

Call for Bids 2016 (FAQs)

Q: How does one identify their partner in UK/India?

A: *Unfortunately, we are unable to provide assistance on finding partners. You could visit University Grants Commission website - www.ugc.ac.in , Department of Science and Technology website- www.dst.gov.in to get details of possible partners across subject areas.*

Q: Does each partner need to submit the joint proposal?

A: *Only one partner need to submit the proposal on behalf of both partners. It could either be UK or India partner. However for both DST and UGC, one original hard copy needs to be submitted to DST and UGC respectively and an additional copy to be submitted to UKIERI.*

Q: How does the funds disbursement happen?

A: *Once UKIERI selects a collaboration/partnership under any strand activity UKIERI will get into contracting with UK institutions for funds disbursement. For Indian institutions, funds are disbursed directly by UGC, DST and MSDE respectively.*

Q: How can schools be part of this call for applications?

A: *Unfortunately, schools are not a part of any of the strand activity.*

Q: Is it possible for a university/institution to apply with a business directly?

A: *No, all partnerships must have two academic partners, one in India and one in the UK. Industry partners with specific roles and responsibilities can be a part of the consortium and is strongly encouraged.*

Q: Is there a minimum / maximum number of people allowed on each team?

A: *No, but the team needs to be able to demonstrate that it will be able to deliver the required outcomes in the most effective way with the number of team members proposed.*

Q: Do grants cover overheads or full economic costs or salaries?

A: *No, UKIERI does not pay for any full economic costs or salaries. However, relevant Overhead costs/administrative costs are allowed to be charged based on project requirements.*

Q: Is funding available for dissemination seminars and events? Can these be organized outside India or the UK?

A: *Some funding may be available for dissemination seminars and events, but only in line with what UKIERI would normally fund (ie the collaborative costs). It is unlikely that an event outside India or the UK would meet UKIERI criteria for support.*

Q: Are institutional and other contributions an essential requirement?

A: *Yes, institutional contributions are strongly encouraged from participating institutions. Contributions could be in the form of staff salaries, discounted fees etc.*

- Q: Can UKIERI grants be used to pay staff salaries?**
- A:** *UKIERI grants cannot be used to pay staff salaries because they are considered as institutional contributions.*
- Q: Will the partners have to submit their individual budgetary requirements or it will be a joint budget?**
- A:** *Partners will submit joint financial spreadsheet outlining their budget requirements. The spreadsheet allows for separate detailing from both India and the UK and values in INR converting the same value in GBP with current exchange rate. One can use GBP to reflect the total budget costs and mention the DST or UGC costs in INR. Please note that each partner should fill in the in-country costs in the spreadsheet. By in country cost we mean the costs (accommodation/local travel/subsistence) of visiting institution which should reflect in the budget of the host institution. For e.g. in country costs of Indian team visiting UK should be accounted for in UK budget and vice versa for UK team visiting India.*
- Q: Is it necessary to have a balanced exchanged with equal periods of time spent at each others institutions?**
- A:** *Equal periods are not essential, but the exchange plan needs to demonstrate equal collaboration and be able to meet the UKIERI criteria for mutuality which requires both UK to India and India to UK mobility.*
- Q: Is there any specification on the budget split between participating institutions?**
- A:** *The split between India and the UK costs needs to be agreed mutually. Please ensure in country costs are mentioned for both India and the UK. The total costs should not be more than the total budget allocation as mentioned in the guidelines.*
- Q: Are private institutions eligible to apply?**
- A:** *Yes, institutions which are set up as not for profit can apply under the DST UKIERI Thematic Partnerships. For eligibility, please refer to relevant guidelines uploaded on the UKIERI website.*
- Q: Are deemed to be universities which are not funded by UGC eligible to submit application under UGC Thematic Partnership?**
- A:** *Only those institutions which are eligible to received developmental grants from UGC are eligible to apply.*
- Q: Can two themes be included in one proposal?**
- A:** *No, the participating institutions should focus on a core research area. However, multi-disciplinary research is being encouraged.*
- Q: Can same department or same team from an institution submit two proposals in two different strands?**
- A:** *No. One team is eligible to apply under one strand only though this doesn't restrict number of applications from one institution.*
- Q: How do you define outcomes of the project?**
- A:** *The outcome of the project should be a result of the objective mentioned in the project proposal itself. The merit will be decided on the viability of the project as per criteria mentioned in the guidelines.*

- Q: What is the limit on the number of proposals which will be funded?**
- A:** *The number of proposals to be funded will be dependent on the quality and number of proposals received and funding available.*
- Q: Is there a list of successful partnerships across research and skills?**
- A:** *The list of all partnerships funded through UKIERI is available on the UKIERI website.*
- Q The cost of manpower will have to be accounted for in the budget proposal or it will be paid additionally by DST?**
- A:** *The cost of hiring JRF/SRF could be budgeted in the project and rates mentioned in the guidelines would apply. The cost on manpower should be within overall budget of the project. No additional grant would be considered.*
- Q: Can funds be used for any other expenses apart from travel?**
- A:** *The funds can only be spent on the heads mentioned in the budget proposal.*
- Q: Would scanned signatures from institutions be accepted on hard copies at the time of submission?**
- A:** *No, the scanned signatures are not acceptable on hard copies. One is required to submit the hardcopy of the proposal one month later to the submission of scan copy. Last date of submission of proposal is 5th October 2016.*
- Q: Is cost of purchase of any equipment eligible under UKIERI?**
- A:** *No, UKIERI doesn't support any purchase of equipment's.*
- Q: How IPR issues are handled?**
- A:** *The ownership of IPR to be generated as an outcome of these projects will be mutually agreed among the participating institutions taking into considerations contributions made by the parties and existing bilateral /multilateral IPR arrangements/framework.*
- Q: Can project team members be from different institutions?**
- A:** *Yes, consortium of institutions is strongly encouraged.*
- Q: Can the amount of GBP £200,000 is split into UK and India each getting £100,000.**
- A:** *Yes, the total funding commitments is GBP 200,000 which can be split between India and The UK.*
- Q: Can universities be expected to contribute through a significant fees discount?**
- A:** *This is dependent decision on how much your institution is willing to discount.*

Q: Can the Grant funding be used for hiring PhD candidates or research staff respectively by both the UK and Indian lead partners?

A: *The funding cannot be used for hiring PhD or research students entirely. It could be used to fund some costs but not fully and should be from institution and partly funded by UKIERI.*

Q: Can existing partners apply for the current call for bids?

A: *Yes, applicants who have existing partnerships with UKIERI can bid. However, we will also be announcing another call to scale up existing partnerships and the current partners can put in a bid in.*

Q: What is the eligibility criteria for a “Non-EU citizens or an academic who is Interested in participating in the Strand 3 calls.

A: *As per the guidelines, the lead applicant should have been in post for last 3 years in the UK institution.*

Q: How is per visit defined?

A: *As per guidelines, 4 visits per year are allowed. A visit is defined as per person visiting as per the eligibility of duration mentioned for scholar and student.*