BRITISH COUNCIL

Digital Learning Innovation Fund

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FAQs

June 2022

1. Eligibility

1.1.   Are independent practitioners eligible to apply?

No. The grant is open only to registered organisations in India and the UK. Organisations and/or informal collectives/networks are eligible to apply but should have demonstrable experience of managing similar projects and grants. Please refer to the eligibility criteria section in the open call document.

1.2.   Which country does the Lead Application need to be from?

The Lead Applicant needs to be a UK organisation or entity.

1.3.   Does the India applicant need to be of Indian nationality?

No, but the applicant must be based out of India and have a registered Indian entity.

1.4.   As a Lead Applicant, is it necessary to apply with an organisation in India?

Yes. The application must be co-developed by at least one India partner and one UK partner, this is the aim and at the heart of *India-UK Together Season*.

1.5.   Can the British Council help with connections with potential partners?

Due to UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), we are unable to provide support with connecting you to potential partners. We recommend that you attend the briefing sessions as they can be a networking opportunity.

1.6.   Can I apply for this open call if I have previously received funds from British Council?

Yes. You can apply to this grant as long as it is distinct from any previous funding received from British Council. We ask that you let us know about any current or previous funding received from the British Council. We will prioritise organisations that we have not supported before. Please note the following ineligible criteria:

- Retrospective activity or costs are ineligible
- Match funding cannot be provided through other British Council funded programmes

1.7.   Can I apply for this grant if I have recently applied for another British Council fund, but I haven't heard back yet or were unsuccessful?

Yes. You can apply for this open call if you haven't heard back yet or have been unsuccessful except for those that fall under the ineligible criteria mentioned above and in the call document. If you have been successful, we will **not** double-fund organisations. It is important that the application is unique to this open call and not retrofitted/ copy/pasted from a different call.

1.8. If we have an existing project and would like to expand and evolve it, does it qualify for this open call?

Existing projects and programmes *in India* are not eligible. Exceptions apply for existing ideas which have reached a pilot or prototyping phase but have not been realised publicly in India. This also refers to platforms or projects that may have been already developed and trialled in other countries (perhaps as a response to the pandemic) and the applicant organisation would like to pilot/trial it in India (contextualising as relevant).

1.9. Can one organisation submit more than one application?

One organisation can submit only one application as Lead Applicant. Organisations can be involved in more than one application as *additional partners* but not as the Lead Applicant. We will not fund the same organisation more than once.

1.10. Is there a maximum number of partners that can apply as part of one proposal?

No. The application must have at least one lead UK and supporting India partner. You can have additional partners in the UK and India as per your judgement and project requirements which you will need to list, detailing the different roles and expertise in the application.

1.11. Is there a maximum or ideal number of members to a proposed working team?

This is a matter for your judgement. It is important to demonstrate to the selection panel that the team, of whatever size, will be able to work together successfully and that you have specified the role that each member will play within the team.

1.12. Can the partner (India or UK) be a government organisation/Autonomous agency of the government?

No. Funding bodies and government departments in India and the UK are not eligible.

1.13. As the India partner, do I need and FCRA certificate to apply for the grant?

We recommend that the India partner has a registered and current Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) certificate and linked bank account (State Bank of India) (see details in the Downloads section of the call webpage). However, as the Lead Applicant is a UK organisation, the British Council will transfer the funds to the Lead Applicant who will then be responsible for sub-contracting the funds to the India partner in a service agreement for the project delivery. Any transactions that take place should be in accordance with all legal requirements in place.

2. Applications

2.1. Can one organisation submit more than one application?

One organisation can submit only one application as Lead Applicant. Organisations can be involved in more than one project as additional partners but not as main lead grant recipients. We will not fund the same organisation more than once.

2.2. Will there be some flexibility built into project timelines to take into account uncertainty around Covid-19?

While we are aware of the ongoing implications of the global Covid-19 pandemic, it is for the applicants to plan projects with this uncertainty in mind. Please submit applications for activity between **15 July 2022** and **31 January 2023.** This must include a realistic timeframe and activity-type (for example, options for activities that may need to switch from face-to-face to online events). **Any additional unforeseen, unavoidable changes will be considered on a case-by-case basis.**

Please consider digital connectivity, as this may be poor in some areas. Specify any additional needs e.g., signal boosters, toolkits and in your application form. Please make sure that digital platforms used are secure and support audience development / reach.

2.3. What do you mean by digital innovations?

In light of the impact of Covid-19, which has accelerated the digital transformation in education delivery in India, we seek applications which spark innovation, and inspire new ways of working, through a digital-first approach effectively using EdTech for teaching and learning English.

The overall objective is for UK and India organisations to generate new learning and insight through research, design, and piloting of digital innovations to ensure equitable, high-quality provision of education technology solutions which address a specific English language need in India.

To clarify, not only do we expect projects to include online events, but we would also like to see EdTech embedded in each project.

2.4. Can applicants include travel costs for face-to-face activities?

Yes, but please note that India and the UK governments set their own travel restrictions. As applicants, you are responsible for checking directives during the project timeline. It is your responsibility to adhere to both governments' regulation and guidance on travel and ensure your own wellbeing, that of associated collaborators and the general public.

2.5. Can British Council support with additional funding?

No. The British Council will not provide any additional funding. Applicants are, however, encouraged to seek funding from other external sources, if required. Please ensure that additional funding details (if any) such as personal accessibility needs are clearly mentioned in your application.

2.6.   Can British Council help with access-related costs?

We want to ensure that applicants with access needs (for example, those who have a physical disability or mental health condition) can apply. If you need the application in a different format, please write to TeachEnglish.India@britishcouncil.org. If it is not possible for you to complete a MS Word document, submit answers via video and include the link to the video in the Application Form.

Should any member of the applicant group require extra access costs for delivery for the project, please include them in your application in the estimated budget as 'personal access costs'. Please note that we cannot increase the amount of a grant once it has been awarded.

2.7.   Can project delivery be extended beyond 31 January 2023?

No. As this grant is for the UK- India Together programme, the delivery should be completed by Tuesday 31 January 2023. However, we may in consider extensions due to unforeseen circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

2.8.   What are the dissemination events mentioned in the call document?

We would like to design these collaboratively with grant awardees. We envisage one main hybrid event and smaller online events, if necessary. Tentative date for the main event is 10 February 2023. During these events (or event), applicants will describe their project including reach and impact and provide recommendations/options for future use (if applicable).

3. Successful applicants

3.1. What support can I expect as a successful applicant?

The British Council will:

- provide grants between £20,000 and £25,000 (inclusive of all applicable local taxes).
- expect projects to work primarily with the India English Programmes team. In addition, there will be some connect with Marketing and Communications, Equality Diversity and Inclusion partner, Monitoring and Evaluation consultant, and other partners as necessary.
- be a sounding board and provide advice and contacts to relevant collaborators and stakeholders where appropriate.
- If necessary, provide supporting letters for visa applications subject to travel guidance and Covid-19 protocols. The grant recipient will be responsible for submitting visa applications and managing any travel logistics including insurance.

Successful applicants will be required to keep in regular communication with the British Council, offering project updates and share their project monitoring and evaluation progress and final reports for review and publication.

3.2. Will I need to submit reports and is there an evaluation process that needs to be undertaken?

Yes. You will need to provide an interim project report in the w/c **17 October 2022** and final project report between **1 and 8 February 2023** or as agreed with the British Council team. (Templates for the report will be provided). Applicants must ensure they keep aside budget and timeframe for the reports. The British Council will require notification of any substantive changes to the project.

In the report we will need information such as audience engagement and reach, attendance numbers, feedback from the audience, key deliverables and how they were achieved, hi-resolution pictures along with social media statistics. We will also require a summary report, budget breakdown and any creative or technical assets created from the project.

At the time of selection, should you be shortlisted, we will run a routine screening on your organisation. Grants will be awarded once you have cleared the screening.

3.3. Will I receive a contract?

Yes, the British Council will issue a grant agreement to be signed by the Lead Applicant with associated mandatory deliverables and terms and conditions. The Lead Applicant will then be required to draft and sign a contract with their partner listing out their roles and responsibilities and financial costs to the project.

3.4. Which partner will receive the grant?

The Lead Applicant will receive 100% of the grant and will be responsible to distribute to their collaborator(s) based on budget allocation proposed in the application.

4. Budget

4.1.   What budget items are covered by the grant?

The grant can cover any costs that allow you to undertake the project. This can include staff and logistical costs, digital platform costs, travel, expert fees, venues, data collection for evaluation, accessibility tools (translation, captions etc) promotion, equipment or materials, website/portal design, social media engagement etc. It's important that the budget is realistic for what you are proposing.

We also suggest that you include details of any in-kind support or any other external funding you may be receiving, such as someone waiving a fee, providing a cash donation, or giving you their time for free. This way we can get a clear idea of whether your budget is realistic.

4.2.   How many projects are being funded through this open call?

We intend to fund three projects of between £20,000 and £25,000 (up to a maximum value of £25,000 per project) by UK-based organisations co-developed with their Indian counterparts to be delivered from July 2022 to January 2023.

4.3.   How might the budget be broken down? What percentage is for staff costs/day rate and what percentage for activity?

This is up to you, but it needs to be a reasonable and fair division of costs e.g., a workshop may require more staff time; if you create an online or physical publication, you need to weigh those costs for editorial, print and distribution. The funding must be divided between the collaborators to reflect the levels of engagement by both partners. Suggested division: (70/30), (60/40) with a higher percentage going towards project development and delivery on ground in India.

4.4.   Does 'inclusive of taxes' mean that the beneficiary must take care of any tax-related purchases themselves and would not get additional grant for that?

We will provide the successful applicants with a payment of between £20,000 and £25,000 (up to a maximum value of £25,000 per project) inclusive of all applicable taxes. When and if you need to distribute money to other partners, you will need to make budget for this in advance as we will not be providing any additional amount apart the grant amount.

4.5.   If the project's overall budget exceeds the grant amount, should we show this in our application?

Applicants with in kind or matched support are welcome, although this is not essential. Where budgets are more than the available British Council grant, proposals can explore other external funding sources but must confirm on the application whether other funding is confirmed or pending. Match funding cannot be provided through other British Council funded programmes.

It is useful for us to see the whole budget e.g., specifying if you are putting in-kind or cash contributions from your organisation or others. Please make sure it is clear what the British Council grant funds will support.

5. Submissions

5.1.   How will my application be assessed?

Applications grants will be evaluated by the India-UK Together panel. The decision of the assessment panel will be final.

5.2.   How to apply?

- Download and complete the application form: Open Call: Digital Learning Innovation Fund – India | British Council
- Deadline for applications: **Wednesday 27 July 2022 midnight India time**

5.3.   When will I hear if I am successful?

We will inform all successful and unsuccessful applicants between the 3 and 12 August 2022 with grant agreements issued soon after.

5.4.   Can I get feedback if my application was unsuccessful?

Unfortunately, due to the volume of applications we anticipate, we are unable to provide feedback to all applicants.

5.5.   What does success look like?

A completed Application Form with responses to all questions. Please consider the word limit for all questions. Any CVs need to be included in the Application Form as links to shared files on a cloud storage. Please ensure access is provided to any such links/documents.

For more information, sign up for our briefing sessions https://forms.office.com/r/TxjWi1cUJ4

For any queries, please contact British Council on: TeachEnglish.India@britishcouncil.org