CALL FOR PROMOTION OF RESEARCHER CONNECT TRAINING COURSES FOR COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN 17 BRAZILIAN STATES

1. Overview

This call aims at selecting higher education institutions in 17 Brazilian states to host a series of face-to-face courses for the development of professional communication skills for researchers under the **Researcher Connect** programme to take place in Brazil from July 1st 2015 to March 1st 2016. Each applicant should propose a three-day course to take place at their home institution, according to the calendar described at item 6. Each institution can host one single course per year. If there is only one eligible proposal for a give state, two courses per campus may be allowed.

2. About the programme

Researcher Connect – Communication skills for researchers – consists of a series of short interactive modules for researchers from any academic discipline. It focuses on the development of excellent communication skills to be used in international, multi-cultural contexts. Courses are three-day long, and will be hosted at the institution of the selected proposals.

This edition of **Researcher Connect** is offered under the *Newton Fund Professional Development and Engagement Programme*, and is jointly funded by each of the signatory Fundações Estaduais de Amparo à Pesquisa (FAPs) members of CONFAP, who have signed up for this Call. The Newton Fund aims at building UK-Partner country research and innovation collaborations centred on these shared research and innovation challenges which have direct relevance to the Brazil's social welfare and economic development.

In this call, 17 FAPs will select "**Course Coordinators**", as representatives from the Pró-Reitorias de Pesquisa, Pró-Reitorias de Pós-Graduação, Departments and postgraduate programmes as eligible applicants, to take an edition of the Researcher Connect course to her or his home institution.

3. Objectives

This element of **Researcher Connect** is designed to provide financial support to courses which can improve the capacity building of researchers nation-wide. The states that are going to benefit from this call correspond to the list of FAPs listed in the calendar table below.

Research and innovation are essential for building strong and prosperous economies - talented researchers who can communicate their work on various levels are one of the vital ingredients for this. At the level of the individual academic researcher, the need to publish research findings is paramount. Only when peer-reviewed and validated by the research community can research truly be considered to be contributing to the body of knowledge.

There is also a need to communicate research findings beyond the immediate academic community in order to capture the benefit from research and to justify the use of public funds to support research activity. Improving the communication skills of researchers can have a beneficial effect not just on the individual researcher's performance and career, but also on the institution that they work for and the wider society as a whole, through increasing the reach and impact of their research. This is the driver behind the development of the **Researcher Connect** training courses.

All **Researcher Connect** courses will have the following overarching objectives:

- **Contribute to capacity building of Brazilian researchers** – Proposals should include a description of how the courses will contribute to the personal and professional development of the participants and argue how such development, especially in campuses of the North and Northeast, or in specific research areas, contribute to social development in Brazil. Hosting Institutions should indicate how they envisage this occurring, including any plans for publication and improvement of internationalisation of the institution or department and for securing diversity within the group that will actually participate in the course.

- **Support international development-relevant research** – To raise capacity of researchers to take locally produced knowledge overseas. According to Thompson and Reuters, Brazil has an academic impact lower than the world average and well below other BRICs countries. In this context, Researcher Connect can greatly contribute to include Brazilian researchers and their work in the international academic scene, thus supporting the economic development and welfare in Brazil by communicating new knowledge developed locally to international audiences. In addition, by identifying science clusters in less developed Brazilian States, the programme will also help to contribute to raise capacity of academic communities with very little opportunities to develop researchers and to internationalize. These goals are particularly relevant to North, Northeastern and Center-western states.

4. How to apply

Each applicant will submit one proposal per institution to host one workshop to train 20 researchers in any discipline/multidisciplinary area. The selection process will focus on developing communication skills of researchers working on areas relevant to economic development and social welfare, including from the natural sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities. Each FAP, coordinated by CONFAP, and the British Council will co-fund the courses.

Applicants must submit **a completed online application form. The application form requires researchers to briefly explain how their research connect to social and economic development goals and how it relates to the benefit of vulnerable populations.** This can be found on the British Council Researcher Connect http://britishcouncilbrasil.rc2015-application.sgizmo.com/s3/. This application form must be completed online – email submissions will not be accepted. The online form allows applicants to enter information and save it for a later date until final submission. There are strict character limits for each section which cannot be exceeded. Any problems with the online submission, please, contact centro.info@britishcouncil.org.br

Prior to submission, applicants must obtain **permission to submit the application on behalf of their institutions.** Before the completed online application form can be submitted to the system, applicants will be asked to confirm the above in the online form.

Once the online application is submitted, applicants will receive a confirmation email containing the application ID number. This reference number should be used in all communications with the British Council. Applicants who have not received an automated email confirmation should contact the British Council at centro.info@britishcouncil.org.br.

4.1 Applicants from the state of São Paulo must also follow FAPESP guidelines, as stated at http://www.fapesp.br/en/9451

5. Who can apply
A full-time researcher or professor, indicated as a representatives from the Pró-Reitorias de Pesquisa, Pró-Reitorias de Pós-Graduação, Departments and postgraduate programmes, from **a higher education or research institution in one of the Brazilian states where the FAPs listed below** is welcome to send in an application to propose a venue to Host the course using the application forms in Item 4. The applicant will be referred to as "**Course Coordinator**".

6. Calendar of courses

Applicants associated to the following FAPs and available to coordinate the course in the respective months can apply.

State	FAP	Number of courses (each campus will be awarded one RC edition; in the case of one single applicant per State, one campus can receive two editions)	Month
Alagoas	FAPEAL	1	September or October
Amapá	FAPEAP	1	August
Amazonas	FAPEAM	2	November and February/2016

Ceará	FUNCAP	1	October
Distrito Federal	FAPDF	2	August
Espírito Santo	FAPES	2	September and November
Goiás	FAPEG	2	September and October
Mato Grosso do Sul	FUNDECT	1	September or November
Minas Gerais	FAPEMIG	2	October and November
Paraíba	FAPESQ	2	November
Paraná	FUNDAÇÃO ARAUCÁRIA	3	August and September
Pernambuco	FACEPE	1	November
Rio de Janeiro	FAPERJ	1	September
Rio Grande do Norte	FAPERN	2	December
Santa Catarina	FAPESC	1	September
São Paulo	FAPESP	3	August, September and February/2016
Sergipe	FAPITEC	1	October

7. Delivery of the course
All courses must take place before March 2016.

8. Who will take part in the courses?
Up to 20 researchers can take part in each Course.

9. Role of the Course Coordinators
Course Coordinators will send in an application to host a Researcher Connect edition in their institution. Course Coordinators will have to choose Course Type 1 or 2 (regarding content and duration).
In addition, Course Coordinators will be responsible for:
A. coordination of the logistics and execution of funds;
B. selection of participants with the support of the British Council and observing Newton Fund guidelines;
C. maintain and share with the British Council all materials related to the recruitment process of candidates, such as a copy of the call, the number of applicants and their CVs
D. responsible for Monitoring and Evaluation (making sure all the participants fill in evaluation reports and reporting on any further developments);

10. Language
Courses will be held in English.

11. Course Options
Course coordinators will decide on the content, according to the following options:

Type 1 (3 Day Workshop):
1. Foundation
2. Writing for Publications Basic
3. Abstracts
4. Better Presentations

Type 2 (3 Day Workshop): FOR GROUPS WITH B2 ENGLISH LEVEL OR HIGHER
1. Foundation
2. Writing for Publications Basic
3. Getting Published
4. Academic collaboration

12. Organisation of the course

Institutions selected in this call are responsible for planning and organising the course. The British Council has guidelines to support the organization of the course.

13. Recruitment of participants

After the selection process, successful Course Coordinators will be responsible for recruiting participants to attend the Courses under the guidance of a British Council project manager. The composition of the group is crucial for the success of the course.

Eligibility criteria:

13.1. There must be an open call for participants, and this must be disseminated through various defined channels in the institution. Coordinators are encouraged to identify and employ additional avenues of communication so that the courses are advertised as widely as possible.

13.2. Researchers recruited to participate in the course must be, preferably, a PhD or post-doc student or professor at any career stage.

13.3. Participants will need to demonstrate a sufficient standard of English to participate in the courses. Researcher Connect is recommendable for B2 (Upper Intermediate) English Speakers and above[1], and will enable learners to communicate their research effectively with a range of audiences in appropriate academic and/or professional styles. B1 (intermediate) students may be accepted, depending on the local context and on the overall level of the group selected.

13.4. While recognising that some research fields are dominated by one particular gender, course coordinators are encouraged to work towards as equal a gender balance as is possible, promote diversity, and ensure that no applicants are excluded from participation on the basis of ethnicity, gender, religious belief, sexual orientation, or disability.

14. Outputs and longer term benefit

Coordinators should outline the specific outputs planned from the course. They should also explore any potential longer-term benefit that might arise, thinking about who might benefit and how they might benefit, describing the actions that will be taken to ensure that potential impact is realised.

15. Selection Process

There will be a two-step selection process by:

      a. The British Council will receive the proposals and will send them to the respective FAP

      b. Each FAP will host a review panel and will be making a final decision on whom and how many proposals will be awarded the grant, according to their own rules for evaluating the scientific merit of the proposals.

Successful applicants will be notified from two weeks to eight weeks after the call deadline, depending on the state that the proposal was sent to.

16. Duration of the courses

The duration of a course is 3 days according to the calendar above.

17. Funding

The costs of the Course will be covered by the Newton Fund and the partnering FAP.

Funding offered under the Researcher Connect programme is intended as a **contribution** towards the costs of the Courses. Course coordinators are expected to add a contribution in-kind towards the overall cost of the course by dedicating their time to the planning and delivery of the courses. The host university must deploy a member of its staff to support on logistics, printing, set up of rooms, etc during the three days of the event. **University staff costs and honoraria cannot be covered** by the Newton Fund grants.

The maximum number of participants per course is 20. This must reflect in the budget request, following the guidelines below.

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[1] http://www.examenglish.com/CEFR/cefr.php

17.1 Budget

Each FAP will pay an amount of up to R$ 12.500,00 (twelve thousand and five hundred reais) per course. The Newton Fund will cover all the trainers´ fees. In addition, the Newton Fund will pay an amount of R$ 6.500,00 (six thousand and five hundred reais) primarily related to the trainers travel costs.

A budget need to be submitted by the workshop coordinator and should include the following items:

        a.   Eligible items for BC funding:

Logistics, fee costs associated with the trainers and with the participation of the British Council staff, stationary, among other costs that may not be funded by the FAPs and can be purchased directly by the British Council.

        b.   Eligible items for FAPs funding:

Each FAP will adopt the list of items it usually funds. Check the list by accessing the respective web page of the FAP to which the application will be submitted.

18. Reporting

18.1 BC reporting and Monitoring and Evaluation

Course coordinators are requested to submit a final report within 30 days after the course finishes. The final report template will be sent to successful applicants and will include a narrative part along with a section requesting information on the course participants. In addition, the Course Coordinator should report according to each FAP´s requirements.

As stated in Item 9 above, it is part of the responsibilities of the Course Coordinator to make sure that all Course participants will answer to the British Council Researcher Connect questionnaires. Answers can be collected either on paper or online.

18.2 FAPs reporting

Each participant FAP will adopt its usual specific report for such type of funding modality.

19. Call deadline

The submission deadline is 23:59 on June 16th 2015 (Brasilia time). Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered for funding.

20. Data protection

As part of the online application form, the British Council will ask applicants' permission to:

- Use the information provided in the application for processing the application, making any consequential award, for the award payment, monitoring, maintenance and review of the award. In some cases information will be shared with national programme partners for the purpose of selection and monitoring of the award.

- Make information on the successful applications available to the public on their website and other publicity, and in reports and documents.

- Contact applicants in the future to inform them about future British Council opportunities.

Under UK Data Protection laws applicants have the right to ask for a copy of the information we hold on them, for which we may charge a fee, and the right to ask us to correct any inaccuracies in that information. More information on this is available on the British Council data protection webpage: http://www.britishcouncil.org/home-data-protection.htm.or alternatively can it be requested to the local British Council office or the Data Protection Team dataprotection@britishcouncil.org.

Annex 1 – Eligibility criteria checklist

The application has been submitted by the applicant by the published deadline
The candidate demonstrated alignment with Official Development Assistance (ODA) criteria, related to 1) diversity among participants that will be taking the course, especially on the base of gender, race, economic class, sexual orientation or 2) relevance to research communities with low levels of internationalization or 3) knowledge areas that are underdeveloped or underfunded and have direct relevance to social development.
The application has been submitted using the correct online application form
The applicants have provided confirmation that the application is submitted on behalf of their institutions
The application form is completed in full and complies with instructions given
The application form has been completed in English
Only one application per institution has been submitted in this round
The course will take place between 01 July 2015 and 1 March 2016
The course coordinators accept to organise the course and to sign a grant agreement with each FAP
The institutions where the course coordinators are based are recognised publicly funded research establishments or Higher Education Institutions (can include private universities)
For applicants from the state of Sao Paulo – in accordance with FAPESP guidelines, http://www.fapesp.br/en/9451

Annex 2 – Quality criteria assessment form

In addition to the academic merit criteria defined by each FAP to its respective funding modality, the quality assessment will be performed by panel members at the respective FAP, which will hold a review panel and make a final decision. Applications with an average score of less than 25 points are considered not fundable. Equally, only proposals which have clearly articulated relevance to international development will be considered for funding.

	Score	Range
Section 1 – Impact of Courses in Academic Community		**0-20**
Section 2 – Proposal detail and target audience		**0-20**
Section 3 – Plan for further training of participants and please identify the gaps that the programme will be able to address in the context of your university and how you believe you can monitor advancement in the short and medium terms (next 12 months)		**0-20**
TOTAL SCORE FOR QUALITY ASSESSEMENT **(Section 1 + Section 2 + Section 3)**		**0-60**