Researcher Connect
Open call for application: 5 December 2019
Deadline for submission: 31 December 2019

Introduction

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We work with over 100 countries in the fields of arts and culture, English language, civil society, education and science.

Our work in science is through three key partnerships with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research; and cover three main programmes:

- Newton – Moshrafa Fund
- FameLab
- Science Cafe

The Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) was established by

Presidential Decree number 218/2007. Its mandate is to promote science and

technology (S&T) through funding scientific research and technology development in a way that supports the complete cycle of innovation. STDF implements its objectives within the context of the national S&T development strategy, which is established by the Higher Council for Science & Technology. The Egyptian ministries with the strongest impact on Egypt's national economy are represented in the council to direct the research activities towards the S&T activities which have a direct influence on the national development plans.

Grant Description & Objectives

Background: In an increasingly competitive and global market, researchers need to communicate their research to an international audience. Without the skills to do this, researchers and research institutions can find themselves at a competitive disadvantage, affecting grant income, international presence and reputation.

Researchers need the communication skills to:

- Publish in international journals
- promote successfully their research and represent their institution at conferences
- Apply and gain funding from national and international bodies
- Communicate effectively with the wider public and policy makers
- Build international collaborations to further their research.

In recognition of this need, we are offering the Researcher Connect professional development course.

Researcher Connect is a professional development course that focuses on the development of excellent communication skills for international, multicultural contexts.

STDF's mission is to deliver skills training that will help researchers progress in their career and function at an international level.

Researcher Connect provides participants with the insights, understanding and tools to communicate effectively, whatever the situation or context.

Its function is the Development of critical thinking, reflective and critiquing skills.

Researcher Connect is offered as a series of modules delivered in workshop format by experienced and quality-assured trainers.

Researcher Connect was developed by and will be delivered by the British Council.

Researcher Connect modules:

Researcher Connect comprises a number of different modules. You can choose different combinations of modules to make up a tailored workshop that fits the needs of your institution.

All the trainers are able to deliver any of the modules in the Researcher Connect prospectus.

We currently offer the following modules:
- Foundation Module (Half day)
- Abstracts (Half day)
- Academic Collaboration (Half or Full day)
- Academic Writing (Full day)
- Digital Researcher (Half or Full day)
- Effective Emails (Half or Full day)
- Persuasive Proposals (Full day)
- presenting with impact (Half day)

While the **Foundation module is compulsory**, for all the other modules, you can select different combinations to fit your needs.

Funding Criteria:

The fund provided by STDF (up to LE 10 000) for the support of a scientific event according to the laws, rules and regulations of governmental funding.

The fund will cover hiring meeting hall for the event, Participants bags, promotional material, certificates of attendance printing, the trainer's requirements (audio visual equipment, note books, pens, posted notes, flip charts ….) invoices should be submitted for the items that the fund will cover.

The fund provided by the British Council for the support of a scientific event will cover the modules material, Trainers coming from the United Kingdom and their accommodation.

The following eligibility criteria apply to this grant:

Any Egyptian Researcher (**PhD holder)** is eligible to submit as "Event Coordinator/Organizer".

ONLY applicants affiliated to Egyptian Research Institution or University are eligible for receiving STDF funding in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations of governmental funding. (American University in Cairo and Arab academy for Science Technology and Maritimes Transport are not eligible for funding for STDF)

In all contractual, reporting and monitoring procedures, the university, research institution receiving the funds will be represented by a researcher having well-documented scientific research and development activities, who will act as the "Event Coordinator/Organizer".

Applications should be relevant to main goals of Egypt's Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 (as this will be taken into consideration in the selection process).

The proposed eligible events should be held in the Egyptian Research Institution, or in the University, with which the Event Coordinator is affiliated.
The workshops will run from 9am until 5pm each day for three days.
Workshops should contain a minimum of 15 people and a maximum of 20.

The Workshop should be confirmed by the workshop coordinator no later than 2 weeks prior to the event, confirming your workshop later than this date will make your workshop cancelled.

Workshops can be useful for any level of researcher but are particularly useful for those at the (assistant) lecturer level.

Researcher Connect is about communication skills; it is not an English language course. All workshop participants must have B2 Level English

Application Submittal and Evaluation Process:

All applications must be drafted using the exact formatting requirements for the current call, as given in the Application Form. Failure to adhere to the exact format required will automatically deem the application ineligible.

All applications must then be uploaded to the STDF website www.stdf.org.eg , to which registration is required; applications submitted by e-mail or sent as hard copies will not be considered. All applications must be in English.

The application must include a letter from the implementing institution's legal representative stating the event's title, as well as the name, position and affiliation of the Event Coordinator. The letter should clearly state that the institution endorses the event.

All applications will be evaluated on a competitive basis. STDF will ensure that the evaluation process is transparent, impartial and applicant-supportive.

Applications submitted to this grant will be subjected to scientific and technical evaluation.

Deadline of the Call:

All Proposals must be finally submitted by the Project Coordinators before Tuesday 31 December 2019 (at 11:59 PM). Delayed proposals will be considered non eligible.