Connections Through Culture Grants 2024

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

What type of projects will be considered?

Connections Through Culture (CTC) is a grant programme by the British Council to support artistic collaboration and exchange between creative professionals and arts organisations in Asia-Pacific and all four nations of the UK.

It aims to support new connections, exchanges, and collaborations between the UK and Asia-Pacific that build long-term relationships among artists, creative practitioners, and art and cultural organisations, hubs, networks, and collectives through collaborative digital, face to face, and/or hybrid artistic projects.

We are keen to receive applications from partners we have not previously worked with, especially including applicants working with partners outside London.

How did you select the eligible countries? Why isn't my country/territory eligible?

The British Council focused on certain countries where we have the capacity to help facilitate this project and so this has limited the number of places where it runs. We hope to be able to offer the programme or similar work in other countries in future, and we recommend you keep an eye on our **Arts Opportunities page** for other opportunities that may come up.

Can an individual or organisation be part of more than one application?

Yes. However, if successful, only one grant per individual/organisation will be awarded.

How many project partners can I have?

We will accept applications for multilateral projects and/or projects with more than one partner in the same country, with the focus on the programme being delivered mutually.

An additional partner (on top of the minimum two) from a non-eligible country/territory can take part in the project but cannot receive grant funding.

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In case of multiple partners from eligible countries involved, the amount of grant to be awarded is up to the threshold of the Asia-Pacific country of the Lead Applicant or where most activities will take place if the Lead Applicant is a UK partner.

If successful, the grant will be paid to the Lead Applicant, who will be responsible for transferring funds to other partner(s) according to the project proposal approved and included in the grant agreement with the British Council.

Please note that due to our office's foundation status in Thailand, grants can only be processed through the Thai partner (Lead Applicant or Counterpart Applicant) of the CTC UK-Thailand grants.

Can I change my partners once I have been successfully awarded a grant?

Any change in the partnership after selection needs to have the prior approval of the British Council.

I have previously received funding from the British Council. Can I still apply?

If you have previously received British Council funding (CTC or other programmes) for exactly the same activity as described in your application, you will not be able to apply for a new grant to repeat it.

If your application proposes the development, or addition of new elements to a project previously funded by the British Council (including new country partnerships, new project objectives and activities, or new ways of working), you can apply.

Is there matched funding expectations/requirements?

The grant requested can be for covering a part or the full project costs. Matched funding from partners and/or other external funding is welcomed but not required.

How will the grant be paid?

The grant amounts will be paid via bank transfer based on the grant agreements signed with Lead Applicant according to local tax legislation.

All compliances under local or foreign laws need to be duly met by the Lead Applicant confirming that they are eligible to receive the grant and have the required registration and approvals in compliance with the respective country laws.

The Lead Applicant is responsible for transferring funds to other partner(s) according to the project proposal approved and included in the grant agreement with the British Council.

How currency fluctuation will be considered?

If a non-UK organisation does not have an account in pounds Sterling (GBP), then the grant amount will be converted into local currency and fixed in the grant agreement according to British Council monthly currency bookkeeping rates.

Can I get access support to help me complete an application?

If you identify as disabled or have any access needs to complete the application, please contacts us via https://forms.office.com/e/bCDdSg6WHd?origin=lprLink. Depending on the level of support required, we may be able to assist you with making your application.

Can I include access support costs that are needed to deliver my project?

As an international cultural relations organisation, at the British Council we work towards mainstreaming our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) principles and practices across all our work strands. This includes how we engage with stakeholders, participants and partners. We strive to put best practice in place in terms of access.

We ask all applicants to embed audience accessibility into their projects, explain what your project will do to address this, include any **accessibility costs** in the budget proposal, and give reasonable justification, for example accessibility facilities for disabled participants to a project event.

How do I apply?

All applications must be submitted via the **online application form** by **2 September 2024 23:59 GMT.**

An application must be submitted by one Lead Applicant either in the UK or Asia-Pacific, working collaboratively with all the partners. An application for the same collaboration project can be submitted only once by one partner.

You will need to create a free Submittable account or sign in with Google or Facebook credentials in order to submit your application form. This form has collaboration enabled so you will be able to invite your project partner to collaborate on the form – the link is visible on the top right-hand corner named 'Invite Collaborators'.

You can save a draft of your work if you would like to complete the form later. You are able to keep your draft and edit it up until you submit. After submitting your application, it is not possible to re-access it to edit it. We recommend that you initially refer to the Application PDF Form to preview the questions before using the online portal, and to keep a separate copy of your application in case you encounter any technical issues.

If you have a technical issue on Submittable with your application, please check out the Submitter Resource Center or contact Submittable's Customer Support team with any technical questions.

We strongly recommend you do not leave it until the final day to submit your application to avoid high volume of traffic and risk of potential technical difficulties.

We will follow-up with you about your submission by email. Please be sure to **safelist notification emails from Submittable** and check the email address you used to sign up for your Submittable Account regularly.

Who assesses the applications?

Applications will be assessed by a team of British Council staff from across our global network together with a pool of external arts specialist assessors. All applications will be treated confidentially. All assessors will sign a no conflict-of-interest statement and non-disclosure agreement.

Can you review my application before I submit?

We aim to adhere to transparency and equality in providing opportunities for all applicants. We are not able to review your application before you submit to ensure fairness to all. If you have specific questions of application process or unclear about the application form questions when completing your application, you can send an enquiry to https://forms.office.com/e/bCDdSg6WHd?origin=lprLink and we will respond to you.

What are the responsibilities and obligations of a successful applicant?

All partners of successful projects will sign grant agreements stipulating their responsibilities. The main areas include but now limited to:

- Delivering the collaborations in accordance with the application submitted
- Timely reporting on progress of collaborations in the form of interim and/or final reports that include financial and narrative sections. The completion report should be submitted within 30 days of the end of the project. For projects longer than 6 months, an interim report should be submitted by end of month 5 of project
- Submitting audience numbers on a regular basis
- Adhering to branding requirements
- Following the British Council's policies according to the grant agreement including for example, Safeguarding global policy, British Council Equality Diversity and Inclusion Policy

Can all art forms/practices apply?

Yes.

Can groups/collectives apply?

Yes. A group from Asia-Pacific can apply with a group from the UK. One individual will need to be named as the Lead Applicant, and one as the Counterpart Applicant. The Lead Applicant will be responsible for managing the grant.

Can this be for a multi-country project? E.g. a group of people from across Asia-Pacific applying together to collaborate with individuals / a group from the UK?

Yes, with the focus on the exchange being mutual. In case of multiple partners from eligible countries involved, the amount of grant to be awarded is up to the threshold of the Asia-Pacific country of the Lead Applicant or where most activities will take place if the Lead Applicant is a UK partner.

Can CTC be used to support an existing project which has received funding from other British Council programmes?

CTC grants must support a new collaboration. However, it may support new ideas, interventions, or processes inspired from existing projects, and will be reviewed based on the four criteria set for this open call.

Can British Council support with additional funding?

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

What support can I expect?

Besides access support outline above,

- We will run orientation session for all partners of the successful projects that will cover delivery, reporting, our policies, international collaboration etc
- The project, upon confirmation of selection for a grant, is expected to be self-directed. However, if selected for a CTC grant, British Council staff based in Asia-Pacific and the UK can offer support in discussing your project. This could be helping you think through certain aspects of your project, or connecting you with those outside of your network. We will allocate to each collaboration British Council Relationship Managers from their respective countries to support with issues, queries and communication
- There will be a sharing session among grantees after all projects are completed with further details to be confirmed.

The British Council will not:

- find a partner organisation or an artist for your project or help with developing further an idea for the project
- review the application before it is submitted

What is the role of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Safeguarding for the application to the open call?

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, along with Sustainability is included in one of four assessment criteria for the CTC Grants, so it is important to factor it in your application.

Statement on Diversity, Inclusivity and Sustainability

As an international cultural relations organisation, British Council works towards mainstreaming of our EDI principles and practices across all our work strands. This includes in how we engage with stakeholders, participants and partners. We will be assessing how projects address and consider Diversity, Inclusion and Environmental sustainability.

We are committed to:

- Continuing to nurture creativity, innovation and flexibility and spot new opportunities to work with others, as well as new inclusive approaches and sources of support which facilitate meaningful participation and other benefits
- Remain relevant and dynamic and achieve greater reach, impact and sustainability. This will come from engaging with a diversity of partners, perspectives, needs, abilities and opportunities
- Continuing to engage with our stakeholders, participants and partners in a constructive response to global environmental challenges through our arts, culture work. This is underpinned by our own ethical operations to reduce our environmental footprint

We ask our grantees to align with the British Council's inclusive approach, and commitment to reducing our environmental footprint and we will be assessing how project proposals (and delivery) address and realise this.

For more information, please read the following documents:

British Council Equality Diversity and Inclusion Policy and Strategy

British Council Environmental Global Policy Statement

Safeguarding

The British Council is a global organisation and safeguarding is one of our priorities when delivering programmes directly or through others. We aim to create a safe environment in which no child or adult will experience abuse or exploitation during their contact with us. We also require that clients, customers, partners and suppliers are made aware of our Safeguarding policy and operate within it, this includes ensuring that staff and volunteers are safely recruited and trained in their safeguarding duty of care, programmes and projects are promptly risk assessed and mitigation measures implemented, a safeguarding Lead and focal point(s) are appointed and a safer incident reporting mechanism is implemented and communicated to all stakeholders to ensure that incidents are promptly and accurately reported and managed. We expect organisations and individuals delivering our programmes to promptly report any safeguarding incident or concern to the British Council to ensure that we fulfil our statutory reporting obligations.

We will provide adequate and appropriate resources to implement this global policy statement and will ensure it is communicated and understood.

Please get acquainted with the British Council Safeguarding Global Policy Statement.

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 safeguarding webinar to discuss our safeguarding policy and practice and what we expect from our programme delivery partners. You will need to sign these documents. For further reading, please see the British Council Safeguarding Global Policy Statement.