

## FAQs

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### India-UK Together

Arts and culture collaborations to mark  
India's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independence

September 2021

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## Eligibility

### **Are independent practitioners working in India or the UK, unaffiliated with any organisation eligible to apply?**

No - The grant is open only to registered organisations in India and the UK respectively. Individual artists or practitioners are ineligible to apply for this grant. Please refer to the eligibility criteria section in the briefing document.

### **Which country partner needs to be lead partner?**

The lead applicant can be an Indian entity or a UK entity. The lead applicant will submit the application, will represent all the parties of the collaboration, and execute the contract on behalf of the collaborators for the Grant. The lead applicant will be responsible for all communications regarding the implementation and management of the funds received through the Grant.

*As the Grant will be awarded to the applicant and the collaborators, all the involved parties will have to ensure that all compliances under local/foreign laws are duly met. The applicant and the collaborator/s shall themselves ensure that they are eligible to receive the Grant and have the required registration/approvals in compliance with their respective country laws. All Indian applicant/s have to comply in advance with the applicable FCRA regulations to receive the Grant, including but not limited to a FCRA registration/FCRA prior permission, bank account as per FCRA requirement etc. Kindly refer to the Government of India FCRA requirements <https://fcraonline.nic.in/home/index.aspx> ) for more information. Further the applicant and the collaborators should execute appropriate arrangements/agreements to ensure that the funds of the Grant which are disbursed amongst themselves or to third parties, are also distributed in compliance of the applicable laws. British Council will not be liable for any local or foreign non-compliance of the applicable laws in any manner whatsoever and the applicant and the collaborators hereby perpetually indemnify British Council against all claims, fines and penalties in this regard.*

### **Does the India partner need to be of Indian nationality?**

No – The applicant must be based out of India and have a registered Indian entity.

### **Is it necessary to apply with an organization in the UK?**

Yes - the proposal submitted must be co-developed by at least one India partner and one UK partner, this is the heart of *India-UK Together*.

### **What if I do not have any leads in the UK or India to collaborate and apply with?**

For this open call, we are unable to provide support with connecting you to potential partners in the UK and India. Applicants will need to have collaborators in place when submitting applications. We are unable to share details of applicants due to UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). We will, however, support the successful applicant with connections as part of the grant project with British Council when and if required.

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

Yes - You can apply to this grant so 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

- A separate closed-call for India-UK Together 2022 is running for the grant recipients of **Connections Through Culture India-Wales** and **India-Northern Ireland** programmes hence partners involved in those projects are ineligible to apply for this grant
- A separate open call for the Crafting Futures programme is running for Craft related projects hence craft proposals are ineligible to apply for this grant
- Retrospective activity or costs are ineligible
- Match funding cannot be provided through other British Council funded programmes

## **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 in the briefing document. If you have been successful, we will not be able to double fund you. It is important that the proposal is unique to this open call and not retrofitted.

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

Existing projects or ongoing projects can apply with the focus on public facing projects for India--UK Together. We also want to hear from new partnerships. Remember all proposals must address the programme curation themes in response to the call.

## **If I work for more than one organisation, can I apply as a representative from both?**

No - We will accept applications that demonstrate a partnership between one organisation in India and one organisation in the UK. You may choose which organisation you wish to represent in your application.

## **Is there a maximum number of partners that can apply as part of one proposal?**

The proposal submitted must be co-developed by at least one lead India partner and one UK 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.

## **Is there a maximum or ideal number of members to a proposed working team?**

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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.

### **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 ineligible.

### **As the India partner, do I need an FCRA certificate to apply for the grant?**

Yes – a registered and current **Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)** certificate and linked bank account (State Bank of India) is mandatory to apply for and be eligible for the grant. You will need to share all the required FCRA details as part of the application form

### **What if I do not have an FCRA certificate but still wish to apply?**

If you do not have an FCRA account, and still wish to apply, please note that the lead partner will need to be the UK partner should you get selected, the British Council will transfer the funds to your UK partner who will then be responsible for sub-contracting the funds to you in a service agreement for the project delivery. Any transactions that take place should be in accordance with all legal requirements in place.

## **Proposals**

### **Are we permitted to submit more than one proposal and apply for more than one grant?**

Each applicant can submit only one application. Organisations can be involved in more than one application as additional partners but not as main lead grant recipients as we will not be able to fund the same organisation more than once.

### **Will there be some flexibility built into the project to cover the ongoing implications of Covid-19?**

We are mindful of the ongoing implications of the global Covid-19 crisis and this will be considered at every stage of the project. Please submit proposals for activity to take place between January 2022 and March 2023, and any legacy outcomes, but if this activity needs to shift as a response to unforeseen circumstances, then British Council will be accommodating. You should plan in the following timeframe:

- January to August 2022: planning and creation
- September to March 2022-2023: public facing events, exhibitions and performance, face to face and digital

Please consider digital connectivity, as there might be poor connectivity in several identified areas in some remote parts of India. We will take this into consideration and ask you to specify any additional needs e.g. signal boosters, toolkits and note this in your application form. Please make sure that any digital platforms used are secure and support audience development/ reach

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## **What do you mean by hybrid/digital/virtual projects?**

The fund is designed to foster international connections at a time when international travel is restricted, and uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic persists. Considering this, we are supporting collaborative projects where organisations in the UK connect virtually with organisations overseas to deliver collaborative projects.

As there are national and local restrictions on hosting physical activity, we expect some project output will be primarily digital and presented online. As organisations might be unable to travel to meet in person, we expect that the development of the project will also be done virtually, using online collaborative tools. We hope that by supporting these projects in this fund, we are supporting organisations to establish a climate-friendly approach to future international collaboration.

## **Is travel permitted and can I travel with this grant for face-to-face project activities?**

India and the UK governments set their own travel restrictions. At time of writing the UK government has Amber listed India. You will need to check prevailing UK and India government travel restrictions and consider quarantine laws when applying for VISAs in India and the UK. We anticipate some activities will need to take place online. Consider digital formats of working. You will need to adhere to both governments' regulation and guidance on travel and work to ensure the safety for the public, your wellbeing, and associated collaborators.

## **Can all art forms/practices apply?**

Yes. Grants are offered to applicants in all art forms: theatre, dance, visual arts, literature, film, music, architecture, design, fashion, tech art and new media art except craft. Cross-disciplinary practices are encouraged.

## **Can the proposal be for a multi-city project?**

Yes. The project can include partners in different cities across India and the UK and hybrid delivery models across cities in India.

## **Can British Council support with additional funding?**

British Council will not be able to support with any additional funding. Applicants are however encouraged to seek funding from other external sources. Please ensure that additional funding details (if any) such as personal accessibility needs are clearly mentioned in your proposal.

## **Can British Council help with access related costs?**

We want to ensure people 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 contact us so we can find a practical solution. If it is not possible for you to complete a written application online, it is possible to submit answers on film by providing links to films in the application form. In case you or your collaborator require extra access costs for you to deliver

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your project, please include them in your application in the estimated budget as 'personal access costs.' Please note that we cannot increase the size of a grant once it has been awarded.

### **Can project delivery by a grantee team be extended beyond March 2023?**

As this grant is for the UK- India Together programme, the delivery should be completed by March 2023. However, we may in extremis consider extensions due to unforeseen circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

### **What if the project plans to work with those under 18, or with vulnerable adults?**

In the application form you will be able to declare if your project is planning to work with these groups. If you plan to, you then can provide details such as age group, do they have special vulnerabilities, how do you plan to work with them etc. If your project is selected, we will run a webinar for you on how to complete a risk assessment, the British Council's child protection policy, and our adults at risk policy. You will need to sign these documents. For further reading, please see the British Council's statement on safeguarding. <https://www.britishcouncil.in/safeguarding-policy>.

### **What sort of digital platform can I work with?**

You can use any existing digital platforms available such Zoom, Teams, Google Chat, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, gaming platforms etc. You can use your own platform too or create your own bespoke digital platform.

## **Successful applicant**

### **What other support can I expect as a successful applicant?**

The British Council will be

- Provide 3 grants of £50,000 and 1 x £100,000 (inclusive of all applicable local taxes).
- British Council will expect projects to work hand-in-hand with the India Arts team, our Marketing and Communications, Equalities Diversity and Inclusion partner, Monitoring and Evaluation consultant, and digital partners
- Be a proactive collaborative partner and sounding board and provide advice and contacts to relevant collaborators and stakeholders where appropriate.
- If necessary, provide supporting letters for the VISA applications subject to travel guidance and COVID-19 protocols of the place. Please note that the grant recipient will be responsible for submitting the VISA application and managing of any travel logistics including insurance

### **Will I need to submit reports and is there an evaluation process that needs to be undertaken or is that carried out by British Council?**

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Yes, you will need to provide an interim project report in the w/c 1 April and 8 August 2022 and final project report in the w/c 3 April 2023 as per British Council's requirements. (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. Awards will be made once you have cleared the screening.

### **Will I receive a contract?**

Yes, the British Council will issue a grant contract 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.

### **Which partner will receive the grant?**

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

## **Budget**

The amount of the grant available is 3 x 50,000 GBP and 1 x 100,00 GBP grants only. This amount is inclusive of all applicable taxes. The lead applicant (India collaborator) must distribute a certain percentage of the grant to their UK counterparts as mutually decided at the time of project design. In exceptional cases only and where the organisation does not have an FCRA certificate, the funds will be disbursed to your UK counterpart who is then responsible for sub-contracting you for your services. Both partners are expected to comply by the latest and most applicable financial regulations of the countries/states in which they reside.

### **What can I pay for with 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.

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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.

### **How many projects are British Council funding through this open call?**

We intend to fund three projects of up to 50,000 GBP and one 100,000 GBP led by India based organisations co-developed with their UK counterparts to be delivered from January 2022- March 2023

### **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 feel like a reasonable and fair division of costs e.g. a workshop might take more staff time; if you create an online or physical publication you need to weigh out 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.

### **Does “inclusive of taxes” mean that the beneficiary must take care of any Tax matters regarding purchases etc. themselves and would not get extra money for that?**

We will provide the successful applicant with up to 50,000 GBP or 100,000 GBP payment as a grant inclusive of all applicable taxes. When and if you need to distribute money to other stakeholders based in the UK, then you will need to make budget for this in advance as we will not be providing any additional amount apart from the 50,000 GBP or 100,000 GBP grant amount.

### **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.

## **Submissions**

### **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.



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## How to apply?

- Complete the online application form via the [Microsoft Teams](#) platform [here](#)
- **Applications will close by 31 October 2021 at midnight (IST)**
- You will neither be able to save the application form nor return to it before your final submission, so please go through the briefing document and the FAQ's thoroughly before filling out the form. A sample form is available for download on the Open call document. We recommend you save your responses offline and then come to this application form once you are sure of your responses.

## When will I hear if I am successful?

We will endeavour to inform all successful and unsuccessful applicants by 29 November – 10 December 2021

## 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.

## Am I able to download the application form for my review? Can I save the form in the middle of my application?

No, unfortunately, the platform on MS teams doesn't allow you to download or save your application form. You may download the pdf of the form and save your responses offline before accessing the form for your final submission.

## What does success look like?

We are interested in new formats, exciting collaborations and projects that can continue to support the cultural sector for post Covid recovery and inject innovation into a new age of working digitally and with face-to-face hybrids with a focus on India- UK connections.

For more information, sign up for our briefing sessions [here](#)

For any queries, please contact British Council on: [IN.UKTogether@britishcouncil.org](mailto:IN.UKTogether@britishcouncil.org)