

UKIERI - 4

Frequently Asked Questions

Section 1: About the call

Q: What are the calls open under UKIERI Phase 4

A: The below are the two calls open under UKIERI Phase 4:

[Strand 1: Institutional Research & Mobility Partnerships Grant 2023-24](#)

[Strand 3: Building Research Capacities for Undergraduate and master's Students Grant 2023-24](#)

Q: Who are the key funders on both sides?

A: Department of Science, Innovation & Technology, Govt of UK is the under from the UK side while Ministry of Education is the funder from the India side.

Q: What are the thematic areas for the calls.

A:

Themes for strand 1: Semiconductors, Artificial Intelligence, Advance Computing, and Next Gen Communication

Themes for strand 3: Energy, Sustainability and Climate Change

Section 2: Eligibility

Q: What are the pre-conditions for filling the online application form?

A: Before filling the application form, the following points should be considered:

- The Lead Applicant is a full-time member of faculty The UK institution is in the list of recognised institutions/ organisation UK Lead Applicants should be UK citizens employed by a recognised UK university (<https://www.gov.uk/check-a-university-is-officially-recognised/recognised-bodies>) or not-forprofit UK research organisation (<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/documents/eligibilityirospdf/>).
- The UK Lead Applicant is an EU citizen who holds a permanent position in a UK institution. EU citizens may apply provided they hold a permanent position in a UK

institution. Non-EU citizens may apply provided they have held a permanent position at a UK institution for at least three consecutive years

- The Indian institution should fulfil the SPARC-III guidelines
- The proposal is a joint proposal
- Projects completed under earlier UKIERI grants are eligible to apply again provided they have successfully closed the project

Q: Can a Lead Applicant be involved in more than one proposal

A: No, Lead Applicants can only be involved in one proposal

Q: Are ineligible institutions allowed to participate in the project as team?

A: No, each participating institute must meet eligibility criteria

Q: Can a team member receiving research grant from another country be a part of the project

A: Yes - as long as the team member and their institution are eligible.

Q: Should all the team members be employed by the Lead Institution?

A: No only lead applicants should be employed at lead institution. Co applicants from other institutions should be employed at their respective institutions. Project team could be a consortium of institutions /industry partners/ NGOs. However industry partners and other organisations cannot benefit from the project funds they are supposed to

Q: Are NON-Net PhD students allowed to apply?

A: Students cannot be the lead applicants. Only eligible academic staff can apply. PhD students (with NET or without NET) can be involved.

Q: Are previous UKIERI awardees eligible to apply?

A: Yes

Q: Do all team members need to be named in the proposal?

A: No - names and details of Lead Applicants must be provided, however. Students names can be provided later. Marks will be provided based on the quality of the team and applicants are encouraged to provide as much detail as possible.

Q: Can a Lead Applicant be involved in more than one proposal?

A: No, Lead Applicants can only be involved in one proposal

Q: Does 'Research Staff' translate to full-time academic members of staff who undertake lectureship roles (teaching and research).

A: No, "Research Staff" does not translate to full-time academic members of staff who undertake lectureship roles. Research staff can only be a team member and not the Lead Applicant.

Q: Does eligibility criteria applies to Co PI's as well. The CV's of Co Pis are also required to be submitted.

A: No eligibility criteria applies only to PI's . The detailed CVof PI's are required.

Section 3: Application Process

Q: Where are the guidelines and application forms available?

A: Guidelines and application forms are available on the websites of UKIERI and SPARC for reading and reference purpose only. The application has to be submitted online through the link provided on the UKIERI website for the UK Institutions.

Q: What is the procedure of filling the online application form?

A: Application form is to be filled online after reading the Guidelines. Link to the guidelines and application form is available on the UKIERI website with websites of SPARC for respective call for research proposals.

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

A: UKIERI is unable to provide assistance on finding partners. You could visit UGC website - www.ugc.ac.in, and DST website- www.dst.gov.in to get details of possible partners across subject areas in India. For UK institute, list of institutes is available at <https://www.gov.uk/check-a-university-is-officially-recognised/recognised-bodies> and list of not-for-profit UK research organisations is available at <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/documents/eligibilityiros-pdf/>.

Q: Can two themes be included in one proposal?

A: No, the participating institutions should focus on a core research area. However, multidisciplinary research is being encouraged.

Q: What should be the exchange rate for INR and GBP for the finance plan?

A: Please refer to SPARC guidelines. It should be calculated at GBP =101 INR

Q: Who can be contacted for any queries related to filling of the online application form?

A: The FAQs and Call Guidelines to be referred for call related queries. In case you are facing technical issues while filling up the application online, you can send your queries to (ukieri@britishcouncil.org) Clarification on the queries will be provided by the UKIERI team in three working days. In addition, UKIERI will also conduct pre-bid workshops/webinars in different parts of India and UK to address issues of applicants.

Section 4: Submission

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

A: Only one partner needs to submit the joint proposal online by using the link (<https://apply.gmt.britishcouncil.org/outreach/workbench.ofml>) on behalf of both partners. The final copy of the joint proposal can be submitted by either UK or India partner.

Q: Will the partners have to submit their individual budgetary requirements, or it will be a joint budget?

A: Partners will submit joint financial spread-sheet outlining their budget requirements on the UKIERI and SPARC portal. The spread-sheet allows for separate detailing from both India and the UK. Please note that each partner should fill in the in-country costs in the spread-sheet. 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: In what format should signatures be uploaded to the online application form?

A: A short letter stamped and signed by head of Institution from the UK and India Lead Institutions should be uploaded. The letter must state their understanding that a proposal is being made from their institution. The name and signature of the Lead Applicants should be uploaded separately

Section 5: Evaluation & Result

Q: What is the selection procedure?

A: All Research Proposals will be assessed through an evaluation panel comprising Indian and UK subject experts. The scores from both UK and India will be compared and a final list will be prepared based on the total scores. Proposals in higher order of merit will get selected for funding.

Q: How the applicants are informed about selection?

A: All applicants will receive emails of selection or rejection post evaluation. List of selected proposals will also get uploaded on the UKIERI and SPARC website.

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: What is the weightage assigned to each section in terms of marks?

A:

Parameter	Weightage (%)
Operational capacity and relevance (to the specified themes)	15
Proposal specific criterion (objectives with clearly defined outcomes, thematic relevance, additional financial support from other sources, potential to significantly advance knowledge and/or create impact on society, equity and gender etc. as applicable)	45
UKIERI and SPARC III specific criterion (sustainability, mutuality and complementarity of both India and UK)	20
Budget and cost effectiveness	20

Section 6: Project Implementation

Q: How does the funds disbursement happen?

A: UKIERI will get into contracting with the selected UK institutions for funds disbursement. For Indian institutions, funds are disbursed by Ministry of Education.

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. The details of consortium can be filled in the application form.

Q6c: 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. Administrative overheads related to project can be charged and should be up to 10% of total award. No institutional running costs or any other overheads from institution can be charged to budget.

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 (i.e. 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: 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.

Q: Is it necessary to have a balanced exchange with equal periods of time spent at each other's 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: Can student fellowships or scholarships be included in funding requested?

A: Full fellowship or scholarship cannot be funded through UKIERI. Only support is for existing PhD scholars in the institutions who would be participating in the partnership. These costs can be requested from UK grant but institutions are expected to get subsidised fees for existing PhD scholars, this however doesn't apply to Indian grant. Indian Institutions can refer to the SPARC funding guidelines.

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: Does UKIERI provide any fellowship appointment?

A: No, UKIERI doesn't allow of appointment of any fellow on the project.

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: Is cost of hiring of any equipment eligible under this funding?

A: No, funding doesn't support any cost pertaining to equipment.

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/ industry taking into considerations contributions made by the parties and existing bilateral /multilateral IPR arrangements/framework. The UK Institutes are advised to go through the IPR clause in the sample grant agreement, uploaded on the UKIERI website.

Q: Can project team members be from different institutions?

A: Yes, consortium of institutions is strongly encouraged

Q: What are the phases in Strand 1?

A: There are two phases:

Phase 1: March 2024 to March 2025

Phase 2: March 2025 to March 2026

Each phase should have specific activities and corresponding outcomes. Phase 2 activities and outcomes should be in continuation and should add on to Phase 1 activities and outcomes

Q: What are the funding timelines for both UK and Indian Institutions for Strand 1?

A: The UK Institutes will need to close their projects by March 2025 while the Indian Institution will continue receiving funds from SPARC and they will need to close their projects by March 2026. The UK Institute is expected to provide in-kind contribution to the Indian Institutions between April 2025 – March 2026.

Section 7: Online Application form

Q: Where is the online application to be submitted?

A: The online application needs to be submitted on 'submittable' portal link given on the UKIERI website by the UK PI. The Indian PI needs to submit the application on the SPARC portal

Q: I have uploaded incorrect annexures to the online application form?

A: Please ensure complete diligence while uploading the documents in the desired format. Documents failing to meet the prescribed format will be rejected. Till the time application is not submitted the annexures can be changed.

Q: Can I download a copy of the application form which I have submitted?

A: Yes, you can download a copy of the application form by logging into the 'Submittable' portal with your username and password.

Q: I have submitted incorrect details on the online application form?

A: Application once submitted cannot be amended.

Q: I want to make changes on my online application form?

A: Application once submitted cannot be amended. Till the time application is not submitted the annexures / information on the application can be changed.

Q: I have submitted my application from India Side; does UK side have to submit a separate application?

A: Yes, both India and UK side have different portals on which they need to submit the application form. The UK and India partners should discuss and jointly submit one application.

Q: Can the deadline be extended?

A: No, the deadline cannot be extended as this date is mutually decided by the partners.

Q: I have uploaded incorrect annexures to the online application form?

A: Please ensure complete diligence while uploading the documents in the desired format. Documents failing to meet the prescribed format will be rejected. Till the time application is not submitted the annexures can be changed.

Q: Can I save my work and submit the application form at a later stage?

A: Yes, you have the option of saving your work and returning to the application form at a later stage. Once you are satisfied with all the answers, you can submit the application form.