



A meeting of minds

UK – US New Partnership Fund

Partnership Grant Guidelines

A: CALL FOR PROPOSALS

PMI2 Connect is pleased to invite joint proposals from UK and US Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to develop partnerships. The funds are intended to stimulate the growth of a new variety of UK-US strategic partnerships (see below for definition) between HEIs or for growing UK-US cooperation involving HEIs in third countries.

PMI2 Connect intends to fund up to 20 projects up to a maximum value of £20,000 per project in 2010-2011.

These guidelines follow from recommendations proposed made in: 'UK-US Higher Education Partnerships: Realising the Potential', a report commissioned by PMI2 Connect. A copy of this report is available through the British Council website at: www.britishcouncil.org/eumd-pmi2-policy-dialogues-partnerships-usa

Deadline for submission of applications: 31st October 2010

B: BACKGROUND: THE CONTEXT OF PMI2 CONNECT

As part of the second Prime Minister's Initiative for International Education (PMI2), PMI2 Connect works with governments, policy makers and HEIs to bring people together to address common education and research challenges through dialogues and the building of strong partnerships and alliances.

At an institution level, PMI2 Connect has successfully funded 235 international Higher Education partnerships covering research co-operation, teaching and teaching programme delivery and promoted the international mobility of students, particularly from the UK.

- All partnerships funded under PMI2 Connect must;
- Be self sustaining after initial funding has ended;
- Evidence mutuality and complementarity;
- Share lessons learned from the activities with the wider higher education community.

More information about PMI2 Connect can be found at www.britishcouncil.org/pmi2-connect

C: THE UK-US NEW PARTNERSHIP FUND

The aims of the UK-US New Partnership Fund are to:

1. Grow mutually beneficial partnerships between UK and US HEIs.



2. Provide opportunities to deepen and broaden existing co-operation between UK and US HEIs.
3. Introduce new HE institutions to UK-US partnerships including from a greater diversity of locations in both countries.
4. Pilot new UK and US partnerships in third countries.
5. Build the basis for future sustainable partnerships between the collaborating institutions.
6. Strengthen the skills of higher education staff in both countries in developing and delivering partnerships.

Eligible Activities

There are two strands for which proposals are welcome:

Strand 1) Strategic partnerships

For the purposes of the UK-US New Partnership Fund, a strategic partnership is one that is broad-based and encompasses a range of collaborative activities. These might involve a combination of two or more of the following:

- Developing student, staff and researcher mobility: including for US study abroad students, UK student mobility, researcher, faculty and academic exchanges
- New research co-operation, particularly interdisciplinary
- Collaborative degrees and other approaches to learning and teaching, (including dual, joint and double degrees)

We understand that in developing your institutional partnership, there will be different levels of engagement according to the maturity of the relationship. For **new partnerships**, your work may focus on a single activity. If you wish to be considered for funding you will have to demonstrate a clear intention to broaden your activities across multiple areas and departments.

OR

Strand 2) Multi-Country Partnerships

Additionally we are keen to stimulate the development of new partnerships between UK and US HEIs that involve another country (these partnerships could be for research cooperation, learning and teaching, student exchange and joint or dual degrees). Innovative proposals are invited that might involve any country as a member of the partnership.

Subject priorities

Priority will be given to science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medical science disciplines, however the UK-US New Partnership Fund Committee will also welcome proposals that introduce innovative, including inter-disciplinary, approaches.

C: GUIDANCE NOTES FOR COMPLETION OF APPLICATION FORM

Please work through the application form completing each section as appropriate.

Please indicate contact details of all proposed institutions, and one key contact person, if more than one HEI in the UK or US HEI is to be involved.

If your proposal is around a multi-country partnership, please indicate contact details of the proposed partner in the named country.

The proposal should explain succinctly and/or provide:

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- the rationale for the proposed UK-US HEI partnership. Partners should be clear about the activity/activities to be developed within the collaboration. Discipline areas/departments should be clarified.
- a 12 month set of project activities including how the new proposals will:
 - either build on or extend existing partnerships between the HEIs
 - or grow new partnerships between HEIs that have not previously cooperated
- evidence that both institutions have considered
 - the long term sustainability of outcomes of the project beyond the funding period
 - the potential for mutual benefit
- proposed outcomes from the partnership activity (quantified as appropriate). A wide range of outcomes might be offered, for example: student exchanges and mobility (including for US study abroad students and UK student mobility); new research cooperation (particularly interdisciplinary); researcher, faculty and academic exchanges; collaborative degrees and other approaches to learning and teaching, (including dual and joint degrees); nature of third country activities.

Action Plan: please provide an overview of the proposed activities over the 12-month PMI2 funding period and link these where possible to delivery of the anticipated specified outcomes. Include details of any visits, exchanges, workshops, training activities and any regional events.

The project should **commence no later than the end of January 2011** and have a delivery plan of no longer than 12 months.

D: FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

In a separate spreadsheet, please set out the full costs against each activity (e.g. travel, accommodation, workshops etc) with numbers for each; for example specify number of person-flights, number of hotel-days etc. Also indicate any possible income associated with the activities. The total amounts required from the UK-US New Partnership Fund should be detailed in application form.

We are keen to encourage financial contributions from partner institutions; this may be made in the form of matched funding. Please include in your proposal indications on the levels and types of contribution (this may be in-kind, and this could include staff time).

UK-US New Partnership Fund is intended to be for pump-priming and is limited to a maximum of £20,000 per project. If future funds do become available proposals for project extensions will be invited.



E: CONDITIONS OF THE UK-US NEW PARTNERSHIP FUND

CAN FUND	MAY BE CONSIDERED	CAN'T FUND
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International economy air travel. ▪ Accommodation and local subsistence costs ▪ Travel to & from the airport (UK, US and other countries) ▪ Local travel costs ▪ Insurance ▪ Visas & vaccinations for visitors (if essential for travel) ▪ Meetings, training events, seminars, conferences integral to partnership (including room hire, accommodation, travel & subsistence for participants where appropriate) ▪ Stakeholder dissemination workshops (including room hire, accommodation, travel & subsistence for participants where appropriate) ▪ Publications and associated printing costs, web pages development by in-house/external providers ▪ Essential project equipment (excluding books) up to a limit of £2,500 per project ▪ Bank charges for transfer of funds to other partners by lead partner institution 	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Suitable short course fees and associated living costs ▪ Essential purchase of books for use by HE institutions - maximum of £1,000 per project per year ▪ Secretarial /administrative staff costs in HE institutions up to £1,000 ▪ One – off fees for external experts delivering lectures, facilitating training, workshops or seminars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff time and /or replacement costs for permanent members of staff in any partner HE institutions. ▪ Consultancy fees ▪ Course fees for doctoral, graduate or undergraduate students ▪ Purchase or rental of equipment such as desks, chairs, filing cabinets, photocopiers, facsimile & answering machines ▪ Mobile phone rental or purchase ▪ Entertainment costs

F: PROJECT GOVERNANCE

Lead applicant institution must be a UK Higher Education Institution; an identified senior manager should lead proposals.

Letters of Support: All proposals are required to include a letter of support from the Head of Institution, or someone with delegated authorities from both the UK institution and the US partner institution(s). In the first instance, the submission of the letter can be electronic but the hard copy will be required as soon as possible in order for your application to proceed through the evaluation stages.

G: EVALUATION

Successful applicants will be required to submit a brief summary report at the end of the 12 months (including a financial report) demonstrating the achievements of the project against the initial proposal, indicating the progress to the project objectives and what actions might have been taken to facilitate sustainability. A separate proforma will be provided.



H: SELECTION PROCESSES AND SCORECARD

There will be a 3 stage approach to evaluating proposals:

1. Initial Screening: This is to eliminate technically ineligible proposals. It will be undertaken by the PMI2 Connect project team. A prioritised list of projects for consideration at the next stage will be drawn up.
2. Selection Panel: Applications will be assessed by an independent Selection Panel. The Panel will include senior managers from the UK & US HE sectors with experience in evaluating international cooperation proposals.
3. PMI2 Connect Project Board: The Selection Panel will submit to the Project Board a prioritised list of projects for consideration, together with their comments and recommendations. The decision of the PMI2 Connect Project Board is final.

Proposals will be evaluated against the following scorecard criteria:

Criterion	Weighting
Conformity to guidelines including activities, subject areas and mutual benefit	30%
Financial proposal, including value for money	30%
Innovative nature of the approach and activities	20%
Action plan to deliver the proposed objectives and outcome	10%
Potential for longer-term sustainability	10%

I: DATA PROTECTION ACT STATEMENT

All information on the application forms of proposals that are successful and funded by PMI2 Connect will have details made public and it is a condition of application to the scheme that you agree to this.

By submitting this application, you agree to this statement. Acceptance of this condition is a requirement of applying to PMI2 Connect.

J: SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

Completed applications, including scanned signatures, should be submitted electronically by **31st October 2010**.

E-mail to: pmi2.connect@britishcouncil.org

(Note: Our systems will not accept Windows Vista documents; please save as an XP document or lower version)

A list of Frequently Asked Questions is available on the website: www.britishcouncil.org/pmi2-connect

If you require any further information please contact pmi2.connect@britishcouncil.org