

British Council

Science for Cultural Relations

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WHO IS THE BRITISH COUNCIL?

- We are the UK's international organisation for **cultural relations** and **educational opportunities**
- We operate at **arms-length** from the UK government
- We have been around since 1934 and have **offices in over 100 countries** worldwide
- One of our charitable purposes is to *'encourage cultural, **scientific, technological and other educational** cooperation between the UK and other countries'*

www.britishcouncil.ac.uk/education/science

CULTURAL RELATIONS OUTCOMES

- Greater connectivity
- Better mutual understanding
- More and deeper relationships
- Mutually beneficial transactions
- Enhanced sustainable dialogue

Creating friendly knowledge and understanding between countries for long-lasting mutual benefit

THE BRITISH COUNCIL SCIENCE POLICY

*“In Science, we work with UK and overseas partners to
**strengthen global science communities and fuel
prosperity and societal benefit for current and future
generations.”***

THE BRITISH COUNCIL SCIENCE POLICY

- Our work in Science covers **research, technology and innovation**.
- Scientific research is defined as **systematic investigation** leading to the production of knowledge across all academic disciplines, including research in the natural and social sciences, mathematics, engineering, arts and humanities.
- Science in South Asia is continuation of our work in schools and HEI partnership



The international dimension of UK Universities

International collaboration is associated with **increased field-weighted citation impact** (FWCI) for the UK

UK active researchers were **highly mobile internationally**, with over 72% of active researchers having published at least one article under a non-UK affiliation

Researchers coming to the UK have the highest citation rates, indicating that the **UK attracts high quality researchers**

Nearly half of UK active researchers are **transitory**, on average the **most productive**, and associated with **high FWCI**

The UK research **workforce is highly international**, with 28% of academic staff and half of postgraduate students being non-UK nationals*

**The role of the EU in international research collaboration and researcher mobility (Royal Society, 2016)*

Main objectives for science in SA

- Gain a **deep understanding** of the SA countries' capabilities
- Build on **common strategic aims** and **shared legacies**
- Celebrate our partner's **strengths** and **heritage**
- Work **in partnership** with other (non-state) actors
- Forget one-size-fits-all approaches and remember that Science programming doesn't have to be limited to research exchange and collaboration

WHAT DO WE DO IN SCIENCE?

1. Increasing and enhancing **links** between researchers in the UK and in other countries around the world
2. Building **capacity** in UK and overseas researchers, research managers and policy makers
3. Supporting **public engagement** activities that add to the impact and reach of UK and international research
4. Sharing learning and piloting best practices in **STEM education**

How would we do this

Building UK-international research relationships with the potential for longer term, sustainable partnerships and networks.

Researcher mobility programmes

- **Researcher Links:** workshops and travel grants for researchers (mostly R1 and R2), funded through grant and partnerships

Building the human capital in research and innovation that is necessary for sustainable, prosperous societies.

Researcher skills training

- **Researcher Connect:** communication skills training

Professional development support for research

- **Training** for researchers, but also research managers and policymakers
- **Consultancy** around research policy and practice

Building international networks of skilled science communicators and strengthening the science and society interface.

Science Festivals, fairs and digital channels

- **Science Festivals** in Europe, e.g. Sofia Science Festival

Our activities

What we did in 2017-18

Water Initiative South Asia (WISA Phase 1)

South Asia Mental Health

Plan for 2018-19, total budget

WISA (phase 2&3):

- [Access to Safe Water and Water Sanitation \(RL\)](#)
- [Capacity building for junior researchers on Governance and Allocation and Integrated Water Management \(RC\)](#)
- Water Conflict in Transboundary Rivers and Policy Planning and Implementation (RL)

Our activities

Global Health

- Strengthening Policy Impact & Research Capacities on Migration, Rights and Global Health (SPICMAG): UK & Asia (South, South East) Collaboration (PD, RL)

Mental Health

- Child Mental Health (RL)
- Behavior Change in South Asia (RL)
- South Asia, Mental Health Policy Meeting (PD)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE RESEARCHER PARTNERS

- Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)
A £1.5 billion fund announced by the UK Government to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by developing countries
- Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
Brings together responsibility for business, industrial strategy, and science and innovation with energy and climate change policy, a total investment of £735 million up until 2021 through Newton fund: institutional partnerships, early career researcher workshops, travel grants, professional development and capacity.
Programme co-owned by and co-funded with **Turkey, Egypt, Jordan** and 15 other countries
- Research councils, including MRC, Societies (Wellcome Trust, MRC), International funding agencies and EU (E and E+)