

Call for Proposals from UK Universities

Scholarships for English language teachers in India

Overview of the British Council

We support peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide.

We uniquely combine the UK's deep expertise in arts and culture, education and the English language, our global presence and relationships in over 100 countries, our unparalleled access to young people and influencers and our creative sparkle.

We work directly with individuals to help them gain the skills, confidence and connections to transform their lives and shape a better world in partnership with the UK. We support them to build networks and explore creative ideas, to learn English, to get a high-quality education and to gain internationally recognised qualifications.

We work with governments and our partners in the education, English language and cultural sectors, in the UK and globally. Working together we make a bigger difference, creating benefit for millions of people all over the world.

We work with people in over 200 countries and territories and are on the ground in more than 100 countries

Background

The British Council's work in English Programmes aims for transformational change in English language policy and practice. We believe that better teaching and learning of English increases academic and career opportunities and enables people to participate actively in a global society. We support language

teaching and learning in a multilingual world, helping to ensure inclusive and equitable quality language education in line with UN Sustainable Development Goal 4.

In India we engage directly with teachers and indirectly with learners each year within government education systems. We work closely with our government partners and national, international and UK organisations and institutions who share our goal to provide all teachers and students with access to high quality English language resources and instruction.

Building capacity of practitioners is a core part of our work and through this scholarship programme we aim to identify and support a select group of high-performing English language teachers and/or teacher educators to further their skills and knowledge.

The intention of this scholarships programme is to offer fully funded placements for students to study online towards an MA in English Language Teaching with a focus on either of the following areas:

- Multilingual/ bilingual teaching pedagogy and practices in the classrooms, due to the increased emphasis on multilingualism in India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. With 22 scheduled languages and 19,500 other active languages, India is intrinsically a multilingual country. NEP 2020 has brought multilingualism to the centre stage and proposed a few concrete steps such as more guidance on the three-language policy, training teachers in bilingual format, acknowledging the need for high quality teaching learning materials in bi-lingual formats and thereby demonstrating a stronger push towards multilingualism within education systems.
- A focus on technology and its role in English language teaching and learning due to the increasing role that educational technologies have been playing in India in recent years. Access to devices and the Internet is growing rapidly, and we anticipate that it will continue to be integrated into school systems as well in individual homes in the coming years. Individuals with expertise and understanding of how technology can be most effectively implemented into teaching and learning programmes will be critical to ensure its appropriate and successful integration.

The purpose and scope of this Call and supporting documents is to explain in further detail the requirements of the British Council and the process for submitting a proposal in response to this Call ("**Proposal**").

Objectives

The intention of this scholarships programme is to offer fully funded scholarships for students from India to study online towards an **MA in English Language Teaching with an emphasis on the use of technology or multilingualism or bilingualism in classrooms** as detailed above. The main study course will include a two-week study visit to the university. The main activity will be coupled with a wraparound programme of alumni activity (facilitated by the British Council) to increase the chances of longer-term engagement and wider impact.

This programme will immediately impact the lives of a small number of individuals. There is clear evidence that with careful selection and support, recipients of scholarships can make important contributions to the future of the English language teaching sector in both countries.

The anticipated outcomes of this scholarship programme are therefore:

- Scholars from India have increased knowledge and understanding in the field of English language teaching, with particular focus on multilingual pedagogy and practice OR appropriate technologies to enhance teaching and learning.

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- These individuals act as ambassadors for UK postgraduate education in this field, sharing positive experiences within their professional community. Equally, they bring their knowledge and experience from India and share this within the student community at the host universities.
 - Longer term, these individuals support the development and improvement of English language teaching in their respective communities and ideally within the wider sector.

In particular this project aims to:

- Offer MA/MSc study opportunities through online mode in order to include individuals, provide flexibility and mitigate the challenge of taking long leave from the school.
- Ensure scholar selection will be based on an individual's academic profile **and** on their professional capacity as an English language teaching practitioner in India – preferably within the government sector **and** on their demonstrated commitment to returning to this sector to apply the knowledge and skills gained through the MA.
- Enable individuals to promote and enhance the field of English language teaching and learning in India through their exposure to the UK's expertise in this area.
- Ensure scholars create strong and lasting connections with the UK through active engagement in the alumni network.
- Provide a platform for the English language teaching professionals from India to contribute to the global body of knowledge and expertise and communities of practice.

Opportunity for UK universities

This programme consists of:

- up to 3 fully funded places on online part-time Masters' programmes offered by UK universities, preferably with a short face-to-face component in the UK with all expenses paid for by a bursary, beginning in Sept/Oct 2024:

This Call seeks proposals from UK institutions, with a commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) values, who wish to offer **three Masters' Scholars**, in an eligible programme focused on English language teaching with a significant component focused on the use of educational technologies.

Budget

British Council will pay as a one-time grant to the HEI(s) selected. The HEI and the British Council will select 3 applicants to be recipients of full-fee bursaries (with an average value of £10,000 per scholar) to study at a distance with the option to offer a short programme of fully-funded face-to-face activity in the UK (e.g. 1-2 weeks) during the period of study. The face-to-face activity will need to be costed in the budget and fully funded for the awarded scholars.

The British Council may increase the number of students depending on the availability of funding. This would take the form of additional full bursaries.

The Grant is not transferable, and any underspend will need to be returned to the British Council.

HEIs may apply for the below subject of study but the British Council reserves the right to award the scholarships to separate institutions.

SI No	Subject of study	Mode of delivery
1	MA/MSc English language teaching with focus on educational technologies	Online / distance with short term face-to-face component
2	MA/MSc English language teaching with focus on multilingualism or bi-lingual teaching practices	Online / distance with short term face-to-face component

Expected deliverables

The grant given to the university should cover full fees and be administered as a bursary to cover the travel and living costs of the selected scholars.

Online / distance mode of delivery

The bursary should cover all costs (up to agreed limits for each element) associated with the programme study including:

- Tuition fees
- IELTS exam fee (for scholars without a valid Test of English)
- Short face-to-face element in the UK:
 - Up to 2 weeks stipend at the rate of £1,133 p/month (pro rata) or £1,390 p/month (pro rata) for London metropolitan area to cover costs of living, including accommodation.
 - Return economy-class travel from home country to UK
 - Visa and insurance / NHS surcharge costs

Costs of any dependents will not be covered by this scholarship.

Host universities, through their international student support structures, would be expected to provide support in the lead up to and throughout the face-to-face component. This should include:

- Communications prior to arrival – including support for visa application, arrival to the UK etc.
- Support for the international student experience, including mentoring and welfare support
- Arranging accommodation or housing for the scholar
- A nominated point of contact for any issues or concerns

UK University participation criteria

- All participating institutions must be listed on the UK Home Office Register of Student Route Sponsors (approved Education Providers) **and** QAA/OfS/SFC/HEFCW/DfE inspected and approved.
- UK Universities should propose which 1-year Master’s programmes fit within each eligible subject area.

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- Online / distance MA/MSc courses which are offered part-time are expected to be funded in full by the original scholarship regardless of the length of time they take to complete.
 - UK Universities should demonstrate how they will support welfare of applicants and the “student experience”
 - UK Universities should demonstrate how they will connect scholars with industry partners and provide opportunities for internships, placements or networking for the students – including support for the scholar to stay in the UK via the Graduate Route, if desired and as per current UKVI rules.
 - Desirable: special consideration will be given to UK Universities that can contribute with cash or in-kind to the overall Scholarship programme (beyond making up any projected shortfall) potentially increasing the number of scholarships available and/or that can demonstrate added value to the overall student study and welfare experience.

How will the programme be managed?

The British Council will pay **grants** for each scholarship detailed above to selected UK HEI(s) in February 2024, which will then be administered as a bursary to the selected scholars by the UK HEI(s) in the academic year 2024/25.

- The selected UK Universities will advertise the scholarships and encourage applications to their selected programmes.
- The British Council will support with the wide promotion of the Scholarship programme in the country.
- The UK Universities will manage the application process, involving the British Council at the stage of making the selection of the scholars. It is important to note that it will be a requirement that the Universities share all Scholarship applicant data with the British Council.
- A coordinated selection panel between the HEI and the British Council will determine which applicants will be awarded the bursaries. Details of the scholar selection process will be agreed at contracting stage.
- Once successful applicants have been confirmed, the HEIs will administer the bursary to each recipient, covering all academic and living expenses.

The British Council may be in a position to increase the number of students based on funds available.

Universities interested in hosting additional students should indicate this on their Expression of Interest submission.

The UK Universities selected to receive scholars will go through a screening process and shall then sign a Grant Agreement with the British Council. This Grant Agreement will detail all items to be funded, payment methods, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting requirements. A Draft Grant Agreement can be found in the Annexes of this Call. Please be advised that this Draft Grant Agreement is not final. Contracts will be drafted and formalised for each grant Recipient on individual basis.

The UK Universities will also be responsible for reporting proof of enrollment in the Master’s programme(s) by the end of November 2024.

Eligibility and selection of scholars

A Steering Committee, composed of academic reviewers from the University and Programme Leads from the British Council will select the candidates through a points-based system, encompassing the programme's criteria.

The following guidelines should be considered for the selection of scholars. Scholars must:

- be a passport holder and permanent resident of India
- have an undergraduate degree that will enable them to gain entry onto one of the pre-selected postgraduate programmes at a UK university
- demonstrate the case for financial support / socio-economic need
- not be in receipt of financial support or funding towards their study programme in the UK from any other source
- have not previously studied at degree level or higher in the UK or lived recently in the UK
- meet the English language requirement of the UK HEI
- be motivated and academically able to follow and benefit from a UK postgraduate taught course
- be working in or directly with the government education sector in their country, with a focus on English language teaching
- be active in the field with a proven interest in the proposed subject area of English language teaching - Multilingualism and educational technologies
- be willing to demonstrate future contribution to the field of English language teaching in their country through the benefits achieved after graduating from UK higher education
- agree to be a part of British Council's global alumni network, maintain contact with the British Council and act as an ambassador for the UK and engage with activities as part of a Scholarships for English Language Teachers alumnus during and after their studies in the UK.
- demonstrate a plan and a passion to engage with the wider community working in English language teaching from their home country.
- agree to their personal data being shared with the British Council as a condition of applying for the bursary.

Scholars are not eligible for a British Council Scholarship for English language teachers if they:

- Hold dual British citizenship
 - Are an employee, a former employee, or relative (*) of an employee of Her Majesty's Government (including British Embassies/High Commissions; the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy; Department for International Trade; the Ministry of Defence; and the Home Office)
 - Are an employee, a former employee, or relative (*) of an employee of the British Council
- (*): Relatives are defined as parents or step-parents, siblings or step-siblings, children or step-children, spouse, civil partner or unmarried partner (where the couple have been in a relationship akin to marriage or civil partnership for at least two years).
- Are currently in receipt of financial support or funding towards their study programme in the UK from any other source

Have previously studied in the UK with funding from a UK Government-funded scholarship or a UK institutional scholarship/financial bursary.

Terms and conditions for participating HE Institutions

- After confirmation of award, and payment transfer to the UKHEI, if the scholar decides to withdraw from the scholarship, the UKHEI can nominate a new candidate after confirmation from British Council on who will be the candidate with the same eligibility criteria within 10 working days from the date of withdrawal of the scholar. If the new scholar nomination is accepted, no extra funds will be transferred to meet higher costs of tuition.
- After confirmation of award, and payment transfer to the UKHEI, if the scholar decides to withdraw from the award, and the UKHEI is unable to nominate a new candidate, the full paid amount will be refunded to the British Council before October 30, 2024.
- Once the UKHEI and the scholar has confirmed the programme and course details, no change in course area will be permitted without prior approval from the British Council. In exceptional conditions, if a request for course change is made this must be considered and agreed by the British Council along with the UKHEI. No additional payments will be made towards higher tuition costs.
- Selected scholars cannot accept any additional funding towards tuition that will be covered by the British Council English language teaching scholarships.
- Selected candidates will need to participate in all trainings, professional development and networking opportunities provided by the British Council in their home country and the UK.
- Selected candidates must act as a brand ambassador for the British Council while in the UK. The British Council will engage with the scholars before, during and after the study period to enable this.
- Scholars are expected to engage on social media platforms during their stay in the UK and share their experiences about studying in the UK.
- Scholars will be eligible to apply for the Graduate Route on completion of their programme, subject to current UKVI rules. However, on completion of the MA/MSc scholars will be expected to maintain contact with the British Council and contribute to the development of the English language teaching sector in their home country.

Timeline

Please consider the following timeline for the implementation of this programme:

DATE	ACTION
Call Issued to bidding suppliers	1 December 2023
Deadline for clarification questions (Clarification Deadline)	6 December 2023
British Council to respond to clarification questions	8 December 2023
Deadline for submission of Proposals by potential suppliers (Response Deadline)	10 January 2024

Final Decision	25 January 2024
Contract concluded with winning supplier	31 January 2024
Contract start date	1 February 2024
Institutions to provide confirmed scholarship details and any other promotional content	16 February 2024
Production of campaign promotional materials and landing pages.	29 February 2024
Launch of the Scholarships marketing campaigns. This will run until 30 April 2024	1 March 2024
Promotional webinar by UKHEI	15 March 2024
Selection of bursaries (in process which involves HEI and British Council agreeing scholars)	15 May 2024
Bursaries awarded to selected scholars	1 June 2024
Bursaries confirmed and finalised. IELTS tests taken.	1 July 2024
Promotion / case-studies of selected candidates (central stories coordinated by alumni programme)	July 2024
Course start in the UK	September/October 2024
Reporting proof of enrollment in the Master's programme(s)	30 November 2024

Proposals and selection criteria

In order to participate in this call, UK institutions are requested to send the required supporting documents listed below to TeachEnglish.India@britishcouncil.org, with the subject line “**Scholarships for EL teachers in India - Eol**” by **10 January 2024 (12.00 GMT)**.

The following requirements should be complied with when submitting your Proposal in response to this Call:

- Please ensure that you send your submission in good time to prevent issues with technology – late Proposals may be rejected by the British Council.
- Do not submit any additional supporting documentation with your Proposal except where specifically requested to do so. PDF, JPG, PPT, Word and Excel formats can be used for any additional supporting documentation (other formats should not be used without the prior written approval of the British Council).
- All attachments/supporting documentation should be provided separately to your main Proposal document, clearly labelled and cross-referenced to the Proposal as relevant.
- If you submit a generic policy /document, you must indicate the page and paragraph reference that is relevant to a particular part of your Proposal.

- Unless otherwise stated as part of this Call or its Annexes, all Proposals should be in the format of the relevant British Council requirement with your response to that requirement inserted underneath.
- Where supporting evidence is requested as ‘or equivalent’ you must demonstrate such equivalence as part of your Proposal.
- Any deliberate alteration of a British Council requirement as part of your Proposal will invalidate your Proposal to that requirement and for evaluation purposes you shall be deemed not to have responded to that particular requirement.
- Responses should be concise, unambiguous, and should directly address the requirement stated.
- Your Proposal to the Call requirements and pricing will be incorporated into the Contract, as appropriate.

Clarification Requests

- All clarification requests should be submitted to TeachEnglish.India@britishcouncil.org by the Clarification Deadline, as set out in the Timescales section of this Call. The British Council is under no obligation to respond to clarification requests and will respond if the question is appropriate and received before the Clarification Deadline.
- Any clarification requests should clearly reference the appropriate paragraph in the Call documentation and, to the extent possible, should be aggregated rather than sent individually.
- The British Council reserves the right to issue any clarification request made by you, and the response, to all potential suppliers unless you expressly require it to be kept confidential at the time the request is made. If the British Council considers the contents of the request not to be confidential, it will inform you and you will have the opportunity to withdraw the clarification query prior to the British Council responding to all potential suppliers.
- The British Council may at any time request further information from potential suppliers to verify or clarify any aspects of their Proposal or other information they may have provided. Should you not provide supplementary information or clarifications to the British Council by any deadline notified to you, your Proposal may be rejected in full and you may be disqualified from this Procurement Process.

The following selection criteria will be used:

CRITERIA	%
Social Value	10%
Quality	30%
Methodology and Approach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Selection and suitability of Master’s programme(s)</i> • <i>Holistic support offered to Scholars and university’s commitment to EDI values</i> • <i>Professional/Industry and networking opportunities for the Scholars, linked to programmes</i> • <i>Track record in administering similar scholarship/bursary schemes</i> 	30%

Budget

30%

To include cash or in-kind contributions to the programme

If eligible institutions are awarded evaluation scores within 5% of each other, the British Council reserves the right to award the grant with consideration to the geographical spread of institutions across the UK.

All participating institutions will be informed of the results of the bid, and written feedback will be provided upon request. Appeals can be received by Wednesday 31 January 2024 and will be reviewed by Wednesday 7 February 2024. Any complaints will be taken seriously and processed in line with our [Global complaints policy](#).

Annexes

Annex 1 – Framework Agreement

Annex 2 – Supplier Proposal

Annex 3 – Budget