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28 MAY 2020

# UK-THAILAND NEWTON FUND GRANT CALLS 2020

**GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS**

# BRITISH COUNCIL: WHO WE ARE

- We are the UK's **international cultural relations organisation**, and have been around since 1934
- Our main purpose is to **create a friendly knowledge and understanding** between the people of the UK and other countries
- One of our charitable purposes is to: 'encourage cultural, scientific, technological and other educational cooperation between the United Kingdom and other countries'
- We do this through programmes like the **UK-Thailand Newton Fund**

# NEWTON FUND

*The Newton Fund builds research and innovation partnerships with 17 active partner countries to support their economic development and social welfare, and to develop their research and innovation capacity for long-term sustainable growth.*

*It has a total UK Government investment of £735 million up until 2021, with matched resources from the partner countries.*

*It is part of the UK's official development assistance (ODA)  
Managed through the UK Government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)*



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

MARIA CAMPBELL  
28 MAY 2020

# NEWTON FUND INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

# INSTITUTIONAL LINKS: THAILAND

- Grant call opened 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020
- Grant call closes 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020, 16:00hrs UK time
- There are 2 in-country funding partners:
  - **OPS:** Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation



กระทรวงการอุดมศึกษา วิทยาศาสตร์ วิจัยและนวัตกรรม  
Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation

- **NRCT:** National Research Council of Thailand



# INSTITUTIONAL LINKS: THAILAND

- For best fit to the local context and development needs, priority areas, specific innovation challenges and additional application requirements have been set at a country level through discussion with national stakeholders. **Please refer to Appendix 1 for country specific guidance before you prepare your proposal.** Proposals which do not follow the country specific guidance cannot be considered for funding.



# INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

## APPLICATION GUIDELINES

- Application Guidelines include what is eligible and what is not, what funding is available and how we will screen and select applications.
- Appendix 1 gives the Thailand specific data including
  - duration of grants
  - size of grant
  - thematic priority areas
  - contractual arrangements
  - Additional eligibility criteria
  - Other considerations
- Successful projects will be for 12 months, starting **17 February 2021**
- The British Council contracts with UK Institutions with a Grant Agreement and grants are paid in 3 instalments at a ratio of **80:10:10**.

# INSTITUTIONAL LINKS: THAILAND PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

- Newton Fund Institutional Links grants provide small scale seed funding for collaborations between the UK and the participating Newton Fund countries in each call to:
  - Initiate new research and innovation collaborations between academic groups, departments, and institutions in partner countries and the UK
  - Develop existing collaborations at group, departmental, and institutional level
  - Encourage these collaborations to work with non-academic organisations and individuals to support the exchange of research and innovation expertise and the translation of research knowledge into tangible benefits
  - Establish local hubs for UK--partner country activity in a particular area, enabling engagement from the wider research and innovation community.



# INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

## SCOPE OF THE PROGRAMME (1)

- Grants under the Newton Fund Institutional Links programme allow partners to collaborate internationally, and gain access to new research environments, facilities, knowledge, and expertise, in order to enhance the quality of their research and enable them to translate research and innovation into economic and societal benefit.
- All research and innovation collaborations funded by this programme will:
- **Establish new research and innovation links, or significantly develop existing links, between research groups, departments or institutions with the potential for longer term sustainability.** A key aim of the collaboration will be to support research and innovation capacity building in the partner institution, as well as to stimulate longer term links between the UK and partner countries for research and innovation. We encourage applicants to use this as an opportunity also to engage with the commercial and not-for-profit sectors.

# INSTITUTIONAL LINKS

## SCOPE OF THE PROGRAMME (2)

- **Focus on topics or themes which have relevance to the economic development and welfare of the partner country.** Institutional Links grants are intended to support areas relevant to the economic development and social welfare of partner countries. Before preparing your proposal, please see section 4 for a definition of development relevant research and Appendix 1 for additional priority or challenge areas for individual countries.
- Wherever possible, Institutional Links collaborations should demonstrate how they will benefit the wider research and innovation community in the partner country.

# RELEVANT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SOCIAL WELFARE

- The one area, more than any other, that results in projects not being eligible for funding is Official Development Assistance (ODA)
- My colleague Stephanie Renforth will speak on this in a moment, as well as gender statements



**T**o assist donors to report their ODA, the statistical reporting directives include a List of multilateral agencies and international NGOs, contributions to which in whole or part, may be reported as ODA. The List is revised annually by the DAC Working Party on Statistics (WP-STAT). Proposals for changes to the List may be made by DAC members, or in exceptional cases, by the DAC Secretariat. The DAC Secretariat reviews the proposals and makes recommendations for decision by the Working Party. In the case of a negative decision, a five-year moratorium applies before the agency can be reconsidered.

This note outlines the general methodology to be used by the DAC Secretariat in examining the ODA-eligibility of an international agency. It was approved by the DAC Working Party on Statistics at its meeting on 2-3 May 2009. It also

# MATCH-MAKING SERVICE

Universities UK International (UUKi) offers a partner matching service to help connect Newton Fund partner country researchers to potential UK collaborators.

Complete the partner request form online:

<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/International/funding-and-opportunities/newton/Pages/finding-a-collaborator-form.aspx>



# INSTITUTIONAL LINKS SUBMISSION PROCESS

- The submission deadline is 12 June 4pm, UK time
- The deadline applies to **all parts** of your application, including upload of fully completed supporting documentation.
- Applicants must submit a completed online application form via the British Council online application system. **Submissions by email will not be accepted.**

# GRANTS ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Funding and priority areas negotiated with in-country funding partners



Call opens



Call closed and eligibility checks completed (including separate ODA check)



Applications reviewed



Panel (produced a ranked list – ODA relevance considered in the ranking)



Joint panel with in-country partners (may re-prioritise high quality applications)

**MARTA TEDROS**  
28 MAY 2020

# **NEWTON FUND IMPACT SCHEME**

**GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS**

# WHAT IS NFIS?



- The Newton Fund Impact Scheme (NFIS) provides funding for current and previously funded Newton Fund grantees aiming to maximise the impact from Newton Fund activities. In Thailand NFIS is co-funded by NRCT.
- A collaboration between British Council and UKRI, delivered by the British Council on behalf of all UK delivery partners
- Expect applications to be stimulating/broadening impact from previous project, not a continuation of previous project.
- Expect impact to be initiating/increasing policy impacts or user engagement or engagement with impact multipliers e.g. businesses.

UK Research  
and Innovation





# NEWTON FUND IMPACT SCHEME (NFIS)



- Call date: 20 April – 15 June 2020 (16.00 hrs UK time)
- Local partner: NRCT
- Project size : Up to £ 200,000 (UK grant is 80% of FEC)
- Duration: 1 year
- Expanding and unlocking further impact

# WHO CAN APPLY?

- Each proposal must have one Project leader from the UK and one Project leader from the partner country.
- Could build on the original partnership or form a new partnership but one element e.g. Project Leader, Co-Leader, or the home institution must be the same as previous project. Please see guidance for more info.
- Previous projects awarded by all UK Delivery Partners are eligible, except the Met Office. UK DPs have provided a list of eligible calls which has been included in the Guidelines for Applicants.

# WHO CAN APPLY?

Change of	Change To	Permitted	Documents required
Original UK Project Leader	New UK Project Leader or UK Co-Leader* of previous project	Yes -if only change	Letter of support from previous UK Project Leader
Original Partner country project Leader	New Partner country project Leader or Partner country project co-Leader*	Yes -if only change	Letter of support from previous Partner Project Leader
Original UK Organisation	New UK Organisation	Yes	Letter of support from previous UK Organisation
Partner country organisation	New Partner country organisation	Yes	Letter of support from previous Partner Organisation
Both project leaders	Co-Leaders on previous project*	Yes	Letters of support from both previous project leaders
Both organisations	New organisations	Yes – as long as at least one previous project leader/Co-Leader involved	Letters of support from previous organisations (and project leaders if necessary – see above)
Both project leaders	New project leader not previously involved in the project	No	

# WHAT IS THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS?

- **Eligibility check**
- **Appeals process** - applicants might appeal if minor changes to documents are required (missing signatures; technical issues, etc.)
- **Peer Review-** Reviewers will be experts in their field. They will consider: potential to impact realisation, including capacity building, quality, fit to development needs, country priorities and sustainability.
- **Thematic panels-** Panellists will assess the quality and impact of the proposals based on the expert peer review. Applications will go to one of 5 panels based on their thematic area.
- **Tensioning panel-** To ensure that the criteria and scoring have been applied consistently across all thematic panels
- **In- Country Moderation panels** – Funding decision is made

# TIMELINE

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Call open	20 Apr – 15 Jun											
Eligibility												
Assessment												
Selection												
Announce												
Agreement												
Funding												
Briefing												
Start date											17 Feb or 1Mar	

# THINGS TO BEAR IN MIND

- Don't assume the proposal will be considered ODA eligible solely based on eligibility of previous project
- Gender equality statement – Please think about the impact of the project on gender equality and not only about the make up of the project team
- Don't assume reviewers and panellists have pre-existing knowledge of the challenges the proposal aims to tackle or of the project this builds on. Applicants need to present a strong case on the impact of their proposed project and should consider this a new project proposal
- Please read the Guidelines for applicants and familiarise with NFIS call eligibility and quality criteria as well as with national priorities for Thailand

STEPHANIE RENFORTH  
28 MAY 2020

# ODA PLAUSIBLE ROUTE TO IMPACT GENDER STATEMENT STRONG PROPOSALS

# WHAT IS ODA?

Official Development Assistance is officially recorded aid and is the mechanism through which governments can officially record their spend on development

It is recorded with the **OECD** (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) and managed by the DAC (Development Assistance Committee)



All delivering institutions are responsible for demonstrating eligibility

- *Reputational risk to British Council, BEIS, DFID, UK Government...*
- *National Audit Office – audits UK delivery on Value for Money for reaching 0.7% GNI*
- *ICAI – reviews all non-DFID departments, reports to the International Development Committee*



# MUTUALITY: GLOBAL COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPMENT

Partnerships towards the SDGs – Can you link your work to the SDGs?



# PLAUSIBLE ROUTE TO IMPACT

We look for a plausible route to impact. We define the route to impact as a clearly articulated and plausible link between the project deliverables and individuals, bodies or communities that will benefit from them.

For British Council Newton Fund Calls, we ask for impact that supports economic performance and social welfare that specifically benefits low income or vulnerable members of society.

- Reasonable time frame (within ten years).
- The scale of the suggested impact is an important consideration and is taken into account during the peer review.
- In some disciplines, the route to impact can be longer-term and less direct than in other areas and may include societal impacts.
- Applicants shouldn't rely on the reviewer making assumptions that are not clearly articulated.

# FURTHER READING

BEIS “Is my project ODA compliant?”

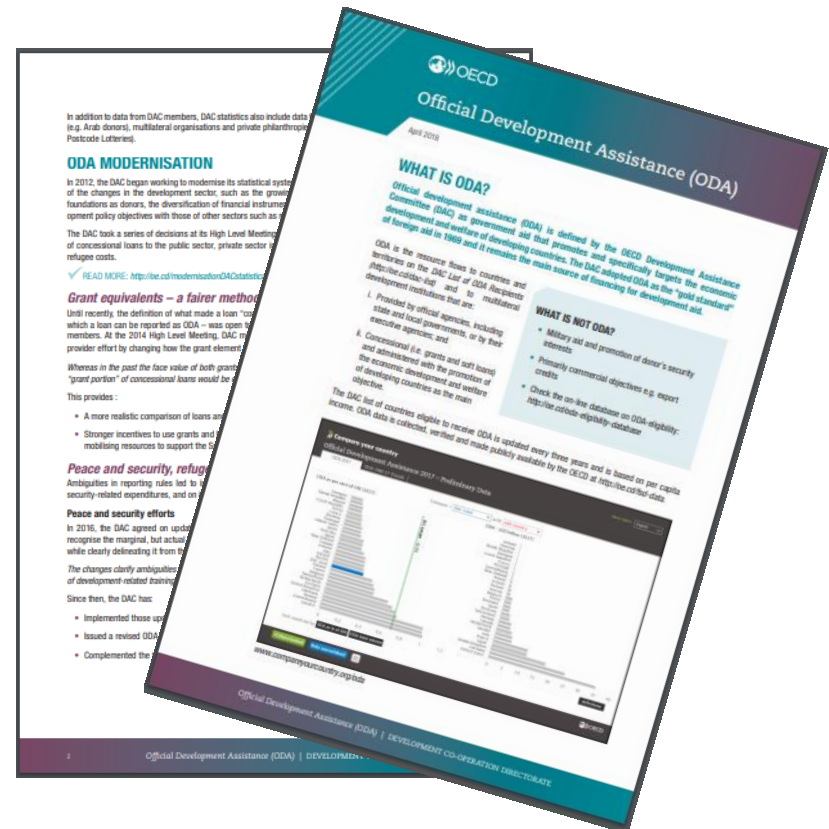
<http://www.newtonfund.ac.uk/about/what-is-oda/>

OECD “Official development assistance – definition and coverage”

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/officialdevelopmentassistance/definitionandcoverage.htm>

OECD “What is ODA?”

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/What-is-ODA.pdf>



# GENDER EQUALITY STATEMENTS

- Applicants are required to consider **the impact their project will have on gender.**
- This should be about the project specifically – the outputs and outcomes; the make-up of the project team; participants, stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project; and the processes followed throughout the research programme.
- 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.
- The Gender Statement must address 5 criteria provided in the application form, with an understanding that, depending on the nature of the research and innovation, not all questions will be applicable.
- If a question is not applicable, you will need to articulate the reasons why.

# UKRI WEBINAR



## Gender is one of many factors

- Women and men are not homogenous categories, but differentiated by intersecting identities of age, education, ethnicity, class, location, marital status, sexuality...
- Gender and other socio-cultural factors influence how people are affected by and experience global challenges such as climate change or food insecurity, and how they respond.
- Many analyses, policies and plans stop at sex-disaggregated data or considerations. To address the underlying causes of women's vulnerability and promote more effective adaptation responses, we need to consider not just the interaction of many other interacting factors, but also the changes over time and space (through the life-course and across institutions).



UK Research and Innovation



Watch a recorded webinar on Gender Equality and International Development Research and Innovation on the UK Research & Innovation website:

<https://www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/gender-equality-and-international-development-research-and-innovation/>

# TIPS FOR A STRONG PROPOSAL

## Try to view your proposal from the perspective of the reviewer

We use senior academics, who have a high level of expertise, but who are also very busy and have a lot of proposals to get through. Reviewers may also have to assess proposals that are closer or further away from their own area of expertise.

- **Make the idea behind the proposal easy to understand**
- **Use a clear structure for the main argument (bullet points?)**
- **Summarise the key ideas prior to elaboration where necessary**
- **Avoid unnecessary jargon**
- **Avoid grand/unfeasible claims**

## Work closely with your partner to develop a strong joint proposal

- **Pay attention to your respective strengths**
- **Think imaginatively about your respective roles**
- **Be open about the benefits to your group/organisation/nation**