The Newton Fund - Developing Partnerships

Funding opportunities available through the Newton fund have open and competitive calls that require a Principle Investigator in both the UK and the partner country in question. Typically, funding calls will make use of a system requiring a single application and peer review process involving both countries.

Building collaborative partnerships is an integral aspect of the Newton Fund. It’s recognised, though, that the development of joint applications can be a time-consuming process, even for partnerships that have already been established. Communicating in an effective way across time zones can present challenges and, especially given the diversity of partners involved in the delivery of the Newton Fund, there can be significant variation in the guidelines and expectations of different funders.

Some calls will require that funding awards are divided equally between the two (or more) applicants. This can sometimes be particularly challenging in cases where there are discrepancies in salary expectations between applicants in partner countries. Where this requirement exists, applicants will need to devise their project accordingly and be mindful that such considerations can sometimes require a greater amount of preparation time.

A variety of resources are available to help researchers find prospective partner applicants. The UKCDS (UK Centre for Development Studies) has provided a summary of advice on finding partners, which also includes links to tools such as Piirus, an online platform enabling researchers to find collaborators across boundaries. Increasingly, though, individual Newton Fund calls are also offering partnering services or networking events.

A full list of current Newton Fund partner countries is as follows, with links to further information:

- Brazil
- Colombia
- Indonesia
- Malaysia
- Thailand
- South Africa and wider Africa
- Chile
- Egypt
- Kazakhstan
- Mexico
- Turkey
- China
- India
- Kenya (more information available soon)
- Philippines
- Vietnam

Funding Opportunities and Useful Resources

All current funding calls are listed on the Newton Fund website, where opportunities can be sorted by partner country or UK delivery partner, as well as other criteria.

The UK Higher Education International Unit produces a regular Newton Funding Bulletin, which details new call announcements as well as forthcoming deadlines.

Regular updates are also posted on the Newton Fund’s Twitter feed, and a summary of information (including FAQs) is contained in the Government’s Newton Fund policy paper.

If you are interested in applying to a call that is linked to the Newton Fund, please contact your relevant Research Development Manager, who will be able to support the development of your application.