21. PAK-UK Knowledge Economy Partnership Program (KEP)

Program # HEC/R&D/KEP/P-021

Approving Authority:

Overview

The Pakistan Higher Education Commission (HEC) ‘s medium-term development framework 2016-20 explicitly puts ideals of knowledge economy at the center of HE development for this 5 year period: to unlock and exchange the knowledge and expertise held by the universities for the benefit of communities and economies.

Through this program, the British Council and HEC have been working together in supporting Pakistani universities to develop institutional strategies for knowledge exchange (DISKE) in conjunction with their UK HEI Partners’ Knowledge Exchange teams. For this purpose, various trainings are organized by the British Council on regular basis for ORIC staff and Knowledge Exchange leads, academics and Vice Chancellors. The program also allows extension of existing international research collaborations with Knowledge Exchange activities and initiation of talks to create sector specific university-industry groups that will guide strategy and activity.

The partnerships are open to public and private sector universities recognized as approved higher education institutions by their government. UK Higher Education Institutions or HEC recognized Higher Education Institutions & Technical and Vocational Institutions and Colleges based in Pakistan and UK

Guidance Notes

Proposals will be considered for partnership project with clearly defined objectives and outcomes. Proposals should also demonstrate how the partnership will be further developed and sustained following the initial exploratory visit. Preference will be given to those applicants seeking to establish partnerships in priority subject areas.

Possible Partners

This grant can be used by the applicant to develop partnerships of their universities with business, public sector (government, departments, regional agencies) or the third sector (third sector includes charities, not-for-profit organizations, development agencies, communities and others). All proposals will be expected to have identified how their collaboration will develop partnerships outside the university sector.

Eligibility

Applicants must be based within a Higher Education Institution in Pakistan or in the UK and have backing by their Head of the Institution. Technical and Vocational Institutions and Colleges based in Pakistan and UK are eligible to apply.

Duration and value of award

For Pakistan – UK Partnerships, funding will be for a maximum of three years. Partnerships should submit 3-year proposals. If the project is successful, 12 months funding will be released in the first
instance. Progress of the partnership will be reviewed after one year against plans and criteria; further funding for subsequent years will be awarded on this basis.

The minimum annual award for a bilateral institution-to-institution partnership is £10,000 per annum; the maximum award is £15,000 per annum. It may be that the funding awarded is less than is requested.

For multilateral partnerships, the maximum award is £20,000.

Application Process

Proposals for funding should be submitted on the standard Application Form available on the British Council website http://www.britishcouncil.pk/programmes/education/higher-education

The evaluation process will comprise assessment by an Evaluation Panel who will draw on the advice of external peer reviewers. The HEC-BC Project Board reserves the right to make all final selections and their decision is final on projects.

Evaluation Process

There will be a 4 stage approach to evaluating proposals:

a. Initial Screening: This is designed to eliminate technically ineligible proposals. It will be undertaken by the Evaluation Panel. A prioritized list of projects for further evaluation will be drawn up.

b. External Assessment and Evaluation Panel: All projects on the priority list will go for external peer review. One or two peer reviewers will be contacted to obtain their evaluation of the project.

c. Evaluation Panel: Proposals and Peer Reviews will be assessed by an Evaluation Panel. The Panel membership will be cross-disciplinary and will include members who have a background in research and are experienced in evaluating research and other academic proposals.

d. Project Board Agreement: The ultimate decision for agreeing projects for funding support will be made by the Project Board. The Evaluation Panel will submit to the Project Board a prioritized list of projects for consideration with the comments of the Evaluation Panel. The decision of the Project Board is final.

Monitoring

Each partnership may be monitored over the course of the project by both British Council and HEC or by an external auditor. This may be done through site visits and/or progress reports review.

Reporting

Each partnership is required to submit to the British Council a mid-term report six months after the start of the partnership, an end-of-year report and a final report on completion of the project. These will be both technical and financial; the items to be covered will be specified at the time of finalizing the contract.

Application Procedure

The deadline for submission of proposals was 15 May 2014.

The paragraph numbering below follows the section numbers on the Application Form

1. Project Title

   Please choose a title that uniquely describes your project and clearly identifies the primary subject area for the activity.
2. **Key Subject Words**
   Please provide up to 6 key words that most closely relate to the application area.

3. **Project Objectives**
   Please summarize the main objectives of the proposed project in terms that might be understood by a non-specialist. Please provide in a maximum of 100 words.

4. **Where did you hear of opportunities for partnerships funding?**
   Please let us know where you heard of the opportunities.

5. **Proposed Start and End Dates for your project**
   The project will commence once the contract has been signed and will run for no more than 36 months. The project must commence no later than April 2017.

6. **Information about applicants**
   The details of the Project Team Leaders in each institution and their contact details should be provided both for UK and the Pakistan University and Non University Partner institutions.

7. **Is this a New Link?**
   Please let us know whether this will be a new link between the institutions. If it is not, please state what other activities you are jointly involved in. If this is a new partnership please indicate why the partners are best suited to participate and what each institution will bring to the project. Each will be bringing particular knowledge, skills and experience and add a different perspective and dimension to the work. Partnerships need to provide full details of any previous initiatives and clearly illustrate how their proposal differs and either builds on or complements previous projects. Partnerships currently receiving any other grant for supporting the same partnership must demonstrate additionally with the British Council funds. e.g Delphe.

8. **Overview of the Project**
   Please provide an overview of the proposed project in a language suitable for a general audience. Include the project objectives, proposed process and anticipated outputs and impact.

9. **Proposed Goals / Objective:**
   Please clearly identify the output in the form of a product or process, need or relationship to non university partner (List of non-University partnerships could be found in the guidelines and also identify other end-users of your output/product.

10. **Project Development Plan / Work plan for the Project**
    Please provide an overview of your work plan to include activities taking place in both UK and the Pakistan Partner HEI. Please note that this work plan will form the basis of your contract and progress will be measured against working towards delivery of the work plan.

11. **Proposed Project Outputs:**
    Please summarize briefly the intended outputs of the proposed co-operation – both qualitative and quantitative. Please try to fill all columns.
12. **Proposed Impact:**

Developing the long-term strategic partnership and how this may contribute to internationalizing the university through multidimensional links. Please also specify the relevance, impact and importance of these impacts. What is the wider longer term goal? How might the project / partnership become self-sustaining once funding has expired?

13. **Exchanges**

Please clearly list the exchanges planned. You must clearly show how many individuals of what level will move in which direction and for how long.

14. **Professional and Academic Experience of Project Groups**

Please tell us more about who the key members of the project teams will be and who will be responsible for what in terms of roles – who will be managing the finances, organizing visits, monitoring and evaluating progress, reporting back to British Council and so forth. Please bear in mind capacity and the time which staff realistically have available.

Please provide evidence of the professional ability and competencies of the teams and select individual members to demonstrate that they can deliver the proposed project.

You are asked to consider how the project team will be structured, how communication and reporting will be coordinated and who will be responsible for different elements of the project.

Partner institutions should ensure that there is transparency and all partners have a platform to share ideas, decision making and project related information.

If your application is based around a collaborative research project, a list detailing recent main publications (up to 5) of the groups and principal workers should be included (possibly as a separate attachment). Copies of short CVs (maximum two sides) for the project leaders can also be included.

15. **Financial Proposal**

Please summarize the estimated costs (£ sterling) over the 3 year period of the project and present this information in a spreadsheet.

You are also required to complete the shorter table in the application setting out your requests for funding. Please refer to the section in the Guidelines that set out what activities can be funded and what are ineligible. Note that funds cannot be employed to contribute towards the costs of staff time associated (i.e Full Economic Costs - FECs) nor for administration, estate costs or other institutional overheads.

Air fares should normally be the most reasonable economy class fare.

16. **Other sources of funding**

In this section please include details of any funding which will be received by the project which is from a source outside of the participating institutions. Include details on the exact nature & amount of this funding, the donor organization and the anticipated time frame.
17. **Data Protection Statement**

All information on the application forms of proposals that are successful and funded by British Council will have details made public and it is a condition of application to the scheme that you agree to this.

Please confirm that you agree to the use of the data in the application in this way.

18. **Signatures, Submission and Deadline**

Please follow the advice set out in these guidelines carefully. Applications should be submitted on the application forms available at

[http://www.britishcouncil.pk/programmes/education/higher-education](http://www.britishcouncil.pk/programmes/education/higher-education)

If necessary signed letters of support from institutional heads or equivalent can be submitted separately.

**Appendix 1**

A. **What is knowledge exchange?**

Knowledge exchange refers to the role that universities can play in stimulating and contributing to innovation and social and economic growth. This role is in addition to core missions of teaching and research, complimenting and enhancing these.

> ‘Within a modern, knowledge driven economy, knowledge exchange is about transferring good ideas, research results and skills between universities, other research organizations, business and the wider community to enable innovative new products and services to be developed’

Knowledge exchange is not simply about commercialization of science through creation of spin offs, licenses etc. It is much broader than this, involving academics from all disciplines, functioning through a wide range of exchange mechanisms. Universities' knowledge exchange partners are likely to come from business, public sector and the third sector as well as traditional industries. The benefits are both hard and soft (better skilled academics and graduates, safer communities, better managed organizations).

The UK’s Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) categorizes knowledge exchange activities into the following groups:

- Facilitating knowledge / research exploitation and process
- Skills and human capital development
- Knowledge sharing / diffusion
- Supporting the community / public engagement
- Enterprise education and entrepreneurship
- Exploiting the university’s physical assets
Some examples of knowledge exchange:

a. Knowledge / research exploitation and process
   - Licensed research
   - Patenting (including advice on IP and patenting)
   - Spin out company
   - University formed / run consultancy
   - Research consortia
   - Collaborative research / research awards
   - Contract research
   - Business development e.g. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) support; Value Addition (of services or to products)
   - App of research in existing external partner (often tech – product based)
   - Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs)
   - Sitting on advisory boards

And activities that facilitate this including:
   - Contracts / legal support
   - Corporate relations building
   - Press / communication activities relating to KEX.
   - Provision of investment or seed funds
   - Providing advice on IP / patent
   - External fund raising for research

b. Skills and human capital development
   - Continuous Professional Development (CPD) and short courses
   - Business people guest-lecturing and / or co-developing curricula
   - Life long learning: secondments, internships (virtual / real) etc
   - Careers services
   - Work placements (may include KTPs if for services development)
   - Project experience

c. Knowledge sharing and diffusion
   - Alumni networks creating individual connections in business, public or third sector
   - Knowledge Transfer Networks (KTNs: real / virtual)
   - Staff exchanges
• Academic-external organization networks

d. Supporting the community / public engagement
• Outreach work
• Volunteering
• Awareness-raising e.g. through public events such as open lectures; performance arts; exhibitions; school visits etc.
• Regeneration and development programs
• Community strengthening
• Involving the public in research

e. Social enterprise / entrepreneurship
• Enterprise clubs (student / faculty)
• Enterprise educator training
• Graduate start-ups: social or private enterprise
• Enterprise training

f. Exploiting the university’s physical assets
• Lab rental, resource sharing
• Technology/ Science parks
• Incubators
• Facilities or equipment leasing

Some types of knowledge exchange impact one partner more than the other

B. Benefits of knowledge exchange

For your HEI
• Improved research relevance, access to funding, access to partners
• New research / collaborative projects
• New contacts (in other sectors, with other HEIs etc.)
• Enhance reputation and regard
• Higher rankings
• More robust management and contracting practices

For your people
• More relevant and improved teaching materials and approaches
• New / improved curricula / courses
• New contacts
• Improved career prospects
• Improved personal reputation with a wider audience of peers
• New insights
• New skills and experiences

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<th>Program</th>
<th>Projects Awarded</th>
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<td>HEC - BC Knowledge Economy Partnership</td>
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