SYNERGY: The UK-Israel Call for Symposia in

NANOSCIENCE, NEUROSCIENCE, AGRI SCIENCE, WATER SCIENCE, CYBER AND ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

The British Council and the UK Science and Innovation Network are pleased to invite proposals to the **UK-Israel SYNERGY Programme.**

The following notes provide guidance on eligibility and conditions upon which the grants are issued. Applicants are required to complete one application form online in accordance with the guidance notes here and follow any instructions provided on the application form.

1. **Background**

1.1. The Programme aims to strengthen academic collaboration between the UK and Israel in the following priority sectors: nanoscience, neuroscience, agri science, waters science, cyber and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The scheme aims to support researchers or research groups looking to hold **academic meetings (symposium/workshop) as a seed for future UK-Israel academic collaboration in the fields mentioned above.**

1.2. In the long run, we hope that these collaborations will be able to address pressing global challenges and establish Britain and Israel as leading partners in the priority sectors identified.

2. **Eligibility**

2.1. Proposals must include the details of a British and an Israeli applicant who will act as co-chairs of the event. The application itself is submitted only once by a primary applicant – the researcher from the university who will host the event.

2.2. Both researchers must demonstrate their affiliation with a UK/Israeli higher education research institution.

2.3. Proposals must include a UK-Israel meeting in the form of a symposium/workshop for at least two working days. Events should be delivered at a hosting university in Israel or the UK.

2.4. Symposia must be in one of these priority areas:
- **Nanoscience:** research related to nano technologies and materials, including (but not limited to) medicine, toxicology, particles, electronics, metrology, molecular and green technology.
- **Neuroscience:** research related to neurosciences, including (but not limited to) physiology, anatomy, pharmacology, cognitive, computational, engineering, imaging and physics.
- **Agri science:** research related to agri science including (but not limited to) biotechnology, agronomy, soil-sciences, genetics and chemistry.
- **Water science:** research related to water science including (but not limited to) irrigation, pollutants, hydrology, purification, groundwater, sanitation, wastewater treatment and climate change adaptation as it pertains to water resources.
- **Cyber:** research related to cyber technologies (not policy), including (but not limited to) computer science, engineering, algorithms, information security, and cryptography.

- **Antimicrobial resistance (AMR):** research related to AMR (not policy) including (but not limited to) biology, medicine, engineering, genomics and computational methods.

2.5. Co-chairs have the freedom to design **the content and the format of the event** (e.g. public event, intimate workshop).

2.6. Applicants are expected to be established researchers, although exceptions can be made under extenuating circumstance. We would expect established researchers to have progressed in their research careers and to have experience in supervising students and managing grant funding.

2.7. Synergy grants are not available for individuals connected to laboratories currently supported by the BIRAX Regenerative Medicine Initiative or the UK Israel-MENA Trilateral Water Programme (STREAM).

2.8. Multiple applications from laboratories, departments and institutions are acceptable; however individuals may submit only one application. Duplicate applications or applications for reciprocal symposia will not be eligible.

2.9. Higher education institutions of applicants and participants must be officially recognised by both countries. The hosting institution should support the delivery of such event in their installations.

2.10.   We only accept applications from researchers affiliated to higher education academic institutions. Applicants from independent research centres are not eligible to apply.

3. **Funding**

It is expected that between six to eight grants will be awarded at the total cost 233,500 NIS.

All proposals must be submitted in New Israeli Shekel.

3.1. We offer the **following frameworks of grants**:

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Our grant*	£4,500/₪22,000	£5,500/₪26,500	£6,500/₪31,500
Co-funding**	£2,500/₪12,000	£3,000/₪14,500	£3,600/₪17,500
Total budget	**£7,000/₪34,000**	**£8,500/₪41,000**	**£10,000/₪49,000**
Number of researchers ***	5:5	6:6	8:8

* The amount of the grant provided.
** The amount of the required co-funding provided by the hosting universities.
*** Minimum number of researchers from each country participating in the event. Option 1 for example requires at least five British and five Israeli researchers (10 in total), including co-chairs. Researchers from each side do not have to be from the same institution; they can be affiliated to **different academic institutions** in the country and at different stages of their academic careers. Academics from other countries can be invited but their participation will not be counted towards the number of participants and will not be covered by the grant.

3.2. For an event in the UK, the payment to the hosting university will be done in £GBP, and in Israel in ₪NIS.

3.3. Grants are subject to approval of the budget submitted. The budget must outline the expenses, as well as a clear explanation for the planned co-funding expenses.

3.4. Co-funding can be demonstrated in-cash and in in-kind contributions, and include (but are not limited to): venue hire, flights, accommodation, design transportation, advisory services, working hours of staff involved in planning of the event.

3.5. Upon signature of a contract, 80% of the funds will be released to the principal applicants. 20% of the funding will be released on submission of final narrative and financial reports, up to 30 days after the event.

3.6. All payments will be made to the main applicant's university (host).

3.7. Grants are intended to support the travel and subsistence of eligible individuals. Eligible costs include, but are not limited to, reasonable expenditure for the items below:

- Return air travel, up to £500/₪2,500;
- In country local transport (bus, rail, taxi etc.);
- Accommodation costs, up to £140/₪700 per night;
- Meals/subsistence costs;
- Media costs (e.g. around public events).

3.8. Inadmissible costs:

- Costs related to writing up previous research;
- Costs related to an accompanying spouse or children;
- Any contributions towards salaries or pension costs.

3.9. Successful applicants should take out adequate insurance as the British Council cannot take responsibility for any problems which may occur during the visit. Successful applicants will accept full responsibility for all aspects of the visit and take out insurance for any risks associated with taking part in travelling abroad, including all unexpected and uncontrollable events. The British Council will not be liable for the consequences of any such risks or any costs incurred.

3.10. Please note that successful applicants are expected to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements, and that the British Council will not be able to assist in requesting visas or taking out insurance required to carry out their visit. Successful applicants are responsible for any tax-related issues.

3.11. In the event of early termination of the grant, any payment made after the date of termination will have to be repaid as will the return portion of the travel money. Failure to comply with demands will result in the British Council and the Science and Innovation Network, responsible for the administration of Programme, seeking reimbursement of the full award plus administrative costs.

4. **Assessment**

4.1. Applications are assessed by an Academic Selection Board. The Academic Selection Board's decision is final and confidential. No appeals will be considered. The British Council is unable to enter into any communication on the Selection Board's decisions. Feedback will not be provided to unsuccessful applicants.

4.2. The Board will evaluate applications using the following criteria:

- **Quality of the scientific content of the proposed activity**: depth, content, clarity and uniqueness of the symposium/workshop.
- **Value of collaboration**: must demonstrate the added value in the UK-Israel scientific relations.
- **Outcomes and follow ups**: an outline for potential follow up steps following the event. Applicants must demonstrate that the activities proposed in their application will lead to a tangible and feasible outcome, for example a report of the event, publications, concrete research collaboration, or bid for grant/call for proposals.
- **Effectiveness and feasibility**: must demonstrate how the proposed activities are feasible within the given time and budget constraints.

4.3. Priority will be given to proposals **that establish new academic and research collaborations between the countries**.

5. **Responsibilities of UK-Israel Synergy Grantees**

5.1. Grantees will provide the British Council with a report of their activity (up to 1,500 words) within 30 days of concluding the programme. A final report template will be sent to successful applicants and will include a financial and a narrative segment.

5.2. The British Council and the Science and Innovation Network should be acknowledged in all communication materials and pertinent publications. The logos of British Council and the Science and Innovation Network must be included in all communication materials.

5.3. Grantees will be expected to:
- Support the activity of the Science and Innovation Network and the British Council Israel;
- Attend Science and Innovation Network/British Council events, where relevant;
- Participate in peer reviews, where relevant;
- Be available for press and media work;
- Ensure all elements of the proposed itinerary are completed satisfactorily, and inform the British Council of any substantive changes to the visit agenda.

6. **Other Compliance Matters**

6.1. Applicants must obtain the support from both the home and host institutions, and include the necessary documentation in their application. Applications that are not validated and/or not received by the specified deadline will not be accepted.

6.2. Submitting the application form constitutes confirmation that the information provided is complete and accurate, and acceptance of all terms, conditions and notices contained in the Guidelines for Applicants. Subsequent discovery of any deliberate misrepresentation will automatically render the application null and void. If an award has been made, the British Council will require a full refund.

7. **Equal Opportunities and Diversity**

7.1. The British Council and The Science and Innovation Network are committed to a policy of Equal Opportunities and we welcome applications from all sections of society. All applications will be evaluated solely on the basis of the award criteria as listed above.

8. **Data Protection**

British Council will use the information that you are providing in connection with processing your application. The legal basis upon which we will process your personal information is as set out in our terms and conditions. The legal basis upon which we will process your personal information to answer your enquiry is our legitimate interest.

The British Council complies with data protection law in the UK and laws in other countries that meet internationally accepted standards. You have the right to ask for a copy of the information we hold on you, and the right to ask us to correct any inaccuracies in that information. If you have concerns about how we have used your personal information, you also have the right to complain to a privacy regulator. For detailed information, please refer to the privacy section of our website www.britishcouncil.org/privacy or contact your local British Council office. We will keep your information for a period of 7 years from the time of collection.

9. **Application**

9.1. Please fill the following online **form**; the deadline for applications is **16 June 2019** 12am GMT.

9.2. Announcements will be made by **30 June 2019**, followed by a contract signature.

9.3. Symposia are expected to take place **by the end of 2019.**

9.4. For all inquiries, please e-mail *israelscience@britishcouncil.org* ;Please note that we are unable to comment on the content of applications.