: • Public HEI • Consultancy, research institutions, organisations	
The Lead institution in South Africa must have the capacity to administer the grant and capacity must be outlined in the support letter.	
The partnership can include in their proposals associated partners (from both South Africa and the UK) affiliated with: • HEIs • Research institutions, establishments, and organisations • Other education organisations/charities/foundations/ relevant membership or national bodies • Not-for-profit organisations, including Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) • For-profit/commercial organisations, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs) • Branch and satellite campuses of UK Higher Education providers • Government organisations • Employer organisations and industry bodies • Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Social Enterprise organisations	
N.B. For-profit non-education organisations are not eligible to receive any grant funds, except to cover travel-associated costs.	

Please send an enquiry to Olipa.Ntawanga@britishcouncil.org 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

The SCS programme expects to support a consortium to implement the project for the value of a maximum £32,000 for a 6-month period, starting from November 2023.

Funds will be disbursed directly to the Lead Institution according to the approved final budget and milestones. Applicants may be asked to adjust their budget if their request does not fit within funding guidelines or if this is considered not appropriate by the application reviewers.

For an equitable partnership, the Lead Institution should be able to timely transfer funding to other institutions in partnerships for activities which support the objectives of the collaboration and the overall project, allowing activities to be implemented without delay.

Matching funding is encouraged but not a requirement.

Opportunity closes: 20 October 2023

Ethics

It is essential that all legal and professional codes of practice are followed in conducting work supported by this call. Applicants must ensure the proposed activity will be carried out to the highest standards of ethics and research integrity.

In the application form, applicants must clearly articulate how any potential ethical and health and safety issues have been considered and how they will be addressed, ensuring that all necessary ethical approval is in place before the project commences and all risks are minimised.

Please refer to the Research Council's UK 'Policy and Guidelines on Governance of Good Research' (https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/UKRI-050321-PolicyGuidelinesGovernanceOfGoodResearchConduct.pdf) , the Inter Academy Partnership report 'Doing Global Science: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in the Global Research Enterprise' (**http://www.interacademycouncil.net/24026/29429.aspx**) or contact us for further guidance.

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. Applicants may apply for additional funding to cover any specific requirements necessary to ensure full participation.

Please make additional costs in the 'human resources' section of the budget request within your application. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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

Gender Equality

To comply with the International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014, applications must outline how they have taken meaningful yet proportionate consideration as to how the project will contribute to reducing gender inequalities in the Gender Equality Statement section of the application form.

Gender Equality Statement

Applicants are required to consider the impact their project will have on gender and provide a gender statement. It should not be a re-statement of your Institution's policy; you may refer to the policy but should show how the policy will be implemented in terms of the project.

Below are the project aspects that can be taken into consideration for the gender statement but not limited to.

- Outputs
- Outcomes
- Make-up of the project team; participants, stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project
- Processes followed throughout the project.

The statement is part of the equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) assessment criterion in this call. The following questions should be answered when writing the statement.

- Have measures been put in place to ensure equal and meaningful opportunities for people of different genders to be involved throughout the project? This includes the development of the project, the participants of the research and innovation, and the beneficiaries of the activities.
- The expected impact of the project (benefits and losses) on people of different genders, both throughout the project and beyond.
- The impact on the relations between people of different genders and people of the same gender. For example, changing roles and responsibilities in households, society, economy, politics, power, etc.

- How will any risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality be avoided or mitigated against, and monitored?
- Are there any relevant outcomes and outputs being measured, with data disaggregated by age and gender (where disclosed)?

Not all questions will be applicable. If a question is not applicable, you will need to articulate the reasons why.

British Council reserve the right to reject the application if no consideration has been given to gender equality or if the proposal is assessed to result in a negative impact for gender equality.

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.

Please read the text to this effect on the application form and tick the box to show that you understand this.

Covid-19 guidance

Should COVID-19 impact global travel, we would advise that applicants consider and put in place, contingency plans for remote working and digital collaboration where possible, for example utilising video conferencing in place of face-to-face meetings.

The British Council's Global Information Security Policy has banned Zoom usage for the British Council and for contracted suppliers and grant award holders. The British Council recommends using Microsoft Teams to deliver virtual activities. Should you be successful in securing a grant, and if you require a Microsoft Teams license, you will need to discuss this with the British Council. Applicants who want to use other online tools or online platforms, must follow British Council

safeguarding and security protocols. Online tools or platforms other than Microsoft Teams must be discussed with the British Council and requests to use a different platform or tool would need to be approved for successful grant recipients.

Please consider flexible and technological solutions to progress activity for planned work where feasible.

British Council contractual requirements

- The contracting authority is the British Council which includes any subsidiary companies and other organisations that control or are controlled by the British Councilfrom time to time
  - (see: www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/structure/status).

- The Grant Agreement Holder for the partnership will be the Lead Institution

- The successful applicants will be expected to undertake activities in South Africa and in the UK (if applicable).

- The British Council is subject to the requirements of the UK Freedom of Information Act, ("FOIA"). Please indicate in your application whether FOIA also applies to your organisation, so that we can reflect this in the Grant Agreement should you be successful in your application.

- (Terms and Conditions of the Grant Agreement) ("Grant Agreement"). **By submitting a response to this call for applications, you are agreeing to be bound by the terms of these guidelines and the Grant Agreement without further negotiation or amendment.**

- In the event that you have any concerns or queries in relation to the Grant Agreement,you should submit a clarification request to Olipa.Ntawanga@britishcouncil.org in accordance with the provisions of this call for applications by the application deadline.The British Council reserves the right not to make any changes to the Grant Agreement.

- The British Council is under no obligation to consider any clarifications/amendments to the Grant Agreement requested following the application deadline.

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 our funding partners 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 SCS programme.

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 is the standard, after the project.

Annex 1 – Eligibility criteria checklist

The application has been submitted by the applicant by the published deadline.	
The application is completed in full.	
The application form and supporting documents have been completed in English.	
Lead institution is: • South African Higher Education Institution	
The applicants have included supporting letters, one from each of the Institutions, on headed paper, signed by the Head of Department, Deputy Vice Chancellor or other person with appropriate delegated authority, giving specific commitment to the project. Supporting letters must be in English, and not be signed by Lead Persons. As stated in these guidelines, email versions of letters are acceptable.	
Lead Persons must have the capacity to administer a grant and satisfy British Council requirements to prevent bribery, fraud and professional misconduct. Applicants confirm that they comply with British Council requirements by responding to Pre-submission Confirmation in the application form.	
Applicants have submitted a detailed budget request using the budget spreadsheet provided with the grant call documents on our funding call page.	
Applicants have submitted a CV for both Lead Persons at applying institutions.	
Where relevant, Associated Partner letters have been uploaded	

Human resource costs: Staff costs for personnel working directly on the grant funded project limited to 30% of the grant to be awarded.	
UK expertise costs: Limited to 20% of grant to be awarded.	
Travel costs: Limited to 20% of the grant.	