

UK Newton – Egypt [*Scientist*] Fund Information Brief

On 5 December the UK Chancellor announced the creation of an Emerging Powers Research and Innovation Fund of £375 million over 5 years to support science and innovation partnerships with emerging powers. The Fund forms part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment and its primary focus is to develop partner countries research and innovation capacity for long-term sustainable growth. The intention is that UK funding is matched either by partner countries or by private foundations, multi-lateral organisations or corporate partners.

We are very keen for Egypt to be a recipient of the Fund and believe this is a great opportunity to move of our science and innovation relationship to a new level. We would like the Fund to be called after both an eminent scientist/statesman/woman from the UK and from Egypt. The chosen UK scientist for the name of the fund will be Newton.

On the UK side the Fund will be overseen by a Board, which includes the Minister for Universities and Science, the Government Chief Science Advisor, the Presidents of the Royal Society and the Royal Academy of Engineering and other experts. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (which is the UK Department with responsibility for science and innovation) will administer the Fund. It is, of course, for Egypt to make its own arrangements for oversight on their side.

The Fund will cover three broad categories of activity: (i) People: capacity building, people exchange and joint centres; (ii) Programmes: research collaborations on development topics; and (iii) Translation: innovation partnerships. It will support projects across the agreed priority areas. These are likely to include:

- joint research on development topics;
- student and researcher fellowships and mobility schemes;
- challenge funds to develop innovative solutions on topics of interest to developing nations;
- science and innovation capacity building.

The actual activities under the programme with your country will depend upon your priorities and can be focussed around themes that you identify as a good match for a UK:Egypt partnership. For example, these might include energy security, climate change adaptation, and translation of research into innovation.

Once these have been identified we will work with you to develop the detailed governance arrangements for the Fund. From our side we envisage that UK delivery partners – likely to include the learned academies, British Council, RCUK and TSB – will work with relevant delivery partners from your country to identify joint funding calls and programmes, which will all be taken forward on a competitive basis.