

Newton-Mosharafa PhD Programme

Call for Applications

1. The UK Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the British Council, British Embassy Cairo and Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education are pleased to invite applications for funding to support Egyptian PhD students to do undertake research at UK institutions.
2. **The Programme will sponsor Egyptians who are currently doing their PhD at an Egyptian public university or research institute to spend nine months to one year doing research at a British Higher Education institution.**
3. The Programme will cover all living expenses and travel costs, as well as tuition and bench fees.
4. Students will need to begin their study by latest December 31, 2016.
5. Research will need to focus on one of the following areas:
 - a. Sustainable Water Management;
 - b. Renewable Energy;
 - c. Sustainable Food Production;
 - d. Archaeology and Cultural Heritage;
 - e. Affordable and Inclusive Healthcare
6. The deadline for applications for this scheme is **15 November, 2015**. Interviews will be held Mid **January 2016** and decisions will be announced by **early February**.
7. A full list of eligibility criteria can be found in Annex 1 of this document (page 8).

Background

8. The Newton-Mosharafa Fund aims to bring together the British and Egyptian scientific research and innovation sectors to find joint solutions to the challenges facing Egypt in economic development and social welfare.
9. The scheme is part of the UK's £375 million Newton Fund to support science and innovation partnerships between the UK and emerging powers.
10. In Egypt, the Fund is worth £20 million (EGP 237 million) over five years and is supported by the British and Egyptian governments through a ministerial agreement.
11. The PhD Scholarship fund is managed by the British Embassy, British Council and the Cultural Affairs and Missions Sector.
12. The UK's Newton Fund money is classed as official development assistance (ODA). Newton Fund activities need to demonstrate that they aim to generate lasting benefits or improve the economic and social welfare of Egypt. Applicants should ensure that their research adheres to [ODA eligibility](#) criteria before they apply.
13. If you want to know more information, please visit the [Newton Mosharafa website page](#).

Aims

14. The aim of the PhD Programme is to facilitate the capacity building of individuals through 9-12month PhD placements.
15. The approach will be student centred to ensure that the best possible development experience is provided for each student.
16. The PhD programme will enable students to:
 - Learn valuable new skills or techniques
 - Access facilities or resources not readily available in their home country
 - Build relationships with potential new collaborators, including industry partners where relevant
 - Advance complementary collaborative research.

17. Supervisors are encouraged to engage and participate in the programme to ensure that an appropriate research environment for the student is accessible at host institutions, and to encourage the development of sustainable relationships between institutions.

Outcomes

18. The primary outcomes of the PhD programme will be the following:

- Development of individual capacity through international training and development opportunities;
- Highly trained researchers in Egypt with international experience, able to contribute to Egypt's capacity for research and innovation and thus bring about economic and social benefits;
- Participation of Egyptian PhD students in international intellectual networks, building cultural understanding, and fostering long-term sustainable research collaborations;
- Development of international joint training pathways;
- Awareness of the research strength of the UK and Egypt.

Priority sectors

19. Applications are welcome in any subject or research area that is relevant to following five priority themes:

- a. Sustainable water management
- b. Sustainable food production
- c. Renewable Energy
- d. Affordable and inclusive healthcare
- e. Cultural heritage and archaeology.

Eligibility

20. A full list of eligibility requirements can be found at the end of this document in Annex 1.

Application

21. Each application should come with endorsement from both the sending institution and the receiving institution, including with the host institution and host supervisor's confirmation that they will host the PhD students; duration of the stay; and level of fees they will charge.

Funding arrangements

22. Funding from the British Government will cover tuition, research and bench fees at UK universities. Whilst there is no upper limit or fee cap imposed for this call, the amount of tuition and/or bench fees requested by the hosting institution will be taken into consideration by the review panel when making the final decision on which applicants to fund. Acceptance letters from the University should specify the tuition fees (if applicable) and bench fees to be charged, including a brief breakdown of costs for bench fees.
23. Funding from the Egyptian Government will cover travel and living expenses, including flights (economy), accommodation allowance, living stipend, insurance and visa costs.

Evaluation criteria

24. The applicants should ensure their applications meet the criteria set out below. The principles underlying the assessment of applications will be:
- All questions on the Application Form are answered;
 - The research area is relevant to the Newton-Mosharafa Fund priorities which are:
 - Sustainable water management
 - Sustainable food production
 - Renewable Energy
 - Affordable and inclusive healthcare
 - Cultural heritage and archaeology
 - The research area is **ODA eligible** (see [here](#) for details)
 - The activities are planned to deliver the outcomes in the most effective way;
 - The mobility programme will contribute towards developing a long term sustainable partnership between UK and Egyptian universities.

Evaluation process

25. There will be parallel panel reviews conducted in the UK and Egypt, to evaluate the scientific quality of the research proposals
26. A UK expert will screen all proposals to ensure that they adhere to ODA principles.
27. After the ODA review and the panel reviews, the British Council and Cultural Affairs and Missions Sector will then conduct interviews with those on the short-list to come up with the final list of successful candidates.

Contracting and Financial Arrangements

28. The Egyptian Cultural Bureau in London will be responsible for the arranging the academic bookings of the students.

Support to students

29. The Newton-Mosharafa PhD Programme expects that the host institution offers high standards of supervision, management and mentoring to placement students. In your proposal, you might want to consider the following:
 - The host institution's standards of supervision, management and mentoring.
 - Support and training supervisors receive so that they provide the highest-quality supervisory support for their doctoral students
 - Mechanisms that are in place to assess, provide for and monitor individual doctoral student needs and offer the student appropriate development opportunities
 - Professional and transferable skills training offered to doctoral students, including training in the principles of good research conduct in their discipline and in the relevant ethical, legal and professional frameworks
 - Learning and training opportunities available to doctoral students to raise awareness of the broader context of their research area,

particularly in reference to societal and ethical issues, and the importance of engaging the public with research

For further information on UK standards for doctoral training, please refer to the 'Statement of Expectations for Doctoral Training' <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/RCUK-prod/assets/documents/skills/statementofexpectation.pdf>

Reporting and Monitoring

30. Each PhD student and their supervisor will submit a report, detailing training progress and financial accounts, to the British Council and Ministry of Higher Education every six months during the one year of PhD placement.
31. The host institution will be responsible for alerting the British Council to any substantive changes that will impact on project outcomes

Key dates

Activity	Date (please note these dates are estimates and may change slightly)
Call Open	15 September 2015
Closing Date	15 November 2015
Shortlisting of the candidates	Early January 2016
Deadline for submission of IELTS results	31 January 2016
Deadline to confirm unconditional acceptance and fees by UK host institution	31 January 2016
Interviews	Mid January 2016
Successful candidates notified	First week of February 2016

Contact point

If you have any questions at all, please send an email to:

Newton.Mosharafa@britishcouncil.org

Annex 1: Details on eligibility requirements, supporting documents to submit, and other important information for all applicants.

General Conditions

- Scholarship should be in a UK institution for higher education
- Study should be in one of the five themes of Newton-Mosharafa (water management, food production, renewable energy, healthcare and cultural heritage)
- Applicant must be a lecturer or a research assistant in one of the bodies listed in the Missions' plan (appointed for no less than two years by the date of the Call for Application).
- Applicant should not have been appointed as a lecturer or research assistant for more than three years by the date of the Call for Application.
- Applicant's age should not exceed 35 years by the date of the Call for Application.
- It is preferable that the Applicant is registered for the PhD degree as a requirement for applying. Registration should not be exceeding two years by the date of the Call for Application.
- Applicants should have obtained a master's degree in the Mission's discipline
- Applicant should have obtained an IELTS score of 6.5 as a requirement for applying. Higher levels of Language proficiency required by the foreign university shall be observed. See below for more details.
- General Estimate of the Applicant's first-level university degree should be "Very Good", at least.
- Applicant shouldn't have received a PhD mission or scholarship before. In case the applicant has applied for a scholarship and his/her application was not decided on by the date of the Call for Application, the applicant should be dispatched to the scholarship in case his/her application is accepted and the nomination for the mission should be canceled.
- Applicant should have been on duty for no less than a year by the date of the Call for Application and two years by the date of travel.

Documents:

Required Documents and conditions for Joint Supervision Mission Applicants (Newton- Mosharafa Agreement)

1. Accredited certificate of the first-level university degree. General Estimate should be very good at least.
2. Accredited Certificate with the estimates of all the different subjects in all academic years as well as the General Estimate for each academic year separately.
3. Master's degree or its equivalent should be submitted in English Language (The applicant should have attained master's degree in the Mission's Specialization)
4. A Certificate with the Ph.D. registration date.
5. Approval of the employer to apply for the mission accredited by the Prof. Dr. Vice President for Post Graduate Studies and Research.
6. A certified Statement of Status illustrating the employment dates in posts held by the applicant as well as vacations taken.
7. Valid Language certificate on date of application with 6.5 on IELTS. (see below for more details)
8. A certificate verifying the applicant's Military Service Status.
9. A certified statement verifying that the applicant did not receive a mission or scholarship before. In case the applicant has applied for a scholarship and his/her application was not decided on by the date of the Call for Application, the applicant should be dispatched to the scholarship in case his/her application was accepted and the nomination for the mission should be canceled.
10. Arabic and English data form approved and stamped by college and university.
11. A certified statement of the activities carried out by the applicant to serve the profession and proof of where these took place..
12. Preliminary approval of the research plan from the host UK professor.

IELTS:

For acceptance on to the scholarship, we require a minimum of IELTS 6.5.

Please note, your university could well have different language requirements.

If your university requires a higher IELTS score than 6.5, then you will need to have attained this by the language score deadline (31/01/2016).

IELTS 6.5 is our minimum requirement; if your university requires lower than this, you will still need at least 6.5 for entrance onto the scholarship scheme.

Fees:

It is the applicant's responsibility to report fees to us; we will need to know the fees requested by the host university at the time of application) (15/11/2015).

These will need to be confirmed and finalized by 31 January 2016.

If we discover that you have reported fees inaccurately, you will be removed from the scholarship programme

Preference and Selection criteria for joint supervision missions:

1. The strength of the research project and its impact on the development and research plan in Egypt and the sending entity. (40 degrees)
2. Previous Partnership or cooperation between the foreign university and the sending entity (20 degrees)
3. The level and status of the foreign University and supervisor (20 degrees)
4. Applicant's scientific background and language proficiency level as well as his/her contribution in the activities of the sending entity and service provided to the profession. (20 degrees)
5. Applicant should have obtained the first-level university degree and registered for PhD in the mission's discipline (preferential condition).