
**NEWTON FUND RESEARCHER LINKS TRAVEL GRANT
GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS
APRIL 2020 VERSION 1**

Overview of Change(s) From Previous Version:

Change	Page in version	Page in version

Countries included in this call are:

South Africa

Call opens: 20 April 2020

Call closes: 12 June 2020, 16:00hrs UK time

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1. Background

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.

The Newton Fund is managed by the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), and delivered through 7 UK delivery partners, which includes UK Research and Innovation (comprising the 7 research councils and Innovate UK), the UK Academies, the British Council and the Met Office.

For further information visit the Newton Fund website (www.newtonfund.ac.uk) and follow via Twitter: [@NewtonFund](https://twitter.com/NewtonFund)

Tackling global challenges – such as extreme weather conditions, urbanisation, access to affordable health care, food and energy security, and meeting the social and economic needs of a growing population – requires an integrated research and innovation approach, bringing together communities from different disciplines, sectors, and countries in high-quality collaborations.

Newton Fund Researcher Links Travel Grants provide financial support for early career researchers in a Newton Fund partner country to visit an institution in the UK or vice versa.

2. Overview of the funding opportunity

Researcher Links Travel Grants are designed to enhance and strengthen links for future collaboration, build research capacity in developing economies and enhance the researchers' career opportunities. In most countries, the call is open to early career researchers meeting the requirements listed below, including, but not limited to, previous participants in Researcher Links workshops. The permitted duration of the visit depends on the country of origin and country of destination. The programme is supported by UK government and partner country funding and forms part of the Newton Fund.

Useful links can be found at:

- *Researcher Links: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/researcher-links>*
- *Newton Fund: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/newton>.*

Proposals may be for visits for research in any discipline listed in section 4 below, from the natural sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities, unless specified otherwise for individual countries.

Please see Appendix 1 for country specific guidance.

In the April 2020 call, we are inviting proposals for Researcher Links Travel Grants for travel to or from the following partner countries and UK:

- South Africa

3. Scope of the programme

All Newton Fund Researcher Links Travel Grants have the following three overarching objectives:

- **Support international development-relevant research** – Travel Grants are intended to support research areas relevant to the economic development and social welfare of partner countries.
- **Contribute to capacity building of early career researchers** – The proposal should include a description of the capacity building potential of the project (both for the individual applicant, and other potential beneficiaries), and the longer term impact that the project could achieve.
- **Establish new research links or develop existing links** – Travel Grants are intended to either support new links, or to develop existing links with the potential for longer term sustainability. Applications to return to the research group where the applicant carried out their PhD research or have previously taught will only be considered if they clearly demonstrate the latter.

In their proposal applicants must include:

- the specific outputs anticipated from the visit
- an explanation of the benefit to researchers involved and their institutions
- exploration of any potential longer term benefit that might arise, thinking about who might benefit and how, and describing the actions that will be taken to ensure that potential impact is realised.
- a clear description of how the individuals and research groups involved intend to sustain their collaboration.

Travel grants are not intended to cover travel costs for a conference abroad, or to fund travel as part of PhD studies.

4. Relevance to economic development and social welfare (Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligibility)

For the purpose of the Newton Fund Researcher Links programme, we define activities leading to impact with development relevance as activities that have the potential to contribute to the economic development and social welfare of low and middle income countries¹, benefitting low income and/or vulnerable populations in these countries.

In order to be considered for funding under the Researcher Links programme, **all proposals must clearly demonstrate a primary focus on development and articulate a plausible route to positive impact within a short to medium term timeframe (within 10 years). Applications which do not meet this criterion cannot receive support under the Researcher Links programme.**

In some disciplines, development relevance can be longer term and less direct than in other areas. In all cases, it is the responsibility of the applicant to articulate within the application how the proposed activities will meet these criteria.

For more on our approach to ODA, please see:

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

Applicants must complete the ODA compliance section of the application form and should not expect reviewers to make assumptions about development impact that is not clearly described within the proposal.

¹ As defined by the OECD DAC list of official development assistance (ODA) recipients (<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm>).

Failure to demonstrate ODA eligibility will render your application ineligible regardless of other success criteria. A strong case for your proposal must be made.

In order to show development relevance within the context of their proposed project, applicants are advised to include within their application reference to any local or national consultation, links to government policies, and existing links with government institutions and must clearly articulate the importance to relevant in-country challenges.

Agreements for ownership and exploitation of intellectual property generated through project activities must be consistent with the primary aim of addressing development issues.

ODA transparency and reporting

As part of the government's commitment to ODA transparency and in line with DfID ODA reporting requirements, there is a requirement to publish information about ODA grants including project titles and summaries via the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) registry and via DFID's national statistics.

The purpose of publishing information via the IATI registry is to make information about ODA easily accessible to governments, stakeholders and other relevant groups in beneficiary countries. All funded projects from this programme will be published in this way. Please therefore write your project title and summary in such a way that they are meaningful and accessible to non-specialist audiences, following publication.

It is expected that the project title and summary are written in plain English and avoid the use of jargon, acronyms, puns and plays on words. **Please also make clear in your project title and summary how your project is ODA-compliant**, for example by identifying the development challenge(s) being addressed, the aims of the project and the beneficiary countries.

5. Gender Equality Statement

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.

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 the below criteria**, 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.**

- 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 research and innovation.
- 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)?

UKRI provide useful guidance on Gender Equality Statements for their grant applications. You can find this at: <https://www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/gender-equality-and-international-development-research-and-innovation/>

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.

6. Eligibility

Applicants must be based either in the UK, or in one of the partner countries listed in Appendix 1, and must be an employee affiliated with a recognised publicly funded research establishment or public or private Higher Education Institution. **For-profit organisations are not eligible to receive any grant funds.** Please see a list of eligible UK research institutions at:

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/current-opportunities/newton-fund-researcher-links-travel-grants> In most cases, applicants must be early career researchers. For the purpose of this call, we define 'early career researcher' as being at the level of 'R2 – Recognised Researcher' or at the very beginning of R3 level as specified in the European Commission's "Towards a European framework for Research Careers"

https://cdn5.euraxess.org/sites/default/files/policy_library/towards_a_european_framework_for_research_careers_final.pdf

We would expect early career researchers to be at the beginning of their research careers and to have been awarded their PhD not more than 10 years prior to applying for the Travel Grants, but allowances can be made for career breaks or other extenuating circumstances. If a researcher does not hold a PhD, but has research experience equivalent to a PhD holder and works in a field where a PhD is not a prerequisite for established research activity, they will still be considered eligible. Please see Appendix 1 for country-specific exceptions.

If a researcher obtained their PhD within the past ten years but holds a senior position they may be considered a Senior Researcher and therefore not eligible.

Lead applicants on Institutional Links are not eligible for Travel Grants.

A supporting letter must be provided to confirm that the applicant will return to their home institution in a research capacity for at least six months after the end of the visit.

Applicants can be of any nationality, but they must be able to secure a visa for the country which they plan to visit (please see Appendix 1 for exceptions).

Travel may only be between the UK and partner country, but can be in either direction (please see Appendix 1 for exceptions).

Individuals who have participated in Researcher Links Workshops are eligible and are welcome to apply for a Travel Grant to build on any research links made at the workshop.

Individual applicants who have previously received a Researcher Links Travel Grant are not eligible.

Only one application may be submitted per researcher. Duplicate applications are ineligible, even if they are to different countries.

Travel must take place between 01 February 2021 and 31 January 2022.

7. Funding

Applicants must provide a budget request with their proposal.

The Travel Grant is calculated using five flat rate categories: Travel, Visa, Insurance, Subsistence, Consumables.

Additional support based on direct costs can be requested to contribute towards extra costs of the visit associated with childcare or special needs. These will be approved on a case by case basis.

Please see Appendix 4 for maximum amounts that can be requested in each budget category for each country and for details on financial reporting.

The flat rates are designed to make funding easier to manage. Successful applicants will be able to use underspend under one budget category to cover the costs under a different category, (e.g. any underspend on the budget to cover the travel can be used to cover other costs for subsistence), providing the total budget is not exceeded.

Please note that although the grant contribution will be calculated using flat rate contributions, researchers and their institutions will be asked to keep and submit receipts and invoices to demonstrate their spend until 31 December 2029.

Full checks of supporting documentation will be carried out on a proportion of the grants.

Further monitoring and evaluation will also be carried out, to be specified in the Grant Agreement.

Please also note that the final value of the award will be specified in the Grant Agreement. The British Council and partner funders will not increase the value of an award at a later stage.

Travel: travel costs for the researcher travelling to the country where the visit takes place. This also covers costs for luggage and travel insurance as well as local transport on the day of travel. International (economy return) airfares should be booked as far in advance as possible to minimise costs.

Visas: costs for visas. Information on UK entry regulations for the visiting researcher can be found on the UKVI website: <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>.

Insurance: successful applicants must take out adequate insurance as the British Council cannot take responsibility for any problems which may occur during the visit. Successful applicants accept full responsibility for all aspects of the visit and take out insurance for any risks associated with taking part in travelling abroad, including all unexpected and uncontrollable events. The British Council will not be liable for the consequences of any such risks or any costs incurred.

Subsistence: costs for accommodation and other daily expenses for the visiting researcher such as phone and local transport. Subsistence is calculated using unit costs for each week (1 month is intended as 4 weeks), and is specific to the country of destination.

Consumables: a small amount can be requested to cover consumables. Above this amount, it is expected that the receiving laboratory or department will provide any additional resources.

Equal opportunities and diversity: The British Council is committed to equal opportunities and diversity and will consider, on a case by case basis, requests for support to encourage under-represented groups to engage in Researcher Links activity, so long as sufficient justification is provided.

Successful applicants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. The British Council cannot give advice on visas or insurance.

Payment of the grant

The British Council will usually sign the Grant Agreement with the successful applicant's home institution. The home institution then receives the grant payments and disburses the funds to the researcher. There may be exceptions to this in some countries.

Payments will be processed in two instalments:

- **Pre-financing payment:** a 90% pre financing payment will be paid within 30 days of signature by both parties of the Grant Agreement.
- **Post-visit payment or recovery of the balance:** 10% payment, or a recovery, on approval by the British Council of the final report submitted by the applicant. If the visit has not taken place, or if the duration is shorter than planned, resulting in a reduction in costs, the final payment may be withheld and if necessary the entire grant, or a proportion of it, recovered.

Successful applicants must submit a final report based on actual expenditure within 30 days of their visit as a condition of the grant. A final report template will be sent to successful applicants and will include a financial and a narrative part.

As the Newton Fund Researcher Links Travel Grant is calculated using flat rates, in most of the countries, successful applicants will not need to submit detailed receipts for each category of expenditure but only proof that the visit took place, (e.g. boarding cards, proof of insurance, visa, accommodation) and a signed certificate of attendance from the host institution. However, please see Appendix 1 for details on reporting requirements for individual countries.

If there is insufficient evidence in the final report that the visit took place as proposed in the application, then additional information may be requested prior to the final payment, or any underspend of the grant may need to be returned to the British Council.

Different reporting rules may apply where visits are fully or partially funded by in-country partner organisations

Underspend

In cases where beneficiaries have spent less than the budget awarded, underspend cannot be used for further research activity unless agreed by the British Council. Requests to utilise underspend should be sent to UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org with a letter of support from the host institution before additional expenditure occurs. Please note that you cannot request to repurpose the final 10% of the Grant where it is unspent at the time of preparing your final report. Requests to repurpose funding should be emailed along with your Final Report submission to UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org before the deadline of 31 January 2022.

8. Ethics and research governance

It is essential that all legal and professional codes of practice are followed in conducting work supported under this Programme. Applicants must ensure the proposed activity will be carried out to the highest standards of ethics and research integrity. Specifically, applications that involve research on animals, human participants, human tissue or patient/participant data must be accompanied by necessary permission certificates from the relevant local ethical review committees/authorities in the UK and the partner country, or an undertaking to obtain this permission in advance of the activity commencing. Failure to do so will result in applications being rendered ineligible and any funding already committed through this Programme being rescinded.

Please refer to the Research Councils UK 'Policy and Guidelines on Governance of Good Research Conduct' (<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/Publications/researchers/grc/>), the InterAcademy 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 at UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org for further guidance.

9. Diversity

The British Council is committed to equal opportunities and diversity in all our activities. This includes avoidance of bias due to gender, disability, racial or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or religious belief.

The British Council encourages applications from people from under-represented groups. Applicants may apply for funding to cover extra costs for such participation, (e.g. childcare costs, costs of support for those with disabilities).

Please include requests for such support in the budget submitted with your application.

Please contact us at UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org for further information on funding, and for more on the British Council's approach, see our Equality Policy at: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/transparency/policies/equality-diversity-inclusion>

10. Submission process

The submission deadline is **16:00hrs UK time on 12 June 2020**. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered for funding.

The deadline applies to all parts of your application, including upload of fully completed supporting documentation. Any applications which are not submitted *in full* by the deadline, with all required supporting documents, will be considered *ineligible*. Appeals against this decision will not be accepted.

Applicants **must** submit a completed **online** application form via the British Council system. Email submissions will not be accepted. The online form and a Word version can be found on the opportunity webpage:

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/current-opportunities/newton-fund-researcher-links-travel-grants>

The online application form is available [here](#).

(<https://apply.gmt.britishcouncil.org/outreach/workbench.ofml>).

To commence your online application you will be required to register as a new user or if you registered in a previous call, simply log into your existing account with your login and password.

As a new registrant, please refer to our Step by Step Guide

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/current-opportunities/newton-fund-researcher-links-travel-grants> You will receive a password enabling you to log on to the application system.

There are British Council application forms for several different programmes available.

Please ensure you select “**Apply for Researcher Links Travel Grant 2020**”. (The system will only allow you to select one application so it is very important to select the correct application at this time).

Submissions by email will **not** be accepted. The online form allows applicants to enter information and save it for a later date until final submission. There are strict character limits for each section which cannot be exceeded. Any problems with the online system should be reported before the application deadline to: UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org.

In addition to filling in the online form, applicants are required to upload the following documents, by the deadline. Late submission of supporting documents, or submission of documents which do not comply with these requirements, will render the application ineligible. The documents are:

1. **A statement of support from the Head of Department (or equivalent) of your current home institution.** This should include:
 - how your institution will help you prepare for the visit

- arrangements for support during your visit
- how your institution will support you in sustaining the link
- confirmation that your home institution is willing to sign the grant agreement and be responsible for managing the funds awarded to the successful applicant
- confirmation that the applicant will return to their home institution in a research capacity for at least six months after the end of the visit.

The statement must consist of approximately 400-500 words and be written either on headed paper and signed (Word or pdf format) or in a formal email (pdf format), and has to be attached and submitted online together with the application form.

2. **A statement of invitation from the Head of Department (or equivalent) of the host institution where the visit will take place.** This should include:

- information on how the host institution will help the applicant prepare for the visit
- arrangements for support during the visit (waiving of bench fees, support for finding accommodation and any language training needed, induction to the institution, etc.)
- support to the research, including how the researcher will be integrated into the research group

The statement must consist of approximately 400-500 words and be written either on headed paper and signed (Word or pdf format) or in a formal email (pdf format), and has to be submitted online together with the application form.

The statements of support from the two Heads of Department should also include comments on the following questions:

- Why is the research important, especially with respect to its potential for international development impact?
- Why do you want to make contact with this institution?
- How will the link be sustained?

Before the completed application form can be submitted to the system, applicants will be asked to confirm in the online form that they have complied with British Council policies on prevention of fraud, bribery, money laundering and addressed any other financial and reputational risk that may affect a transparent and fair grant award process. See:

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/transparency/policies/anti-fraud-and-corruption>

Important: Once you submit, you will be able to edit your application up until the deadline (email UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org to request for your application to be reinstated). However, after the deadline you will not be able to edit your application in any way and you will not be permitted to create a second application. Please also be advised that the UK Researcher Links Team do not have permission to make changes to your application.

Once the online application is submitted, applicants will receive a confirmation email containing the application reference ID number and a pdf copy of the application and supporting documents. This acts as acknowledgement of receipt by the British Council system. This reference number must be used in all communications with the British Council. Applicants who have not received an automated email confirmation should contact the British Council at UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org.

11. Selection process

Selection begins with an eligibility check by the British Council against the eligibility criteria given in these Guidelines, including Appendix 1 and the Eligibility Checklist at Appendix 2.

Eligible proposals then undergo independent external quality review on the basis of quality, fit to development needs and country priorities and the overarching Researcher Links objectives.

Eligible applications will be assessed in the UK by one of five Review Panels:

- **Biological and Medical Sciences**
- **Environment, Agriculture and Food Sciences**
- **Engineering and Physical Sciences**
- **Social Sciences**
- **Arts and Humanities**

Applicants must indicate in their online application form which Review Panel their application should be assessed by, and the subject(s) their research covers. Up to three (3) subject areas can be selected in priority order, but the applicant must indicate only one Review Panel.

Proposals are assessed by two reviewers against the criteria at Appendix 3. The Review Panel then gives each application a final score from 0 to 60 and ranks them. Those receiving a final score from the Panel meeting of less than 30 will be considered not fundable. However, please note that achieving an average score equal to or above the threshold does not mean that the proposal will be funded.

The final selection decision will be made in-country in collaboration with national stakeholders and partner funding organisations. Country-specific priorities and challenge areas will be considered in the final decision, in addition to the general assessment criteria under this Programme. Please see Appendix 1 for priority and challenge areas by country.

Notification of results

Applicants whose application is rejected at the eligibility stage may have 1 week to appeal against the decision. Successful applicants will be notified approximately 4 months after the call deadline.

12. Data protection

How we use your information

The British Council will use the information that you provide for the purposes of processing your application, making any awards, monitoring and review of any grants.

We may share all application data with UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), the Academy of Medical Sciences, the British Academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Royal Society and with our funding partners in the partner country in order to assist with management of the application process. We will share anonymised aggregated information with the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). Any decisions on successful grants will be made in collaboration with them.

The British Council comply with the General Data Protection Regulations 2016/679 (EU) GDPR). We process and handle personal information according to these regulations. The personal information that you provide on this form will only be used for the processing of your application. The information will be viewed by British Council and those who are part of the decision-making process. Your information will not be used/shared beyond the partners listed above for any other purpose without your specific consent. British Council reserve the right to publish and share anonymized 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 the Data Protection Team inforgovernance@britishcouncil.org or see our website: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/privacy-cookies/data-protection>

13. 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 nor any of the applicant's employees, partners, directors, shareholders is 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
- 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 grant call.

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.

14. 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 Council from time to time (see: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/structure/status>).
- The successful applicants will be expected to undertake activities in the UK and in the Newton Fund countries listed in section 2 of the guidelines.
- 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.
- The British Council's contractual approach in respect of the grant (Terms and Conditions of the Grant Agreement) ("Grant Agreement") is set here: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/current-opportunities/newton-fund-researcher-links-travel-grants>

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 UK-ResearcherLinks@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.

15. Find a UK collaborator for your Newton Fund application

Prospective applicants to an open Newton Fund call should note that [Universities UK International](#) (UUKi) offers a partner matching service to help connect Newton Fund partner country researchers to potential UK collaborators. Applicants in Newton Fund partner countries wishing to use this service should complete UUKi's [Partner Request Form](#), ideally as soon as possible after the launch of the call and at least four weeks ahead of the call deadline.

UUKi is then able to suggest UK researchers or research groups which have similar research interests and expertise, and may therefore be interested in collaborating. Partnership requests will also be included on UUKi's [Opportunities for Collaboration webpage](#).

APPENDIX 1: COUNTRY-SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

In addition to the guidance given in the main body of this document, further conditions may apply to individual participating countries. These are specified in the table below. **Please refer to this appendix for more information before developing your proposal.**

Note on the definition of early career researchers: For the purpose of this call, we define 'early career researcher' as being at the level of 'R2 – Recognised Researcher' or at the very beginning of R3 level as specified in the European Commission's "Towards a European framework for Research Careers"

https://cdn5.euraxess.org/sites/default/files/policy_library/towards_a_european_framework_for_research_careers_final.pdf

We would expect early career researchers to be at the beginning of their research careers and to have been awarded their PhD not more than 10 years prior to applying for the Travel Grants, but allowances can be made for career breaks or other extenuating circumstances. If a researcher does not hold a PhD, but has research experience equivalent to a PhD holder and works in a field where a PhD is not a prerequisite for established research activity, they will still be considered eligible.

Note on country/partner research priorities: Proposals must be within the research challenge areas listed in Section 4. If countries have specified research priorities within these areas they are listed below.

1. SOUTH AFRICA	
National co-funder:	<p>Department of Higher Education and Training</p>  <p>higher education & training Department: Higher Education and Training REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA</p>
Minimum duration:	4 weeks
Maximum duration:	6 weeks
Research priorities:	All research areas are included
<p>Additional eligibility criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction of travel is South Africa to UK only • This is a Closed call: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) South African citizen; b) Permanently employed as university academic; c) Registered for PhD study at one of 26 publicly funded universities. Candidate should be at data collection stage of work. d) Recently qualified PhDs should have received their PhD in 2011 or later. e) Only recipients of support from one of the following programmes: New Generation of Academics Programme (nGAP), or University Capacity Development Programme (UCDP). PhD candidates or postdoctoral fellows funded through other mechanisms are not eligible to submit proposals under this call. <p>Overall, this call should support expansion of pipeline for permanent academics through this development opportunity such as the Researcher Links Travel Grant.</p>	

APPENDIX 2: ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA CHECKLIST

Eligibility criteria checklist	
The application has been submitted by the applicant by the published deadline.	
The applicant has enclosed the two (2) supporting letters required.	
The application form is completed in full and complies with instructions given.	
The application form and supporting documents have been completed in English.	
The applicant has submitted only one (1) application under this call for Travel Grant proposals (April 2020).	
The applicant is an early career researcher (<i>The term 'early career researcher' refers to researchers at the beginning of their research careers. We would expect early career researchers to have been awarded their PhD not more than 10 years prior to applying for the Travel Grant, but allowances can be made for career breaks or other extenuating circumstances. If a researcher does not hold a PhD, but has research experience equivalent to a PhD holder and works in a field where a PhD is not a prerequisite for established research activity, they will still be considered eligible</i>).	
The mobility will take place between 01 February 2021 and 31 January 2022.	
The applicant will return to his/her home institution in a research capacity for at least six months after the end of the visit (demonstrated via the supporting letter from the institution).	
The home institution is a recognised publicly funded research establishment or Higher Education Institution (can include private Universities).	
The host institution is a recognised publicly funded research establishment or Higher Education Institution (can include private Universities).	
The applicant has not received a Researcher Links Travel Grant within earlier Calls.	
The home institution must have the capacity to administer a grant and satisfy British Council requirements to prevent bribery, fraud and professional misconduct. Applicants will confirm that they comply to British Council requirements by responding to pre-submission questions in the online application form	

APPENDIX 3: SCORING SYSTEM

Assessment of the quality and development relevance of the proposals will be performed by panel members in the UK, and the final funding decisions will be made in discussion with British Council country office and in-country partners, if applicable. Proposals with an average score of less than 30 points are considered not fundable. Equally, only proposals that have clearly articulated relevance to economic development and social welfare of the partner country will be considered for funding

Section 1: Relevance to economic development and social welfare	Score	Range
		YES/NO
<p>The proposal clearly articulates a plausible route for the research to lead to positive impact on the lives of people on low income and contribute to the economic development and social welfare of the partner country and within a reasonable timeframe (within 10 years).</p> <p>Please see guidance for applicants for further details.</p>		

Section 2: Relevance to gender equality	Score	Range
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures are 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 research and innovation. • The project will have a positive impact on people of different genders, both throughout the project and beyond. • The potential impact on the relations between people of different genders and people of the same gender is clearly described. For example, changing roles and responsibilities in households, society, economy, politics, power, etc. • Risks and unintended negative consequences on gender equality will be monitored, avoided or mitigated against. • Relevant outcomes and outputs will be measured with disaggregated data by age and gender (where disclosed). 		Sufficient/ Insufficient

Section 3: Research quality and background	Score	Range
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The academic importance and timeliness of the research topic is clearly demonstrated. • The applicant has sufficient relevant experience to undertake the proposed research visit and achieve the stated objectives. • The collaborating institutions are of appropriate academic standing. 		<p style="text-align: center;">0–20</p>
	<p>20 points: Meets all criteria to an exceptional level</p> <p>16 to 19 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level</p> <p>11 to 15 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level</p> <p>6 to 10 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p>1 to 5 points: Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p>0 points: Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.</p>	

Section 4: Research visit and proposal	Score	Range
		0–20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The description of the proposed research visit includes clear, feasible and realistic objectives and outputs. There is clear evidence that the proposed research visit supports new links or significantly extends and develops existing links. The benefits and relevance of the collaboration to the UK and partner country institution, and to the research itself, are clearly described. If the applicant is returning to visit the research group where she/he carried out their PhD research or previously taught, there is clear evidence that the proposed research visit will expand added value to the collaboration. There is strong evidence of support from both the home and host institutions. 	<p>20 points: Meets all criteria to an exceptional level</p> <p>16 to 19 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level</p> <p>11 to 15 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level</p> <p>6 to 10 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p>1 to 5 points: Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p>0 points: Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.</p>	

Section 5: Sustainability and capacity building	Score	Range
		0–20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal includes a clear and feasible description of how the individuals and research groups involved intend to sustain their collaboration over the longer term. The potential in terms of professional development and capacity building for the applicant and other potential beneficiaries is clearly described. 	<p>20 points: Meets all criteria to an exceptional level</p> <p>16 to 19 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level</p> <p>11 to 15 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level</p> <p>6 to 10 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p>1 to 5 points: Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level</p> <p>0 points: Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.</p>	
Total score for quality assessment (Section 1 + Section 2 + Section 3)	Score	Range
		0–60

APPENDIX 4: BUDGET

Newton Fund Researcher Links Travel Grants are intended to be a contribution to the travel, subsistence, visa, insurance costs that researchers incur during their visit. Contributions towards these costs have been calculated using flat rates, depending on the country of the proposed visit and the duration of the visit. Please note that the unit costs given below constitute the maximum amounts that can be requested in each category and that all budget requests will be assessed for feasibility and appropriateness. While the maximum contribution cannot be exceeded, applicants can request less, in which case the amount requested cannot be increased at a later stage.

A small amount, see tables below, can be requested for consumables (above this amount, it is expected that the receiving laboratory or department will provide any additional resources). The maximum amounts for each part of the grant, and the maximum total grant that can be requested are shown in the table below, but it is expected that the requested budget reflects the actual costs expected to be incurred. Budget costs must be rounded to the nearest £ value on the British Council online application system.

Additional support based on direct costs can be requested to contribute towards extra childcare costs associated with the visit (up to a maximum of 5% of the subsistence costs requested) and special needs.

Support for special needs should be requested in writing (UK-ResearcherLinks@britishcouncil.org). Requests will be assessed and agreed on an individual basis.

Subsistence amounts have been calculated referring to EC Programmes and British Council local information.

Please note that the grant must not be used to cover staff costs.

Direction of travel: Partner country to UK

Country of departure	Country of destination	Maximum travel costs	Accommodation and subsistence* (per week)	Maximum visa costs	Maximum travel insurance costs per week	Maximum consumables/ bench fees per week	Maximum total cost		
							4 weeks visit	5 weeks visit	6 weeks visit
South Africa	United Kingdom	(£1027)	(£540)	(£163)	(£25)	(£26)	(£3554)	(£4145)	(£4736)
		R21875	R11502	R3472	R533	R554	R75700	R88289	R100877