

Going Global Partnerships

Application Form

TNE Exploratory grant - Bangladesh

November 2024

Application for TNE Exploratory grant

Country: Bangladesh

Please submit the completed application form to GoingGlobalpartnershipsTNEBD@britishcouncil.org by **23:59 (BST) 21 December 2024**. Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure delivery by deadline. Applications will **not be** considered if they are received after the deadline. We recommend that you send at least one hour before the official deadline. Please note that no images and photos are allowed.

SECTION 1: PROJECT TITLE, PARTNERSHIP AND CONTACT DETAILS	
Project title	Developing an international professional certification program for digital manufacturing at the American International University in Bangladesh
Main focus of your project	☒ Creating an enabling environment for TNE through strengthening the quality of TNE ☐ Creation of new opportunities and helping to overcome barriers to TNE ☐ Supporting TNE to transform local education systems and contribute to the SDGs
Partner countries	UK and Bangladesh
Duration of collaboration, in months (it should not exceed 12 months)	12 months
Proposed start date (DD/MM/YYYY)	12 February 2025

CONTRACTING INSTITUTION DETAILS	
Full name, including title, of person leading on this application	Professor Javaid Butt
Position/Job Designation within institution	Professor of Manufacturing and Product Design
How would you describe your gender	☐ Female ☒ Male ☐ non-Binary ☐ Another way ☐ Prefer not to say
Do you consider yourself to have any disability	☒ No ☐ Yes ☐ Prefer not to say
Your personal institutional email address	javid.butt@bcu.ac.uk
Your LinkedIn profile (if applicable)	https://uk.linkedin.com/in/javidbutt

Institution name - <u>responsible for application submission and contract signing</u> (give full legal name)	Birmingham City University
Lead institution address (including country)	15 Bartholomew Row, Nechells, Birmingham, B5 5JU, England, United Kingdom
Type of institution	Higher Education
Department/Faculty or School responsible for this application	Faculty of Computing, Engineering, and the Built in Environment
Name of Deputy (who can deputise for the Lead Person if they are unable to lead the collaboration for any reason)	Dr Ashikul Khan
Deputy - current position	Lecturer, Program Director for MSc Management Suite
Deputy - email address	Ashikul.khan@bcu.ac.uk
Name of Head of Department	Dr Bruce Philp
Name of person <u>with delegated authority</u> within Institution for <u>approving this application</u>	Name: Nick Morton Position: Associate Dean for Teaching, Education & Student Experience

PARTNERING INSTITUTION(S) DETAILS – PARTNER 1

Partner 1 Institution name (please enter full legal name)	American International University – Bangladesh
Institution address (including country)	American International University – Bangladesh, 408/1, Kuril Kuratoli Road, Khilkhet, Dhaka 1229, Bangladesh
Department/Faculty or School	Faculty of Engineering
Type of institution	Higher Education
Full name, including title, of person leading from partner institution	Prof. Dr. Engr. Abdur Rahman
Position/Job Designation within institution	Pro Vice Chancellor
Institutional email address	arahman@aiub.edu
LinkedIn profile (if applicable)	https://bd.linkedin.com/in/md-abdur-rahman-55176528
How do they describe their gender (please check with them)	☐ Female ☒ Male ☐ non-Binary ☐ Another way ☐ Prefer not to say
Do they consider themselves to have any disability (please check with them)	☒ No ☐ Yes ☐ Prefer not to say

PARTNERING INSTITUTION DETAIL – PARTNER 2 (IF APPLICABLE)

Partner 2 Institution name (please enter full legal name)	
Institution address (including country)	
Department/Faculty or School	
Type of institution	
Full name, including title, of person leading from partner institution	
Position/Job Designation within institution	
Institutional email address	
LinkedIn profile (if applicable)	
How do they describe their gender (please check with them)	☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ non-Binary ☐ Another way ☐ Prefer not to say
Do they consider themselves to have any disability (please check with them)	☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ Prefer not to say

PARTNER INSTITUTION DETAIL – PARTNER 3 (IF APPLICABLE)

Partner 3 Institution name (please enter full legal name)	
Institution address (including country)	
Department/Faculty or School	
Type of institution	
Full name, including title, of person leading from partner institution	
Position/Job Designation within institution	
Institutional email address	
LinkedIn profile (if applicable)	
How do they describe their gender (please check with them)	☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ non-Binary ☐ Another way ☐ Prefer not to say
Do they consider themselves to have any disability (please check with them)	☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ Prefer not to say

PARTNERSHIP

Is this partnership building on a previous or active collaboration between the partners?	☒ No, this is a new partnership. ☐ Yes, we are currently collaborating. ☐ Yes, we have collaborated previously.
If you replied “yes” to the previous question <u>and</u> you received British Council funding for this partnership, please give details	
If you replied “no”, and no prior collaboration has taken place, how have the teams come to know one another?	☐ Through advice ☒ Organic network of team members ☐ Tangential collaboration within own department ☐ Tangential collaboration within institution ☐ Other (briefly explain below) Details (if applicable) –
Partnership sustainability – How will connections established during this project life cycle be sustained after the end date for both institutions and teams involved?	Partner Institutions ☐ Organically/informally (i.e., the team will need to review outputs first but will keep in touch at least) ☒ This is part of a formal agreement, a wider research project, so it will evolve to next stage (funding is in place or funding to be determined) Teams involved ☒ The departments will set up comms to keep channels open for research collaborations, ☐ Mobility of staff/students will be encouraged. ☐ Active research/work (funding in place) ☒ Active research/work (funding to be determined), ☒ Regulatory: Memorandum of Understanding, processes, systems to be developed

Associated Partners (from both Overseas and the UK) affiliated with:

- Higher Education providers
- Not-for-profit research institutions, establishments, and organisations
- TVET/FE providers
- Other education organisations/charities/foundations/membership bodies
- Not-for-profit organisations, including Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)
- For-profit/commercial organisations, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs)
- Full campuses, study centres or branch campuses of foreign university
- Government organisations
- Employer organisations and industry bodies

Associate Partner 1	
Institution/Organisation Name	Pangeacore Ltd.
Brief description of organisation (max 50 words)	Pangeacore Ltd. is a digital solutions provider specializing in innovative technology services. It offers custom software development, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, data analytics, and digital transformation solutions tailored to businesses. Pangeacore helps organizations enhance productivity, processes and achieve their strategic goals through cutting-edge technologies.
Lead (full name/title)	Ahmed Shayok
How do they describe their gender (please check with them)	☐ Female ☒ Male ☐ non-Binary ☐ Another way ☐ Prefer not to say
Role/Contribution to project (max 50 words)	PangeaCore Ltd will provide in-kind contribution by supporting the training sessions/events and aiding in the creation of certification modules. They will also share best practices, participate in stakeholder events, facilitate data collection for monitoring and evaluation, and collaborate on industry-academia projects, enhancing curriculum relevance and practical applications.
How do they add value? (max 50 words)	PangeaCore Ltd brings expertise in cutting-edge digital solutions, enabling the integration of Industry 4.0 technologies. Their role in developing scalable platforms, enhancing faculty capabilities, and supporting analytics for evaluation ensures the project's success. Their contributions foster innovation, improve TNE delivery, and strengthen collaboration between UK and Bangladeshi institutions.

Associate Partner 2	
Institution/Organisation Name	
Brief description of organisation (max 50 words)	
Lead (full name/title)	
How do they describe their gender (please check with them)	☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ non-Binary ☐ Another way ☐ Prefer not to say
Role/Contribution to project (max 50 words)	
How do they add value? (max 50 words)	

Associate Partner 3	
Institution/Organisation Name	
Brief description of organisation (max 50 words)	
Lead (full name/title)	
How do they describe their gender (please check with them)	☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ non-Binary ☐ Another way ☐ Prefer not to say



Role/Contribution to project (max 50 words)	
How do they add value? (max 50 words)	

SECTION 2: PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ACTIVITIES

Briefly summarise the objective of this proposal within the timeframe of the grant including details of activities that will be undertaken to attain these objectives (1000-word limit):

Digital transformation is central to government policies in both developed and developing countries, focusing on leveraging Industry 4.0 technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), digital twins, simulations, internet of things, big data analytics etc. As per the UK Digital Strategy, an investment of more than £147 million was made via the Made Smarter Innovation programme to drive the development of the next generation of digital solutions for manufacturing [1]. Similarly, the UK National AI Strategy is focused on harnessing the benefits of AI [2]. Furthermore, an investment of £37.6m for the development of a Digital Twin Centre in Northern Ireland emphasises the importance of digital manufacturing [3]. Along the same lines, Bangladesh is also aiming to leverage AI for manufacturing innovation to automate production processes, reduce costs, and enhance production outcomes [4]. With the Smart Bangladesh Vision 2041, the government has actively supported the adoption of digital tools in various industries, including manufacturing [5]. These efforts demonstrate the active role of governments to modernise and solve challenges faced by the manufacturing sector such as technology integration/adoption, sustainability, and skill shortages.

Considering these developments, this proposal aims to create a professional certification program for digital manufacturing at the American International University in Bangladesh (AIUB) with a specific focus on digital twins, physics-based simulations, data-driven modelling and artificial intelligence (based on industry demand and international technological trends). The focus is on developing a sustainable transnational education (TNE) model by leveraging global education partnerships, facilitating policy frameworks, building infrastructure, and fostering collaborations between international institutions and local stakeholders. In this context, the objectives and associated activities of the proposal are summarised below:

Objective 1: Strengthen AIUB's institutional capacity to serve as a regional hub for TNE in digital manufacturing.

Activities:

- a. Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to identify AIUB's current capabilities and gaps in digital manufacturing.
- b. Identify hardware/software requirements for cutting-edge digital manufacturing initiatives and develop a "Digital Manufacturing Knowledge Repository".
- c. Design the project website and initiate the development of a mobile app, resulting in sustainable and inclusive platforms for future TNE collaborations
- d. Deliver workshops for AIUB leadership to establish TNE governance frameworks.
- e. Consult key areas identified with academics and industry professionals in Bangladesh.

Objective 2: Develop AIUB faculty expertise in Industry 4.0 technologies to support international certification and curriculum standards (Bangladesh visit to the UK).

Activities:

- a. Organize faculty workshops and training programs led by Birmingham City University (BCU) experts.
- b. Facilitate AIUB faculty participation in professional development programs, focusing on digital twin technology, AI, and advanced manufacturing simulations.
- c. Develop faculty skills in aligning courses with international standards (e.g., ISO/IEC 30173:2023) and certifications.
- d. Engage UK digital manufacturing hubs and catapults (e.g., High Value Manufacturing Catapult) in the training program.

Objective 3: Develop an inclusive professional certificate program in digital manufacturing

Activities:

- a. Work with AIUB faculty to design an internationally aligned professional certification in digital manufacturing.

- b. Partner with Bangladesh and UK manufacturing experts to inform program structure and local needs (partnerships already in place with in-kind contributions).
- c. Incorporate inclusive practices in the content design/delivery and promotion/marketing activities.
- d. Develop a framework for scaling and sustaining the program, ensuring alignment with national and global trends.

Objective 4: Foster long-term academic and industry partnerships to promote the adoption of UK educational models in Bangladesh (UK Visit to Bangladesh).

Activities:

- a. Host an international symposium at AIUB in collaboration with industry/academic leaders to highlight digital manufacturing trends and challenges.
- b. Develop collaborative projects between AIUB, BCU, and industry partners to create pathways for knowledge exchange.
- c. Establish joint research initiatives to solve regional manufacturing challenges using digital technologies.

Objective 5: Promote regulatory and institutional frameworks that enable sustainable TNE delivery in Bangladesh and disseminate best practices.

Activities:

- a. Engage with policymakers, industry leaders, and educators to identify regulatory barriers to TNE adoption and discuss policy recommendations.
- b. Document program outcomes, including feedback from stakeholders, and assess the program's impact on TNE and manufacturing innovation.
- c. Develop a roadmap for integrating sustainable TNE delivery frameworks at AIUB.
- d. Monitoring and evaluation activities to assess the project's effectiveness and long-term impact through user analytics and feedback.
- e. Publish findings in academic journal/conference and develop a promotional video to share insights on the transformative role of TNE in developing economies.

The development of the project website and a mobile app offer a sustainable platform for future TNE collaborations, whereas dissemination activities will foster further engagement and long-term impact. The proposal addresses skill gaps in Industry 4.0 technologies while enhancing institutional and structural capacities at both BCU and AIUB. For BCU, it advances internationalization efforts and strengthens its global reputation in Industry 4.0 expertise. For AIUB, it equips faculty with advanced knowledge, integrates cutting-edge tools into academic programs, develops an international certification, and builds local capacity for digital manufacturing innovation. To ensure the long-term sustainability of the program, AIUB will establish strategic partnerships with local/international manufacturers and integrate the program into its broader curriculum offerings. The certification model will be scalable, allowing AIUB to collaborate with institutions across Bangladesh and South Asia. The program will expand through regional workshops, online platforms, and partnerships to meet the increasing demand for digital manufacturing skills in the region.

The initiative benefits leadership, staff, and students at both institutions by enhancing education, employability, and research capabilities. It addresses TNE barriers such as limited access to advanced digital tools and knowledge transfer mechanisms in Bangladesh, fostering trust, shared learning, and co-development of resources. By combining BCU's expertise with AIUB's local contextual knowledge, the project establishes a sustainable framework for future TNE collaborations. Its emphasis on inclusive and high-quality education is demonstrated through interdisciplinary approaches, active stakeholder engagement, and alignment with regional and national priorities. The project bridges skill gaps, promotes inclusivity, and integrates advanced digital technologies into education, driving structural transformation at AIUB. At regional and national levels, it supports Bangladesh's industrial modernization while strengthening the UK's leadership in TNE.

References

- [1] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uks-digital-strategy/uk-digital-strategy>
- [2] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-ai-strategy>

- [3] <https://www.futureoilgas.com/news/uk-announces-376m-digital-twin-centre-northern-ireland>
 [4] <https://lightcastlepartners.com/insights/2024/09/bangladesh-ai-transformation/>
 [5] <https://govinsider.asia/intl-en/article/riding-on-the-cloud-to-a-smart-bangladesh-by-2041>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

(which of the following SGDs will this project contribute towards – select up to 5)

☐ SDG01 – No Poverty	☐ SDG02 – Zero Hunger	☐ SDG03 – Good Health and Well Being	☒ SDG04 – Quality Education	☒ SDG05 – Gender Equality	☐ SDG06 – Clean Water and Sanitation
☐ SDG07 – Affordable and Clean Energy	☒ SDG08 – Decent Work and Economic Growth	☒ SDG09 – Industry Innovation and Infrastructure	☐ SDG10 – Reduced Inequalities	☐ SDG11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities	☐ SDG12 – Responsible Consumption and Production
☐ SDG13 – Climate Action	☐ SDG14 – Life Below Water	☐ SDG15 – Life on Land	☐ SDG16 – Peace and Justice Strong Institutions	☒ SDG17 – Partnerships for the Goals	

OUTCOMES

What are the expected outcomes of the proposed project?

Expected Outcome 1	An inclusive, international professional certificate program in digital manufacturing for students, industry/academic professionals and government officials.	Select: ☒ Immediate outcome – within 1 month of end of project ☐ long-term outcome – 12 months+ after project finishes
Expected Outcome 2	Project website and mobile app will be continuously updated and tested during the life of the project, but the final version will be available within 1 month of end of project and will be operated/maintained by AIUB afterwards.	Select: ☒ Immediate outcome – within 1 month of end of project ☐ long-term outcome – 12 months+ after project finishes
Expected Outcome 3	Preparation for journal/conference paper and promotional video to disseminate the project findings related to digital manufacturing in developing and underdeveloped countries.	Select: ☒ Immediate outcome – within 1 month of end of project ☐ long-term outcome – 12 months+ after project finishes
Expected Outcome 4	Increased adoption of UK-based educational models in curriculum and practice via a roadmap for integrating sustainable TNE delivery frameworks at AIUB.	Select: ☐ Immediate outcome – within 1 month of end of project ☒ long-term outcome – 12 months+ after project finishes

OUTPUTS

What are your project anticipated tangible outputs and proposed benefits for the following:

Your department	The tangible outputs for the College/(department) of Engineering at Birmingham City University (BCU) include new curriculum development, enhanced faculty expertise, increase in research outputs and improved employability. We are in the process of incorporating project-based learning into our curricula and this initiative aligns well with the creation of advanced course modules and certification programs (CPD activities) focused on Industry 4.0 technologies like digital twins, AI, and simulations. The capabilities of our faculty will also improve through professional development in cutting-edge technologies, aligning with global standards like ISO/IEC 30173:2023. In terms of benefits, this project strengthens the College's reputation in Industry 4.0 and digital manufacturing technologies. The enhanced faculty capability will lead to an increase in the number of research outputs focused on digital manufacturing and transnational education (TNE) frameworks. Furthermore, our students will be equipped with in-demand skills for global industries, particularly in digital transformation and advanced manufacturing; thus, improving their employability prospects. Furthermore, such collaborative projects contribute to high-impact academic publications. This boosts the department's ability to attract funding, foster innovation, and improve overall academic performance.
Your institution in relation to its institutional strategy	The project will deliver tangible outputs for BCU, including the development of a professional certification program in digital manufacturing, alongside a project website and mobile app that facilitate sustainable TNE collaboration. It will produce impactful research publications and reports focusing on TNE and Industry 4.0 integration, while establishing strong partnerships with AIUB and industry stakeholders in Bangladesh. These outputs align directly with BCU Strategy 2030 by strengthening the university's global reputation in Industry 4.0 expertise and advancing its internationalization goals. The project enhances BCU's capacity for innovative TNE delivery and fosters interdisciplinary research impact. These aspects align with the SDGs 4, 5, 8, 9, demonstrating BCU's commitment to fostering quality education, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, and industry innovation and infrastructure. By engaging with international partners and addressing global challenges, the project reinforces BCU's role as a leader in sustainable and inclusive education, contributing to long-term social and economic advancement in line with global development priorities.
Your partners	The tangible outputs for AIUB and regional stakeholders (including Pangeacore) will include the development of a professional certification program in digital manufacturing, underpinned by advanced tools like a project website and mobile app. Faculty training sessions, stakeholder workshops, and an international symposium will strengthen expertise in Industry 4.0 technologies. Additionally, policy recommendations and research publications will formalize the project's impact while creating a sustainable framework for knowledge sharing and collaboration. These deliverables will directly address skill gaps and facilitate long-term TNE partnerships between stakeholders. For AIUB, the benefits lie in enhanced faculty expertise, modernized curriculum aligned with international standards, and a strengthened institutional capacity to lead in digital manufacturing education. These



	advancements will position AIUB as a regional hub for cutting-edge digital manufacturing training and research. Pangeacore will benefit from its role as a technology partner, gaining visibility in the education sector and demonstrating its capability to support digital transformation initiatives through innovative solutions.
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ACTIVITIES AND MONITORING			
Activity description	Indicator (Tangible measure of the success of the activity)	Target (Number of people planned to reach)	Resources (Including budget)
Example: Student and Faculty Exchanges	Number of students	1,000	GBP 1,000 And Senior Manager (25 days)
Desktop study, Digital Manufacturing Knowledge Repository, project website and mobile app	Hardware/software requirements identified for the training activities, basic architecture developed for the website and mobile app	Content approved by the 7 academics at BCU and AIUB academics as well as discussion with 5 industrial stakeholders	Development of project website for project content and mobile app for digital manufacturing certification content, interactive videos and quizzes (£6,000)
Digital manufacturing workshops and training programs in the UK	Number of workshops and participants	3 workshops reaching 50 academic and industry professionals	International travel for AIUB academics (£3,200), and workshop activities (£2,200)
Professional Certificate Development	Completion of certificate program and roadmap	One comprehensive certificate program with a 5-year roadmap	Interactive content production and promotional video (£2,500)
International symposium in Bangladesh	Number of attendees and participating companies	5-day event with 150 participants from academia, industry, and students	International travel for BCU academics (£1,600), event organization, publicity and materials (£4,000)
Dissemination, monitoring and evaluation	Number of articles published, and user analytics collected	1 conference paper and 1 journal article, user analytics analyzed	£5,500 for research assistance and publication fees

How will you assess whether the outcomes have been achieved and that the overall project has been successful?
To assess whether the project outcomes have been achieved and the overall project is successful, a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework will be established. Key assessment methods include:

Certificate Program Enrolment and Completion Rates: Tracking the number of students, industry professionals, and government officials enrolling in and completing the professional certification program will provide quantitative evidence of its uptake and relevance.

Stakeholder Feedback: Surveys and interviews with faculty, students, and industry participants will gather qualitative insights into the program's perceived value and effectiveness in addressing skill gaps.

Analytics from the Digital Platforms: Usage data from the project website and mobile app will be monitored to evaluate engagement levels, including visits, downloads, and active participation in workshops and certifications.

Policy and Curriculum Impact: Review of AIUB's adoption of UK-based educational models and integration of TNE frameworks into its broader curriculum will highlight institutional benefits. This will be supplemented by analysing any regulatory changes influenced by the project and the uptake of similar models in the region.

Dissemination Success: The preparation and impact of journal/conference publications and the promotional video will be evaluated based on reach, citations, and stakeholder responses. Sustainability Metrics: Long-term partnerships, faculty expertise growth, and AIUB's capacity to maintain and expand the program will be indicators of the project's sustainability.

Long-term Impact Assessment: AIUB will conduct follow-up surveys with participants 6-12 months after the project to evaluate the application of learned skills in their respective organizations. They will monitor the adoption of digital manufacturing practices in participating companies and assess improvements in manufacturing efficiency and decision-making processes.

What measures will you put in place to ensure the sustainability of this project once the funding period has ended?

The project team will implement the following measures:

Curriculum Integration: BCU will work with AIUB to fully integrate the digital manufacturing modules and skills developed during the project into AIUB's regular academic programs. This will ensure long-term adoption and continued relevance of the curriculum.

Faculty Development: The project team will establish a comprehensive training program for AIUB faculty members, creating a core group of experts in digital manufacturing technologies. This will enable them to independently continue teaching and expanding the program into other domains.

Industry Partnerships: The international symposium will play a significant role in attracting and retaining engagement from both Bangladesh and international stakeholders. Continued collaborative efforts and digital tools will ensure interest and will keep the curriculum relevant as well as provide real-world application opportunities for students.

Digital Resource Hub: The project website, mobile app, interactive training videos, promotional video and respiratory will ensure continued and easy access to the resources and certification content. This resource hub will support ongoing education in digital twinning beyond the funding period.

Research Initiatives: BCU will encourage joint research projects between faculty and students from both institutions, fostering innovation and keeping the program at the forefront of technological advancements in digital manufacturing.

Continuous Evaluation System: The project team will implement a system for regular assessment and adaptation of the program. This will ensure that the curriculum meets evolving industry needs and technological changes in the manufacturing sector.

Alumni Network: BCU will help AIUB create a community of practice among program graduates. This network will foster ongoing collaboration, knowledge exchange, and potential funding opportunities for future initiatives.

Collectively, these measures ensure that the project's impact extends well beyond the funding period, fostering enduring educational, industrial, and research benefits. Furthermore, additional plans will be put in place to ensure the sustainability of the project such as financial sustainability (by introducing a subscription-based structure for the professional certification program), policy integration (build on the engagements and collaborations developed during the project to work with government education bodies and industry regulators to formally integrate the certification program into national education and workforce development policies), and global scaling (by build a network of international academic and industry partners to expand the program beyond Bangladesh). These measures will complement the existing sustainability strategy, ensuring a robust framework for long-term success.

Will/Can this proposal contribute to a more scalable TNE, where programmes can be expanded after the initial pilot phase? Please explain how.

This proposal can contribute to a more scalable Transnational Education (TNE) model that can be expanded after the initial pilot phase. Birmingham City University (BCU), as the project funding applicant, recognizes the potential for scalability in the following ways:

Digital Resource Development: By creating a comprehensive digital repository of learning materials, including e-learning modules, mobile app, interactive videos etc., BCU will establish a foundation for scalable education delivery. These resources can be easily shared and adapted for use across multiple institutions or programs.

Blended Delivery Model: The project's focus on digital manufacturing aligns well with emerging TNE models that combine online learning with in-person instructions. This blended approach allows for greater flexibility and accessibility, enabling the program to reach a wider audience beyond the initial pilot phase.

Replicable Industry Partnerships: By fostering collaborations between AIUB and local manufacturing companies, BCU is creating a model that can be replicated and expanded to other industries and regions. This approach ensures the relevance and applicability of the program across various sectors.

Faculty Expertise Development: The comprehensive training program for AIUB faculty members will create a pool of local experts capable of independently expanding the program. This reduces reliance on flying faculty and allows for sustainable growth of the TNE offering.

Standardized Curriculum: The integration of digital manufacturing modules into AIUB's regular academic programs provides a standardized foundation that can be easily adapted and implemented at other institutions.

Scalable Technologies: The focus on digital manufacturing technologies, which inherently allow for system-wide simulations and optimization, supports the scalability of both the educational content and its practical applications.



Micro-Credentials & Nanodegrees: The focus on specific skills in digital manufacturing opens the possibility for future development of micro-credentials or nanodegrees, which are highly scalable and can cater to diverse learner needs.

By incorporating these elements, this proposal contributes to a TNE model that is not only innovative but also highly scalable, positioning it for expansion beyond the initial pilot phase at AIUB to potentially reach a broader audience across Bangladesh and beyond.

ODA REQUIREMENT: RELEVANCE TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL WELFARE, AND ENVIRONMENT

Describe how the project and planned activities will contribute to the **economic development** and **social welfare** of Bangladesh. These can develop over the medium term (3-5 years) but the connection to the project outcomes needs to be clear (max 300 words)

The collaborative project between BCU and AIUB will contribute significantly to Bangladesh's economic development and social welfare by addressing manufacturing inefficiencies, upskilling the workforce, and fostering innovation. In the next 3-5 years, this project aims to transform Bangladesh's manufacturing sector by upskilling industrial/academic leaders with the certification program. By adopting cutting-edge technologies like digital twins and AI, manufacturers can optimize production processes, reducing waste and costs while improving efficiency. The integration of Industry 4.0 skills into local manufacturing will stimulate innovation, generate high-value job opportunities, and contribute to the growth of a tech-savvy workforce, fostering Bangladesh's industrial modernization.

The project outcomes, including the digital resource hub, website, interactive videos, and mobile app, will transform social welfare and knowledge accessibility. By equipping students, professionals, and policymakers with manufacturing innovation skills, the project addresses the sector's skill gap, enhancing employment prospects and financial security, both locally and internationally.

Improved manufacturing processes will enable companies to produce goods more efficiently and cost-effectively. For instance, the integration of digital simulations can help manufacturers design better production systems, reducing defective products and making high-quality goods more affordable for consumers. Affordable goods directly improve living standards, allowing families to access better products for education, health, and everyday life.

The collaborative workshops and the international symposium will also promote knowledge sharing between academic institutions, industry, and policymakers. This facilitates the co-creation of solutions that directly benefit communities, such as designing manufacturing processes that prioritize worker safety, environmental sustainability, and energy efficiency.

By embedding these outputs into AIUB's long-term curriculum and fostering partnerships with local industries, the project ensures sustained social welfare benefits, empowering future generations to contribute to and thrive in an innovation-driven economy.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

What is the expected impact of the proposed project on the climate and environment (both throughout the project and beyond)?

The proposed project will have a positive impact on the climate and environment by promoting sustainable manufacturing practices and resource optimization, both during the project's implementation and in its long-term outcomes.

During the Project: The development of a professional certification program and digital resource hub will emphasize sustainability in manufacturing processes. Workshops and training programs for faculty and students will focus on technologies such as digital twins and AI, which enable real-time monitoring and optimization of resource usage. For instance, simulations can reduce trial-and-error processes in production, minimizing material waste and energy consumption during manufacturing. The use of digital tools and online platforms for delivering training and collaboration will reduce the environmental

footprint associated with physical travel and printed materials. Remote collaboration between AIUB, BCU, and industry partners will further minimize emissions tied to in-person meetings and events.

Beyond the Project: The integration of sustainable practices into AIUB's curriculum will ensure long-term contributions to environmentally friendly manufacturing. Graduates equipped with skills in Industry 4.0 technologies will drive innovations such as predictive maintenance and energy-efficient production systems, reducing carbon footprints in industries across Bangladesh. For example, predictive maintenance powered by AI can prevent machinery breakdowns, avoiding energy losses and unplanned downtime. Through fostering collaborations with local and international industries, the project will encourage the adoption of green technologies, aligning with Bangladesh's environmental sustainability goals. These outcomes ensure that the project not only supports economic growth but also advances climate-resilient and sustainable development practices.

If travel is planned, please provide justification why travel is essential to ensure project outcomes and impact

Travel is an essential component of the project as it directly contributes to achieving the project outcomes and maximizing its impact. Birmingham City University (BCU), as the project funding applicant, justifies the need for travel based on the following reasons:

Capacity Building through In-Person Training: Travel to Bangladesh is essential to deliver hands-on workshops and training sessions for academics and industry professionals. These in-person activities will ensure effective knowledge transfer of digital manufacturing technologies, process simulations, and AI applications, which are highly technical and require practical demonstrations.

Strengthening Collaboration: Face-to-face meetings between BCU and AIUB teams will enhance collaboration, foster trust, and facilitate productive discussions on curriculum development, professional certificate design, and long-term strategies. This personal interaction is critical for aligning goals and ensuring smooth project implementation.

Engagement with Local Industry: Travel will enable direct engagement with Bangladeshi manufacturing companies to understand their specific challenges and needs. This will ensure that the digital manufacturing solutions developed are tailored to local industry requirements, increasing their relevance and impact.

International Symposium in Bangladesh: Hosting an international event in Bangladesh will provide an opportunity for academics, students, industry professionals, and government officials to interact directly with experts from BCU. This event will showcase cutting-edge technologies, foster networking, and encourage active collaboration among stakeholders.

On-Site Assessment: Travel allows BCU representatives to assess AIUB's infrastructure, including hardware and software needs for implementing digital manufacturing technologies. This ensures that resources are effectively allocated to support the program's sustainability.

Travel is essential to achieving the project's objectives and ensuring its long-term impact on Bangladesh's manufacturing sector by facilitating knowledge exchange, fostering partnerships, and tailoring solutions to local contexts.

What measures will you take to minimise the impact on the environment or limit the carbon footprint of travel?



Birmingham City University (BCU) recognizes the importance of minimizing the environmental impact and carbon footprint of travel associated with the digital manufacturing project at American International University, Bangladesh (AIUB). To address this, BCU will implement the following measures:

Optimize Travel Itineraries: BCU/AIUB personnel will book non-stop flights whenever possible to reduce fuel consumption and emissions. The project team will also consolidate travel by combining multiple activities into single trips to minimize the number of flights required.

Encourage Sustainable Transportation: For local travel within Bangladesh/UK, BCU/AIUB personnel will make use of public transportation or electric vehicles when available.

Pack Light: Project team members will be encouraged to pack efficiently, reducing luggage weight to decrease fuel consumption during air travel.

Virtual Collaboration: BCU and AIUB will leverage digital technologies to conduct virtual meetings and workshops whenever feasible, reducing the need for physical travel.

Carbon Offsetting: For unavoidable travel, BCU and AIUB will implement a carbon offsetting program to mitigate the environmental impact of flights.

Sustainable Accommodation: When traveling, the project team will select accommodations with strong sustainability practices.

GENDER & EDI IMPACT

Applicants need to show how the proposed project will contribute to reducing gender inequalities in partnering institutions and countries.

GENDER – Please use the sections below to describe the intended impacts that the project will have on gender equality (taking into consideration the intersectionality with other EDI identities)

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/our-values/equality-diversity-inclusion>

Analysis - what are the key gender equality issues that are relevant to your project and how it will contribute to addressing these.

Birmingham City University (BCU), as the project funding applicant, acknowledges significant gender equality challenges in Bangladesh, particularly in higher education and the manufacturing sector. Women participation in STEM education remains one of the lowest in South Asia, with cultural and institutional barriers limiting their access to technical fields like digital manufacturing and AI. Additionally, the manufacturing sector in Bangladesh is highly male dominated, with women facing limited opportunities for skills development, leadership roles, and career progression.

The proposed project will contribute to addressing these issues through the following measures:

Increasing Female Participation in STEM Education: The project will actively encourage female students at American International University, Bangladesh (AIUB) to enrol in the professional course of digital manufacturing. By integrating gender-inclusive recruitment strategies and providing targeted outreach to female students, the project aims to reduce gender disparities in STEM education.

Capacity Building for Women Academics: Through workshops and training programs, the project will build the capacity of female academics at AIUB to teach and research digital manufacturing technologies. This will empower them to become role models for future generations of women in STEM.

Promoting Gender-Inclusive Manufacturing: The project will engage Bangladeshi manufacturing companies to adopt gender-inclusive practices by showcasing how digital manufacturing can create opportunities for women in technical roles. This aligns with global trends where digital transformation has enabled greater participation of women and other EDI identities in manufacturing.

Intersectionality Considerations: The project will address intersectional barriers by ensuring that the professional course and the training programs are accessible to everyone from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, enabling broader participation.

Long-Term Impact: By embedding gender equality principles into curriculum design and industry engagement, the project will create a sustainable framework for reducing gender disparities in both education and employment within Bangladesh's manufacturing sector. This will not only provide equal opportunities for women and minority genders but also bring a range of different perspectives and experiences to the project, leading to better outcomes.

Gender Audits and Assessments: The project aims to foster diversity and inclusion in the traditionally male-dominated industry, potentially shifting power dynamics and promoting gender equity. To mitigate risks and ensure inclusivity, regular gender audits and assessments will be conducted. This will ensure that the project remains inclusive and equitable for all genders. Moreover, outcomes and outputs will be measured with gender and age-disaggregated data to maintain equity.

Through these actions, BCU aims to contribute to SDGs 4 and 5 by fostering an inclusive environment for high-quality education where everyone can thrive in STEM education and the manufacturing industry.

Measures – what measure will be put in place to ensure equal and meaningful opportunities for women, girls, and minority genders, including project design and team composition as well as activities and outcomes;

The project team will implement the following measures to ensure equal and meaningful opportunities for women, girls, and minority genders:

- Implement targeted outreach programs to encourage female and minority gender participation in the digital manufacturing course, with a goal of achieving at least 25-30% representation.
- Provide mentorship programs pairing female students with women leaders in the manufacturing and technology sectors.
- Offer flexible learning options to accommodate diverse needs and responsibilities.
- Integrate gender-inclusive language and examples in all course materials and training sessions.
- Collaborate with local women's organizations to address cultural barriers and promote STEM education for girls.
- Implement a zero-tolerance policy for discrimination and harassment in all project activities.
- Conduct regular gender impact assessments to monitor progress and adjust strategies as needed.

Expected impact – what is the expected impact (benefit and losses) on (a) men; women; other genders; and (b) the power relations between people of different genders

The project team anticipates significant positive impacts on gender equality through the implementation of digital manufacturing skills development at American International University, Bangladesh:

Expected impact on women:

- Increased participation of women in STEM education, addressing low enrolment rates (only 8% in science departments and 1.5% in engineering).
- Enhanced digital literacy and access to technology for women, helping to bridge the substantial gender gap in mobile internet usage (19% for women vs. 36% for men).
- Improved employment prospects in the IT sector, where currently only 20% of employees are women.
- Empowerment of women through targeted mentoring and role model programs, addressing social barriers and norms that hinder their participation in STEM fields.

Expected impact on men:

- Exposure to a more diverse learning environment, fostering inclusive attitudes and collaboration skills.
- Potential for some redistribution of opportunities in favour of women, which may be perceived as increased competition.

Expected impact on other genders:

Increased visibility and inclusion in STEM fields, though specific data on other genders in Bangladesh's context is limited and this project will address this gap by actively collecting and analysing gender-disaggregated data.

Impact on power relations:

- Reduction of the digital gender divide, potentially shifting decision-making power in households where significant majority consider males as more digitally enabled.
- Challenging traditional gender roles in the manufacturing sector, where digital transformation has shown potential to create more opportunities for women.
- Addressing the underrepresentation of women in IT leadership roles, potentially leading to more balanced power structures in the industry.

The above statistics have been extracted from Moyeen, S., Lonberg, T., Akter, M., Chowdhury, S., Parvin, S., Sethi, J., Suwal, E.S., Tazrin, M.R. and Zaman, S.I., 2022. Bangladesh Country Gender Assessment 2021. World Bank. Available at:

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/943d4559-879e-5e97-af34-e416e78954fa>

Risks - How will any risks or unintended negative consequences on gender equality will be avoided

The project team recognizes potential risks or unintended negative consequences on gender equality and will implement proactive measures to mitigate them. One risk is that men may perceive increased opportunities for women as reducing their own prospects. To address this, the project will promote the benefits of gender diversity for all participants, emphasizing how inclusive practices enhance innovation and productivity in the manufacturing sector.

Another risk is reinforcing existing stereotypes by unintentionally assigning women to non-technical roles. To avoid this, the project will ensure equal access to technical training and leadership opportunities for all genders.

Additionally, cultural and societal barriers may limit women's participation. The team will collaborate with local stakeholders to address these barriers through targeted outreach, flexible learning options, and mentorship programs.

Regular gender impact assessments will be conducted to monitor progress and adapt strategies, ensuring the project consistently promotes meaningful gender equality without unintended consequences.

Outcomes and Outputs - How relevant outcomes and outputs will be measured in order to demonstrate impact on gender equality including with data disaggregated by age and gender.

The project team will implement a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework to measure outcomes and outputs related to gender equality. They will collect and analyse data disaggregated by age and gender throughout the project lifecycle.

Key metrics will include:

- Enrolment rates of participants in the digital manufacturing course, tracked by age and gender groups.
- Completion rates and academic performance, disaggregated by gender and age.
- Number of women-led projects and research initiatives in digital manufacturing.
- Employment rates of graduates in the manufacturing sector, broken down by gender and age.
- Representation of women in leadership roles within partner institutions and industry collaborations.

The team will conduct regular surveys to assess changes in attitudes towards gender equality among participants. This comprehensive approach will enable the team to demonstrate the project's tangible impact on gender equality in STEM education and the manufacturing sector.

Lessons Learned - How are you planning to share lessons learned within your community (institute/university)?

The project team plans to share lessons learned within their community through a comprehensive knowledge dissemination strategy. They will organize regular seminars and workshops for faculty, staff, and students, highlighting key findings and best practices in promoting gender equality in STEM education. A dedicated project website will serve as a central repository for resources, case studies, progress updates, and downloadable materials such as workshop recordings, policy guidelines, and training modules. This ensures that knowledge is not only preserved but also accessible to a global audience, encouraging adoption and adaptation of the project's insights by other institutions.

To further amplify impact, the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) teams at both institutions will be actively engaged to ensure a consistent and strategic dissemination of lessons learned. These teams will collaborate to develop actionable recommendations for policy changes and curricular adjustments, which can be shared with other academic and industry stakeholders through reports, presentations at conferences, and journal publications.

The team will also publish research papers in academic journals and present findings at relevant conferences, enhancing the institution's reputation in gender-inclusive STEM education. Additionally, the team will establish a mentorship program, pairing experienced members with new faculty and students to transfer knowledge and foster a culture of gender equality. By fostering an open and collaborative approach to knowledge sharing, the project team aims to contribute to a broader movement toward gender equity and inclusivity in STEM, ensuring the project's legacy continues to inspire and drive positive change beyond its immediate scope.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY and INCLUSION (EDI) - Is this project including or addressing any additional Equality, Diversity and Inclusion aspects (e.g. age, disability, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and socio-economic background)?

Please specify the groups included and how they will benefit from the activities (300 words max)

The project team places significant emphasis on advancing EDI through its digital manufacturing initiative, ensuring benefits reach underrepresented groups in Bangladesh and beyond.

Age Diversity: Digital manufacturing course and training programs are designed to cater to diverse age groups, from students entering the field to mid-career professionals seeking upskilling opportunities, fostering a culture of lifelong learning in advanced manufacturing.

Disability Inclusion: Accessibility is a core principle, with course materials and digital interfaces designed to accommodate assistive technologies. Alternative content formats will ensure full participation for individuals with varying abilities.



Ethnic and Cultural Representation: Bangladesh's rich ethnic diversity will be reflected through culturally sensitive course materials and case studies. Active engagement with underrepresented ethnic groups aims to build trust and inclusivity within these communities.

Socio-Economic Equity: To reduce financial barriers, scholarships and subsidized programs will be offered, ensuring equitable access to advanced digital skills for individuals from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds.

Religious Inclusion: Training schedules and project activities will respect diverse religious practices and holidays, fostering a welcoming environment for all participants.

Rural-Urban Access: Recognizing disparities in technological access, outreach initiatives and mobile learning solutions will extend project benefits to rural communities, bridging the rural-urban divide.

Global Collaboration: The project's international scope fosters cultural exchange and mutual understanding, bridging ethnic, religious, and cultural gaps while promoting a globally inclusive learning and working environment.

Workforce Diversity: Partnerships with industry stakeholders will promote EDI in the workforce by emphasizing opportunities for underrepresented groups, including diverse ages, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and abilities.

Research and Curriculum Development: EDI principles will underpin all research and curriculum efforts, integrating insights on the societal impacts of digital manufacturing and advancing inclusion.

This holistic EDI approach ensures the project fosters innovation and equity, creating a robust and inclusive ecosystem aligned with the broader goals of economic and social advancement.

SECTION 3: FUNDING AND RESOURCES

Total funding requested from the British Council (maximum £25,000)	£25,000
Co-funding Will you be receiving direct monetary funding from other sources	☒ No ☐ Yes If “ yes ” – state the source of the funding and value:
Benefit in Kind Will you be receiving any indirect benefit in kind (e.g. free use of equipment or premises; uncharged staff time etc).	☐ No ☒ Yes If “ yes ” – state the approximate value of this benefit: Staff costs from both BCU and AIUB will be in-kind contribution to the project, worth £12,646 (shown in the Budget Sheet).
Budget – direct and indirect costs	Please complete the mandatory Budget Sheet found in the call documents. Note – we will not accept any alternative version.

SECTION 4: RISK MANAGEMENT & ETHICS

What are the key risks in implementing this project, and how will you manage/mitigate them? Please consider -related risk and safeguarding measures that may be needed.	Risk 1: Limited experience and infrastructure at AIUB may delay the implementation of advanced digital manufacturing programs. Management: A comprehensive needs assessment will identify gaps, and BCU experts will provide targeted training and workshops. Hardware and software requirements will be prioritized and addressed early in the project.
	Risk 2: Difficulties in integrating different systems and technologies. Management: The team will develop a standardized framework for digital manufacturing protocols and networking. They will collaborate with industry partners to ensure interoperability.
	Risk 3: AIUB faculty may require significant upskilling to deliver courses aligned with international standards. Management: Tailored faculty workshops and professional development programs, conducted by BCU staff, will focus on Industry 4.0 technologies. Long-term knowledge sharing through partnerships will ensure sustained capability enhancement.
	Risk 4: Regulatory challenges in Bangladesh may hinder the adoption of TNE frameworks and international certifications. Management: Active engagement with policymakers, industry leaders, and educators will address barriers. Policy recommendations and a roadmap for TNE integration will be developed to align with national priorities.
	Risk 5: Diverging priorities or misalignment between academic and industry stakeholders could impede progress. Management: Structured consultation and collaboration frameworks will ensure alignment. Joint research initiatives and international symposia will foster trust and shared objectives.

	Risk 6: Long-term scalability and financial viability of the certification program may be uncertain. Management: A sustainability framework will be developed, integrating the certification program into AIUB's curriculum and securing strategic partnerships with manufacturers. Dissemination activities will promote broader adoption across South Asia. Risk 7: Insufficient consideration of cultural and religious practices could alienate participants. Management: Inclusive practices, culturally sensitive materials, and respectful scheduling of activities will ensure engagement from diverse groups.
How will you ensure that activity will be carried out to the highest standards of ethics and research integrity, at least equivalent to those of the UK? (200 words max)	To ensure the highest standards of ethics and research integrity for the project, the team will: • Adhere to UKRI's (UK Research & Innovation) policy on the governance of good research practice, covering research collaboration, data management, and research integrity. • Implement UKRI's framework for research ethics throughout the project lifecycle, addressing ethical issues at every stage. • Consult the UKRIO (UK Research Integrity Office) Code of Practice for Research and the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity as reference tools. • Establish a project-specific ethics committee to oversee the research process and conduct regular ethics reviews. • Obtain ethical approval from the relevant research ethics committee before commencing any work involving human participants. • Respect participants' rights, dignity, and autonomy, obtaining informed consent where applicable. • Ensure data privacy and security, particularly crucial for digital manufacturing. • Address potential ethical concerns related to AI implementation in the manufacturing sector. • Conduct research with integrity and transparency, promptly reporting any misconduct or malpractice. • Implement rigorous data management practices and ensure proper attribution of sources. • Provide ethics training tailored to digital manufacturing and AI.
How potential ethical and health and safety issues arising as part of this collaboration have been considered, and how will they be addressed? (200 words max)	Potential ethical and health and safety issues arising as part of this collaboration have been considered and will be addressed by: • Following the relevant guidelines and codes of conduct for research ethics and integrity • Obtaining ethical approval from the appropriate research ethics committee in the UK and Bangladesh and complying with any conditions or requirements imposed by the REC. • Ensuring voluntary participation, informed consent, anonymity, confidentiality, and results communication for the research participants, and respecting their rights and dignity.



	• Assessing and minimizing the potential for harm to the research participants, the researchers, and the society, and following the precautionary principle when dealing with uncertainty or risk. • Applying the principles of good practice for health and safety in research, such as identifying hazards, evaluating risks, implementing control measures, providing training and supervision, and reviewing and monitoring performance. • Reporting any misconduct or malpractice promptly and honestly and taking corrective actions when necessary.
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SECTION 5: COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Please use the spaces to describe your communication and dissemination plan during and after the project.

Why – what you hope to accomplish by telling people about your project's work. Your communication goal(s)

The primary goal of communication about this collaborative project is to highlight its transformative impact on the field of manufacturing. By sharing our work, we aim to:

- Demonstrate the project's role in advancing educational and professional standards in digital manufacturing.
- Showcase successful and effective international collaboration between Birmingham City University and the American International University, Bangladesh.
- Inspire and encourage participation from relevant stakeholders, including industry partners, academia, and potential students through compelling narratives and demonstrations of the technology's potential.

By effectively communicating these aspects, the project seeks to foster a collaborative ecosystem that drives innovation and knowledge exchange in digital manufacturing across borders.

What – what you want to disseminate

We will disseminate:

- Research findings on innovative digital manufacturing methodologies.
- Project outcomes, including the professional qualification framework and training curriculum.
- Success stories and testimonials from students, faculty, and industry professionals.
- Technical insights and practical applications of digital manufacturing innovation.
- Collaborative learning experiences and best practices.
- Impact evidence and case studies.
- Developments in international partnerships and collaborative efforts.
- Outreach initiatives and their impacts on developing and underdeveloped countries.

To whom – your audiences for general and also for specific communication

Our general target audiences include:

- Academic researchers in digital manufacturing and AI globally.
- Students pursuing careers in advanced manufacturing.
- Industry professionals in the manufacturing sector.

Our specific target audiences include:

- Technology innovators and start-ups.
- Manufacturing sector leaders and decision-makers.
- Policymakers involved in industrial digitalization.
- Educational policymakers and international education bodies.

How – how you plan to disseminate information about your project?

Dissemination channels will include:

- Academic journal publications and conference presentations.
- Industry workshops and webinars.

- Online platforms (project website and mobile app) and social media channels.
- University websites and newsletters.
- Professional networks and industry associations.
- Press releases and media engagements.

When – how often and when you will communicate about your project

Our communication strategy will be ongoing throughout the project lifecycle and will include:

- Monthly updates on project progress via online platforms and newsletters.
- Regular social media posts aligned with key project milestones (e.g., course launches, partnership announcements).
- Workshop and training events held in the UK and Bangladesh.
- Research dissemination when papers are published.
- Presentations at relevant international conferences.

SECTION 6: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR)

Will intellectual property created through the collaboration be protected? ☒ No ☐ Yes

If you answered “Yes”, to the previous question, please provide details of the arrangements to be made regarding IPR.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

(Tick to confirm documentation supplied at time of application submission)

CV for the Lead Person at <u>Contracting Institution</u>	☐ No ☒ Yes
CV for the Lead Person from each <u>Partnering institution</u> listed in Section 1	☐ No ☒ Yes
Signed letter of support from the Head of Department (or equivalent) of the <u>Contracting Institution</u> , including expression of the commitment and willingness to receive funding and to sign the standard grant agreement with the British Council without negotiation. Sample contract is made available during the application process as part of the call documentation.	☐ No ☒ Yes
Signed letter(s) of support from the Head of Department (or equivalent) of the Partnering Institution(s) listed in Section 1.	☐ No ☒ Yes
Detailed budget sheet (using the template provided on the call website)	☐ No ☒ Yes

PRE-SUBMISSION CONFIRMATION

***BOTH THE CONTRACTING AND PARTNERING INSTITUTIONS CONFIRM THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: ***

Neither the contracting nor partnering Lead Person(s) are, or may be, subject of a conflict of interest during the grant award procedure.

☒ I confirm the above statement ☐ I am unable to confirm the above statement

Have you obtained permission to submit this application on behalf of the partnering institutions?

☐ No ☒ Yes

Both the contracting and partnering Lead Person(s) and their institutions have the professional resources, competencies and qualifications necessary to complete the proposed action.

☒ I confirm the above statement ☐ I am unable to confirm the above statement

Neither the contracting nor partnering Lead institution(s) are bankrupt, being wound up, or having their affairs administered by the courts.

☒ I confirm the above statement ☐ I am unable to confirm the above statement

Neither the contracting nor partnering Lead institution(s) have entered into an arrangement with creditors or suspended business activities or have any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for by national legislation or regulations.

☒ I confirm the above statement ☐ I am unable to confirm the above statement

Neither the contracting nor partnering Lead Person(s) are guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify.

☒ I confirm the above statement ☐ I am unable to confirm the above statement

Neither the contracting nor partnering Lead Person(s) have been the subject of a judgement which has the *force of res judicata* for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the British Council or partner organisations' financial interests.

☒ I confirm the above statement ☐ I am unable to confirm the above statement

Neither the contracting or partnering Lead Person(s) are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required as a condition for participation in the grant award procedure or of failure to supply this information.

☒ I confirm the above statement ☐ I am unable to confirm the above statement

In order to comply with UK government legislation, the British Council may at any point during the application process, carry out searches of relevant third-party screening databases to ensure that neither the applicant institutions nor any of the applicants' employees, partners, directors, shareholders is listed:

- as an individual or entity with whom national or supranational bodies have decreed organisations should not have financial dealings;
- as being wanted by Interpol or any national law enforcement body in connection with crime;
- as being subject to regulatory action by a national or international enforcement body;
- as being subject to export, trade or procurement controls or (in the case of an individual) as being disqualified from being a company director; and/or
- as being a heightened risk individual or organisation, or (in the case of an individual) a politically exposed person.

If the applicant or any other party is listed in a Screening Database for any of the reasons set out above, the British Council will assess the applicant as ineligible to apply for this grant call. The applicant must provide the British Council with all information reasonably requested by the British Council to complete the screening searches.

I confirm that I have read and understood the above notice. ☐ No ☒ Yes

☐ No ☐ Yes

DATA PROTECTION NOTICE

The British Council will use the information provided in the application for processing the application, making any consequential grant award, for the award payment, monitoring, maintenance, and review of the award.

To carry out the selection process for this grant, we may also share your information with our national partner organisations. The reason for this is that in countries where we work with partner organisations, the final decision on grants will be made in collaboration with them.

British Council complies with data protection law in the UK and laws in other countries that meet internationally acceptable standards.

British Council complies with data protection law in the UK and laws in other countries that meet internationally accepted standards.

You have the right to ask for a copy of the information we hold on you, and the right to ask us to correct any inaccuracies in that information. If you have concerns about how we have used your personal information, you also have the right to complain to a privacy regulator.

For detailed information, please refer to the privacy section of our website, <https://www.britishcouncil.org/privacy-cookies/data-protection> or contact your local British Council office. We will keep your information for a period of 7 years from the time of collection.

I have read and understood the above ☐ No ☒ Yes

Please tick this box to confirm that you are willing for the British Council to share your information with partner organisations for the purpose of this funding application (please note; if you do not agree to this we may not be able to consider your application for funding).	☐ No ☒ Yes - I am willing for my information passed on to British Council partner organisations for the purpose of this funding application.
The British Council wishes to publish information on successful applications (including the summary provided on the first page of this form) on their website, in promotional materials disseminated through any medium, and in reports and documents.	☐ No ☒ Yes - I agree to be contacted, should the British Council wish to use my information/gather further information for publications or promotional material
The British Council will not publish personal details on their website or via other media without prior permission.	☐ No ☒ Yes - I agree to my information being included on the British Council website

SUBMISSION PROCESS NOTE

Please note that a confirmation email will be sent to your email address. If you do not receive the email following the submission of this form, please contact us

(GoingGlobalpartnershipsTNEBD@britishcouncil.org)

within seven working days from the deadline, otherwise your application will be considered ineligible.