



INSPIRE: International Strategic Partnerships In Research & Education

Strategic Partnership Awards

Guidelines: Pakistan – UK

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1. Guidance Notes

INSPIRE: International Strategic Partnerships in Research and Education

INSPIRE Strategic Partnerships are part of a five-year programme designed to grow high level strategic relationships between UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Higher Education Institutions in Pakistan. Selection of projects for support will be according to clear criteria that include high quality, innovative research and / or academic excellence.

For the purposes of this project, a Strategic Partnership is one that is based on the development of collaboration at institutional level. Over the course of the partnership, institutions should aim to involve diverse teams at different levels and multiple departments within the university to create a multi-dimensional, international relationship (see section 2 for full details).

The aims of the programme under INSPIRE are:

- To strengthen UK - Pakistan links by encouraging the development of a wider partnership agenda;

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- To raise the profile of the UK - Pakistan partnership as innovative and high quality through demonstrating how researchers and academicians can collaborate effectively;
 - To contribute to capacity building in HEIs through contributing to the further development of staff, their professional skills and international research competencies;
 - To facilitate and build effective and sustainable partnerships based on research and / or teaching agendas which grow across the institutions involved;
 - To trial possible models for future co-operation between the UK and Pakistani HEIs.

This document outlines the criteria for INSPIRE Strategic Partnership funding of projects between **Pakistan and the UK** (see separate INSPIRE guidelines for other eligible countries in Central and South Asia: Bangladesh, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan) and the application process by which institutions may bid for this funding.

For further details on the background and aims of the project please refer to the INSPIRE website:

www.britishcouncil.org/inspire

2. Some background

A large number of links, some of which are long-standing, exist between researchers and research teams in the UK and Pakistan. Many of these have been, or continue to be, funded by DfID, the British Council and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) in Pakistan. Recently commissioned consultants' reports in Pakistan and in the UK confirm that these links provide good value for money in terms of their objectives. However, the UK report proposed that future BC-funded partnerships should have more ambitious strategic aims.

Current and past partnerships generally operate at a researcher-to-researcher or department-to-department level and appear, in most cases, to have little impact on internationalising the partner institutions on a broader basis. Furthermore, partnerships appear to have little impact on the UK department or university which hosts them beyond the immediate research team: many visitors from Pakistan expressed regret that they were unable to meet a wider range of staff; only in a few instances have links led to more broadly based departmental, faculty or university collaboration. Where partnerships have had an impact across the wider institution, this is more often the case within the Pakistan institution; it is not uncommon for visiting UK staff to present workshops and seminars to which a regional audience is invited. INSPIRE seeks to encourage more strategic partnerships in both countries.

To strengthen the strategic nature of partnerships, INSPIRE focuses on strategically important discipline areas for Pakistan, in which HEC has expressed particular interest. This approach will have a greater impact both on establishing the UK as a partner of choice and have the potential to leverage funding for more ambitious joint projects. INSPIRE seeks to encourage application of research and other aspects of knowledge transfer in these areas for economic and social benefit.

2.1 Priority subject areas:

The HEC has identified the following strategic areas as of particular importance to Pakistan:

- Education (including English language)
- Law Governance and Leadership
- Economics
- Clean Drinking Water
- Health Sciences(non clinical)
- Environment
- Power and Energy
- Intercultural Understanding and Relations

Please note: Priority will be given to applications in these subject areas in the first instance. However, depending on the quality and volume of applications we receive, we will consider applications in other areas not specified above.

3. Aims of the Pakistan-UK Partnership Scheme

The British Council therefore intends to fund the development of between 10 and 17 collaborative partnerships between HEIs in Pakistan and the UK to:

- Further internationalise the activities of the UK and Pakistan partner; and
- Encourage applied research of an international quality or other forms of cooperation which are strategically relevant to Pakistan and the UK.

4. What types of partnerships can be funded?

A variety of strategic partnership models are possible; each of the models should offer scope for collaboration and knowledge sharing.

4.1 Eligible partners

Partnerships must be formed between higher education institutions in the **UK** and public or private Government-recognised HEIs in **Pakistan**. Partnerships may be one-to-one or involve a consortium. All partnerships must include the UK and Pakistan, but could also involve Higher Education institutions in other countries.

Universities with existing links currently being funded by the British Council, Higher Education Commission (HEC) or DFID are welcome to apply. However, they should not originate from the same department within the universities, and must clearly demonstrate the new areas to be funded and how the current funding would be ring-fenced.

4.2 What is a strategic partnership?

For the purposes of this project, we are defining a strategic partnership as one that aims to develop a multi-dimensional institution-to-institution link based on a number of different areas of activity which goes beyond a single researcher or research team link. The British Council does not wish to be prescriptive regarding the exact nature of the relationship, but might include, for example, a mix of the following activities: multi-discipline research projects, faculty exchange, curriculum development, split PhD, the development of joint teaching programmes, student exchange, the involvement of the industrial and commercial outreach arm of the university, or external partners.

Applicants will have to demonstrate that their plans are backed at a senior level, and within the funding period demonstrate a clear intention to broaden activity across multiple areas and disciplines and are of an applied nature.

Preference will be given in the strategically important subject category to proposals relevant to one of the eight strategic subject areas identified by HEC. Applications in other subject areas must include a reasoned argument why it is of strategic importance to Pakistan.

4.3 Option for embedded Split Site PhDs within strategic partnerships: There is a strong need to provide PhD programmes of direct relevance to Pakistan, particularly to assist towards meeting the large and fast growing demand for new academic staff for HE institutions. Applications with embedded split site PhD element will be encouraged. The Higher Education Commission (HEC) in Pakistan has indicated strong interest in developing and supporting such models in the future as part of its national HE capacity building reform agenda.

4.3.1 Applications which choose to include split-site PhDs will need to demonstrate that they are set in the context of the proposed research collaboration.

4.3.2 It is not the remit of INSPIRE to be prescriptive about who the awarding body is to be, It is intended that split-site PhD awarding criteria are flexible to enable institutions to come to a mutually acceptable agreement. The awarding body can be:

- a) The UK institution;
- b) The Pakistani institution;
- Or c) a joint award.

The HEC does not permit dual awards.

4.3.3 Proposals should provide commitment and evidence of an agreement or an MoU between HEIs to deliver a split site PhD programme.

4.3.4 The application should specify proposed supervision arrangements with identified lead supervisor and supervisory team.



An element of INSPIRE funding can be used for capacity building activity such as:

- Training in research methodology and critique;
- Support in developing a research proposal;
- Professional development of Pakistani supervisors; and
- Training / shadowing in new approaches to learning and teaching.

For funding guidelines and restrictions on split-site PhDs, see Section 6.

5. What outputs and impact are expected from partnerships?

5.1 Outputs

Outputs are the product of partnership activities and should be planned in order to achieve the INSPIRE project objectives given above. Outputs may be tangible (bringing immediate benefits) or intermediate (requiring further activity to have a long-term effect). Tangible outputs in this context might include, for example, joint research findings and publications, jointly developed degree and diploma programmes, the Pakistan partner establishing an infrastructure for technology transfer and commercial application of research; department-wide research colloquia, split PhD.

Proposals and plans should also include intermediate outputs, such as research and other proposals for external funding, policy and planning documents (including inputs into the development of international strategies), reports and recommendations.

5.2 Impact


You will need to plan for, and demonstrate, the impact of your partnership. This can include change in behaviour, attitude, skills, knowledge or condition (situation). You might wish to ask “Will this make a difference (even in the very long term) and how can this be measured?”

If activity is focusing, for example, on the practical application of research, impact can be measured by, for example: Pakistan’s universities increasing their income from commercial sources; a change in the balance of basic and applied research in universities; Pakistan industry looking to its universities to meet their research and development needs rather than to universities in other countries.

Outputs in institutional policy, planning, management and administration are expected to lead to changes in systems. Impact of the international partnership as a whole on the institutions could, for example, be measured by an increased number of activities and people involved at different levels of the organisation, and changes in international policy and planning at the institutional level.

5.3 Sustainability

Partnerships are intended to be self-sustaining once established and are expected to achieve significant long-term impact that continues after the funding period, to contribute towards the



development of the institution-to-institution strategic partnerships. It is expected that plans will include how the partnership will be sustained after INSPIRE funding has ended, including leveraging other sources of external funding.

5.4 Use of ICTs to support international collaboration

Due to the sometimes unpredictability of undertaking visits to and from Pakistan/UK, proposals should include details of how ICTs will be employed to support the effective collaboration between partners, eg videoconferencing, virtual learning environments and other means. The success of the project should not be overly reliant on the physical exchange of faculty.

Over the last five years, the HEC has made considerable investments in state-of-the-art ICTs in most government-supported universities in Pakistan to enable effective international collaboration.

6. Funding

HEC-BC will be contributing financially in INSPIRE Strategic Partnerships, HEC will release funds directly to HEIs in Pakistan and BC to HEIs in UK

6.1 Number of Awards

In 2010-11, funding is available to provide for a minimum of 10 and maximum of 17 awards.

The number of awards for subsequent years will be confirmed in 2011.

6.2 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 your 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 maximum annual award for a bilateral institution-to-institution partnership is **£20,000** per annum. For multilateral or consortium partnerships the maximum award is **£30,000** per annum. It may be that the funding awarded is less than is requested. Larger awards will be made to more ambitious proposals that are judged to have a potentially greater impact.

For more information the types of activity that can and cannot be funded please see Section 8 (17 a) below on Eligible Costs.

6.3 Activities that the funding will cover

The primary purpose of the funding is to promote institution-to-institution partnerships with the emphasis of funding on the mobility of staff, researchers and research students exchanges, whenever possible. Where appropriate, these include periods of research in the partner institution.



CAN FUND	MAY BE CONSIDERED	CAN'T FUND
<p>International economy air travel.</p> <p>Accommodation and local subsistence costs</p> <p>Travel to & from the airport (UK, US and other countries)</p> <p>Local travel costs</p> <p>Insurance</p> <p>Visas & vaccinations for visitors (if essential for travel)</p> <p>Meetings, training events, seminars, conferences integral to partnership (including room hire, accommodation, travel & subsistence for participants where appropriate)</p> <p>Stakeholder dissemination workshops (including room hire, accommodation, travel & subsistence for participants where appropriate)</p> <p>Publications and associated printing costs, web pages development by in-house/external providers</p> <p>Essential project equipment (excluding books) up to a limit of £2,000 per project</p> <p>Project-specific consumables up to a limit of 20% of the grant per year</p> <p>Bank charges for transfer of funds to other partners by lead partner institution</p>	<p><i>For these types of activity to be funded applicants need to clearly illustrate the value of these proposed activities and how they are essential to the overall success of the project.</i></p> <p>Suitable short course fees for Pakistani staff and associated living costs. (See Section 21a below for eligible costs relating to the Split Site PhD element of the application)</p> <p>Administrative costs in HE institutions up to £1,000 per year</p>	<p>Staff time and /or replacement costs for permanent members of staff in any partner HE institutions, salaries or Full Economic Costs (FECs)</p> <p>Consultancy fees</p> <p>Course fees for doctoral, graduate or undergraduate students</p> <p>Mobile phone rental or purchase</p> <p>Entertainment costs</p> <p>Third party conferences & workshops</p> <p>Institutional overheads or recurrent costs</p> <p>Funding activities in and to countries other than partners countries in which the institutions are situated</p>

6.4 For Partnerships in which Split Site PhDs are embedded

The emphasis of funding is on the mobility of staff, researchers and research student exchanges in both directions of travel, whenever possible. These may include extended periods of research in the partner institution of no more than 12 months in total at the UK institution (this may be taken in several visits) over the course of the PhD.



It is expected that proposals in which split site PhDs are an element, funding for the PhD is as follows:

1. Pakistan Universities will fund student fees (INSPIRE Grant cannot be used for student fees)
2. British universities will be expected to discount their normal fee for split-site PhD degrees in some way in order to participate in the programme

For those applications that include the development of a Split Site PhD, this activity must be clearly embedded in the research collaboration proposal rather than presented as a stand alone activity. The evaluation panel will assess the extent of integration within the strategic partnership.

7. Criteria for Selection

Each applicant should ensure that their project proposals meet the criteria set out in this section and Section 4. The principles underlying the assessment of proposals for INSPIRE projects will be:

1. Their academic quality of the proposed collaboration, the institutions involved, and where appropriate the academic staff involved;
2. Their likely impact on broadening and deepening the bases of cooperation between the UK and Pakistan university;
3. Their approach towards ensuring and sustaining this level of cooperation beyond the availability of INSPIRE funding, including the potential for leveraging other sources of funding; and
4. Their strategic importance to, and impact in, Pakistan and the UK.


The proposal must also clearly indicate:

5. The inputs and contribution of both parties in terms and activities must be both mutually beneficial and complementary
6. The project provides value for money;
7. The overall project objectives and anticipated impacts are clearly defined;
8. Aims are clearly indicative of a successful approach to moving from hypothesis to application
9. The activities are planned to deliver the impacts in the most effective way;
10. The proposals are submitted jointly by the Pakistan Partner and UK institutions and have the formal support of the respective heads of institutions or delegated authority and any other participating institution.

A full scorecard will be available to download at www.britishcouncil.org/inspire:

8. Eligibility

Each project must be a joint submission by the UK and the Pakistan partner teams, through their institutions and formally endorsed by the respective heads of institutions or their delegated authority.



UK Project Leaders should be based in a UK University and they should normally be a UK citizen; EU citizens are also eligible provided they hold a 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.

Project Leaders in the Pakistan partner institution should be based in an HEI institution in Pakistan. They should normally be a citizen of Pakistan or, if not, should have worked for a minimum of 3 years in the institution.

There is an expectation that all members of the project teams involved in the project will meet the same citizenship / residency criteria as the Project Leaders. The lead institution can be either partner.

9. Application Process

Proposals for funding should be submitted on the standard Application Form available on the INSPIRE website www.britishcouncil.org/inspire

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

10. Evaluation Process


There will be a 4 stage approach to evaluating proposals:

1. Initial Screening: This is designed to eliminate technically ineligible proposals. It will be undertaken by the INSPIRE Management Team. A prioritised list of projects for further evaluation will be drawn up.
2. External Assessment: 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.
3. 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.
4. INSPIRE Programme Board Agreement: The ultimate decision for agreeing projects for funding support will be made by the Programme Board. The Evaluation Panel will submit to the Programme Board a prioritised list of projects for consideration with the comments of the Evaluation Panel. The decision of the Programme Board is final.

11. Contracting and Financial Arrangements

The contract for each project will be signed between the British Council, HEC and a representative of the institutions responsible for the financial control of the project.

The lead partner institution will be responsible for:

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1. Provision of accounts of all partner institutions to detail how the funds have been spent over the previous period.
 2. Alerting the British Council and HEC to any substantive changes in the project that will impact on either project impacts or financial disbursement.
 3. Returning to the British Council and HEC any unused funds in a timely manner.

12. Monitoring & Reporting

Each partnership will be contacted at regular intervals by the British Council. Each partnership may be audited at least once over the course of the project either by the British Council or by an external auditor. This may be done through site visits and/or progress reports.

Each partnership is required to submit to the HEC and British Council a short mid-year 'health-check' report, 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 finalising the contract.

13. Application Procedure

PLEASE NOTE: The paragraph numbering below follows the section numbers on the Application Form

The deadline for submission of proposals is 30 July 2010

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 summarise 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 INSPIRE funding?

Please let us know where you heard of the opportunities

5. Split Site PhD

Delete as appropriate



6 and 7. 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 **November 2010**.

8, 9 and 10. 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 Partner institutions. Where appropriate, details of 3rd partners should be included here.

11. 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 INSPIRE proposal differs and either builds on or complements previous projects.

Universities with existing links currently being funded by the British Council, Higher Education Commission (HEC) or DFID are welcome to apply. However, they should not originate from the same department within the universities, and must clearly demonstrate the new areas to be funded and how the current funding would be ring-fenced.

12. 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.

13. Embedded Split Site PhD

If your proposal contains the development of a Split Site PhD, please provide an overview of how the Split Site PhD will be managed within the wider strategic partnership proposal. Please also set out how the PhD will be managed, and also if you are proposing activity on capacity building activity within the PK institution. Please provide evidence of an agreement (formal or informal). You may wish to include a copy of any supporting MoUs.

14. Technical aspects of the project

Please provide further detail on the technical aspects of the proposed project. This may be in more specialised language and may cover methodology to demonstrate the merit of the project.

15. 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 for bi-lateral and for all partners in case of multilateral proposals. 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.

16. Use of ICTS

Please provide details of how ICTs will be employed to support the effective collaboration between partners, eg videoconferencing, virtual learning environments and other means.

17. Proposed Project Outputs and Impacts:

Please summarise briefly the intended outputs of the proposed co-operation – both qualitative and quantitative.

Only complete the table that is of relevance to your project. You may complete Output Table 1 and /or Output Table 2.

What is the main purpose of your partnership – what is the key thing you are hoping to achieve by the end of the project?

What is the main benefit, improvement or change your project will bring to institutions or individuals?

E.g. Output 1

Research (to international quality standards) and the application of this research.

E.g. Output 2

Collaboratively developed courses – all new courses and curriculum must be accredited and delivered at the Central & South Asia HEI. We also ask you to tell us what the likely demand and future student enrolment for these courses will be.

You MUST complete Output Table 3

Commercial Exploitation of Research, Technology Transfer or Knowledge Transfer

17. Proposed Impact

Impact 4a and Impact 4b

E.g. Developing the long-term strategic partnership and how this may contribute to internationalising 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?

18. 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.

19 and 20. Professional and Academic Experience of INSPIRE 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, organising 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.

21a. Financial Proposal

Please summarise the estimated costs (£ sterling) over the 3 year period of the project and present this information in the spreadsheet available on the website (Please download the Budget Template to be found at www.britishcouncil.org/learning-support-uk-providers-inspire-strategic-partnerships.html).

You are also required to complete the shorter table in the application setting out your requests for funding from INSPIRE 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 (ie Full Economic Costs - FECs) nor for administration, estate costs, student fees or other institutional overheads.

Please note that allowances for research students and staff funded by INSPIRE should normally follow that for the Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows Programme, as set out below.



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

Other Costs

- Other reasonable costs associated with travel e.g. internal travel in UK and Pakistan, visa costs can also be met.
- For proposals which include embedded split site PhDs: it is anticipated that participating UK institutions will discount these significantly as part of their contribution to INSPIRE; student fees will be met by the Pakistani institution.
- Project specific consumables, specialist reagents, costs of field work etc. INSPIRE funds can be used to make a contribution for such needs but this must not be more than 20% of the INSPIRE funds provided for the project. Please note that funds can not be employed to meet the regular running costs of the institution.
- Costs of running workshops and seminars directly relating to the research proposal.
- Any other costs intended to be met from INSPIRE funds should be itemised and these will be considered on an ad hoc basis.

Please note: No staff time or costs for permanent members of staff can be funded.

Contingency: Please add 5% to your activities costs to cover for contingencies. The use of any of these funds should be reported as part of the annual financial report.

21 b. 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 organisation and the anticipated time frame.

22. Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements


Each partnership is required to submit to the HEC and British Council a short mid-year 'health-check' report, an end-of-year report and a final report on completion of the project. HEC and British Council reserve the right to undertake their own monitoring and evaluation of projects.

An annual financial return will be required from all Projects.

Please indicate if you intend undertaking any monitoring and evaluations activities in addition to these.

23. Long Term Sustainability

The priority of INSPIRE is to facilitate the growth of long term strategic partnerships between the UK and Pakistan. Please indicate how you will seek to ensure that the partnership and/or other activities might be sustainable after the INSPIRE direct project funding has finished.



It will be helpful to think about the outputs and impact you have told us about in earlier sections and how these will be sustainable once the INSPIRE funding has finished?

- If you are developing a course – how will this be financed after the 3 year period?
- If you are conducting research – how will work be continued?
- If you are running training workshops – what is it in terms of building skills and knowledge that means that benefits are long-term?
- How will you work to ensure that the positive changes will be long-term?

Example indicators:

- Planning in place/other sources of funding have already been identified, i.e. donor agencies / government initiatives.
- Alignment with broader institutional objectives.
- Proposed new course fees are sustainable, i.e. affordability for individuals and/or sponsorships identified & target number of students can be obtained, i.e. demand.
- Outputs maintained by project team or to be fed into higher level institution policy decisions.

24. Data Protection Statement

All information on the application forms of proposals that are successful and funded by INSPIRE 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.

25. Signatures, Submission and Deadline

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


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

Completed applications should be submitted by both electronic and hard copy by 17:00 on **30th July 2010**

Electronic copies to: sarah.parvez@britishcouncil.org.pk , inspire@britishcouncil.org and inspire@hec.gov.pk

Please send all electronic copies in Word. Please title your e-mail: Strategic Partnership Awards and <Insert Pakistan Partner Name Here>

Hard copies to the British Council and Higher Education Commission



Please send hard copies to your local British Council office, and HEC Islamabad. Applications should be addressed to **INSPIRE, HE coordinator**.

Once submitted, we cannot accept any changes to the application.

If you have any questions about your application please contact **inspire@britishcouncil.org** and **inspire@hec.gov.pk**

Please ensure that the application has been signed and supported by the head of institution or their delegated representative.

Suggested Areas for Strategic Partnerships

1-Power and Energy

An interdisciplinary field of study devoted to finding new methods of sustainable energy production and improving the efficiency of existing systems. This discipline will address issues of the social and environmental aspects of energy usage and would further explore the economic and scientific aspects of conventional and sustainable energy generation.

Relevance to Pakistan

The world today is facing an increased demand for energy resources which are becoming scarce. Pakistan too is witnessing a hasty growth in the demand for energy both because of demographic pressures as well as industrialization. Energy crises in Pakistan is result of an array of factors including lack of adequate planning and implementation, operational deficiencies, weak strategic decision making, lack of innovation and adoption of new technologies, narrow energy source base, etc. We still have communities that have no access to electricity and 4-7 hours load shedding has become a routine affair. Due to decreasing share of hydel power and increasing international oil prices vis-à-vis continuous rise in demand of fuel and electricity, the task to incessantly match demand with supply has become more serious than ever. Serious stocktaking and research could be a solution to develop strategies that ensure uninterrupted supply of different energy resources to provide for rapid economic development of Pakistan.


2-Law, Governance and Leadership:

Interdisciplinary studies of Law, governance and leadership provides the basis for creating a just, responsive, and dynamic institutions as well as society. It also involves developing analytical reasoning skills and legal research skills to express analysis and arguments clearly, accurately and persuasively

Relevance to Pakistan

Pakistan's citizens enormously value their democratic heritage but the governance and legal system has faced repeated challenges. Pakistan's systems are still institutionally weak, and there have always been little assurances in the government's ability to deliver services, particularly at the local level. Moreover, public at large is not aware of the real meaning of democracy, where duties come before the rights. Popular expectations of power, in particular toward those who govern, need to be understood and most probably altered if Pakistan is to appreciate the kind of structure that permits a sustainable democratic system. In general, opportunities for a fair governance and law in Pakistan can only succeed when democratic practices are allowed to prevail under the primacy of unchanged establishment and law. To understand the shortcomings in the governance, leadership and the law in Pakistan, one must find explanations for the weaknesses in political tolerance and identity and we feel that this can be further explored by HE partnerships.

3-Macro-Economics:



Macroeconomics involves the forecasting of national income, through the analysis of major economic factors that show predictable patterns and trends. These factors include level of employment/unemployment, gross national product (GNP), balance of payments position, and prices (deflation or inflation). Macroeconomics also covers role of fiscal and monetary policies, economic growth, and determination of consumption and investment levels.

Relevance to Pakistan

Pakistan has faced severe macroeconomic imbalances; high import bills, stagnant exports, slow industrialization, political instabilities and deteriorating law and order situations has resulted in slow economic growth, poverty and increasing income inequalities and social ranking. High defense spending, continued dependence on imported stocks of fuel and edible oil, and dearth of local and direct foreign investment because of obvious reasons are few of the factors responsible continued macroeconomic instability in the country. The major challenge, therefore, is to find out ways and means to provide for macro-economic stability in wake of existing realities of Pakistan on sustainable basis. Economists and researchers in Pakistan today face the unique challenge of working through a very large set of geographical, social, economical and political constants for developing solutions to achieve lasting macroeconomic stability, Collaborative research in this area is highly recommended.

4-Clean Drinking Water

The scope of clean water studies will include real problems in water resources that exist or are anticipated in Pakistan covering but not limited to water generation, distribution, quality, watershed management, hydraulic cycles, ground water contamination and protection, etc.

Relevance to Pakistan

Water and sanitation related diseases are responsible for 60 percent of child deaths in Pakistan with diarrhea estimated to kill 230,000 Pakistani children under the age of five each year. A major cause is that vast majority of the country's 160 million inhabitants do not have access to drinkable water. Unchecked use of hazardous chemicals, vehicle emissions, industrial activity, changing global environment, high population growth etc. have contributed to a number of environmental and health hazards, chief among them being water pollution. Much of the country suffers from a lack of potable water due to industrial waste and agricultural runoff that contaminates drinking water supplies. Other important factors include inadequate planning to harness sweet/potable water efficiently and prolong its supply and use through suitable water conservation technologies. The prevailing situation demands radical research in areas of water resources generation, conservation, distributions in context of ground realities prevailing in the country.

