INSPIRE Transnational Education Programme
Development Funding Opportunity

We are pleased to invite proposals from UK and Pakistan Higher Education Institution (HEI) partnerships to develop and deliver higher education programmes in Pakistan.

We will seek to fund up to 8 projects.

Projects will be funded on a merit basis. All projects must demonstrate mutual and/or complementary benefits to both sides of the partnership.

Funding is available as follows:

**For Full awards:**

Funding for full awards will be spread over two years. Year 1 is up to a maximum of £20,000 GBP with the assumption that this will extend into Year 2 up to a maximum of £15,000 GBP on the basis of satisfactory outputs and proposals for building on the first year experience.

**For Short courses:**

Funding for short courses is up to a maximum of £15,000 GBP

These guidelines set out all eligibility criteria and information on the different types of funding available and how to apply.

1. **What are the aims for this funding call?**
   1.1. To establish mutually beneficial partnerships between HEIs in the UK and Pakistan.
   1.2. To increase awareness of the UK higher education systems in Pakistan and the Pakistan HE system in UK and the opportunities for long term partnership.
   1.3. To develop joint/dual award programmes and short course delivery at undergraduate and postgraduate levels
   1.4. To build sustainable, long term partnerships between collaborating institutions.
   1.5. To strengthen the skills of higher education staff in both countries in the techniques and knowledge of developing collaboratively delivered programmes including joint and dual awards.
All partnerships funded under INSPIRE must:

- demonstrate clear potential to become self-sustaining after funding has ended;
- show evidence of mutuality and / or complementarity;
- share lessons learned from the project to the wider Higher Education community in Pakistan and UK;
- not focus on international student recruitment into UK.

More information about INSPIRE can be found at http://www.britishcouncil.org/pakistan-higher-education-inspire.htm

2. Guidance Notes

Please follow the guidance notes carefully when filling in your application and ensure you meet all the essential criteria.

The application form is available from our website: http://www.britishcouncil.org/pakistan-inspire-institution-to-institution-strategic-partnerships.htm.

Please remain within the set page limits or your application will be penalised and may be scored down.

Bids will be considered from a consortium of institutions

2.1. Essential Criteria

Please ensure your application meets all the following Essential Criteria, failure to do so may mean your application will not proceed through to evaluation stages.

a. This funding call is open to joint applications from:

i. an accredited UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

ii. Higher Education Institutions (public and private sector) in Pakistan that have formal accreditation by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan.

b. Bids for funding should be made jointly by the UK and Pakistan HEIs and must evidence support of the institutions involved with letters of support as stated in the final section of the application form.

c. Bids from individuals will not be considered

e. The following types of courses are eligible for funding:

**Full Awards:**

Up to two years where a partnership proposal is for the development of a full undergraduate programme leading to a Bachelors award or postgraduate level award leading to a Masters award either awarded by the UK institution or a joint / dual award with the Pakistan HEI

Or
Short Courses:

One year funding for courses leading to UK (or joint/dual) qualifications at Postgraduate or Undergraduate level equivalents which carry an award or a CATS credit rating. These may be free standing or could be part of an intended progression of courses leading eventually to the award of a UK or joint/dual degree.

INSPIRE awards for short courses are intended to support a variety of collaborative initiatives mainly in relation to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and similar programmes. These might include:

- Stand-alone programmes developed specifically for CPD students
- Courses that are also modules in postgraduate or undergraduate programmes
- Tailor-made courses designed for the specific training needs of a company or organisation and only available to their employees
- UK awards should be available for all successful students in the proposed programme; (degree, diploma, certificate, CATS credits);

f. Only programmes delivered entirely or almost entirely (at least 70%) in Pakistan will be considered

g. Projects must aim to commence their development phase by October 2012

h. Programmes receiving INSPIRE funding will need to illustrate a firm commitment to start course delivery to students no later than October 2013

i. All successful applicants must commit to sharing experiences and lessons learned with other institutions involved in the INSPIRE project;

j. All applications must demonstrate investment funding from the institutions involved in their financial proposal. This might be in kind and can include costs of staff time during the development stage of the course;

k. INSPIRE has the fundamental aim of promoting activities that are of strong mutual benefit to UK and Pakistan. We will not accept the following activities as eligible for funding:

   - Progression agreements with the main purpose to provide entry onto degree programmes offered solely in the UK or in PK
   - Collaborative provision already in place and for which no significant change is planned
   - Programmes of study delivered entirely by means of distance learning, including e-learning, that do not include some element of partnership agreement
• Proposed collaborations that do not involve a recognised HEI
• Proposed collaborations where the lead partner in Pakistan is, in effect, an owned subsidiary of the lead partner in the UK

2.2. Desirable Criteria

a. Proposals which seek to address the following will be viewed favourably:

Evidence that the proposed programme meets a specific need in Pakistan of delivery, e.g. that it meets a developmental need or fills gaps in existing provision.

3. Funding

INSPIRE funding is intended to act as pump prime and is not intended to cover all costs involved in developing a collaborative programme.

3.1 Funding is available as follows:

a. **For Full awards:**
Total funding will be spread over two years. Year 1 is to a maximum of £20,000 GBP with the assumption that this will extend for into Year 2 up to a maximum of £15,000 GBP on the basis of satisfactory outputs and proposals for building on the first year experience.

b. **For Short courses:**
One year of funding to a maximum of £15,000 GBP

3.2 Conditions of Funding

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSPIRE Funding CAN be used for:</th>
<th>INSPIRE Funding CANNOT be used for:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funds will be available to provide for travel, accommodation and subsistence associated with:</td>
<td>staff salaries</td>
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<tr>
<td>- staff development and staff training</td>
<td>student fees or subsidies for these</td>
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<td>- developing the curriculum</td>
<td>teaching and administration costs</td>
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<td>- developing materials</td>
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<td>- developing QA systems</td>
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<td>- monitoring and evaluation of the project</td>
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<td>Purchase of software, books and journals relevant to development of the partnership up to the total value of £15,000 over the project period for the Full Awards and £3,000 over the project period for Short Course Awards</td>
<td>Validation costs</td>
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<td>Reasonable Marketing and Promotion costs</td>
<td>Student scholarships</td>
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