Alumni UK

Vietnam Challenge Fund 2023: Call for Proposals

**February 2023**

**For:** British Council Alumni Activities in Vietnam

**Date:** 2 Feb 2023

1. **Alumni UK**

The Alumni UK global network aims to connect people from around the world who hold a UK degree. By joining Alumni UK, members will

* enjoy an expanding global professional network, to continue learning and to share their experience and expertise with others.
* find resources to develop new opportunities to help them succeed in their careers and professional lives.
* create a space where members can renew and celebrate their connection with the UK.

 **Alumni UK Digital Platform** (<https://alumniuk.britishcouncil.org/>)

The platform was launched at the Going Global Asia Pacific Conference in November 2022. Alumni who join the platform will benefit from:

* attending exclusive industry events and master classes
* training and courses
* being able to show case their skills and achievements on a global stage
* connecting with other UK alumni and build networks

Members will receive a monthly alumni bullet into stay updated on exclusive news, opportunities and resources.

All international UK alumni from any UK university, on any course, in any year are encouraged to join. You need to have spent at least one term at a UK higher education institution enrolled on a credit-bearing course. This includes transnational or online education.

The network ensures that the international alumni of UK universities, wherever they are in the world, can remain connected to the UK and to other alumni. The British Council is ambitious for Alumni UK to become a vibrant community, connecting people who have gone through similar university experiences, and who can mentor, support and empower each other.

*You are encouraged to register for an account on Alumni UK platform before register for the Networking event as well as applying for challenge fund.*

1. **Challenge Fund 2023**

The UK Alumni Vietnam Challenge Fund is designed to engage UK alumni, who are Vietnamese citizens in establishing and sustaining the “Alumni UK, Vietnam”, a new and valuable global network for people from around the world who hold a UK degree. All Vietnamese UK alumni are welcome to apply for the Challenge Fund. **Five** shortlisted applicants will get the opportunity to pitch their ideas and solutions on a selected theme or topic to a panel of judges drawn from across the education, communication and corporate sectors. A grant of **GBP 10,000** (Ten thousand British Pound Sterling) will be awarded for the implementation of the winning ideas.

1. **Applying for the Challenge Fund**

Shortlisted applicants to the Challenge Fund are asked to deliver a 15-minute pitch with ideas and solutions for a sustainable network that enables UK alumni in Vietnam to:

* stay connected
* boost their professional and social networks
* to create opportunities for them to further excel in their lives and professions.

**Questions to answer in the pitch:**

1. How could the British Council engage UK alumni in Vietnam more effectively and efficiently to exploit new opportunities between UK and Vietnam?
2. What do alumni want from the Alumni UK Network beyond professional development, career support and networking?
3. What would be the best way to communicate and raise awareness of the Alumni UK network to UK alumni in Vietnam and to the wider public?
4. How would you ensure the sustainability of the Alumni UK network, including funding?
5. How would you plan to implement the Alumni UK network, including activities, the budget and delivery timeline for the grant of GBP 10,000, and other funding and resources? (e.g. working with corporate partners and sponsors)
6. **Things to consider when designing your ideas and solutions**

The British Council has already established the following channels which could be used and leveraged to better connect Vietnamese UK alumni through:

 **4.1 Alumni UK Digital Platform** (<https://alumniuk.britishcouncil.org/>)

**4.2 Study UK**

This platform provides all information needed to consider study in the UK, including choosing a course, scholarships and funding options and advice on moving to the UK.

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/>

**4.3 Higher Education Newsletter**

This newsletter shares latest higher education insights and opportunities fortnightly with subscribers.

https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/he-science/contact/subscribe

The British Council celebrates the following values which you should consider in your pitch:

**Vision**

We support peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide.

**Values**

*Open and committed*

Our belief in what we do translates into a deep and long-term commitment to the people we work with and the places where we work. We tackle challenges and take responsibility with openness and honesty to bring about positive change.

*Expert and inclusive*

Inclusion is at the heart of everything we do. By involving everyone in the conversation, we learn from each other and bring together all of our experience, knowledge and expertise to do the best work that we can.

*Optimistic and bold*

We believe in the potential of young people to create a better world. Inspired by this optimism, we are positive, creative and we focus on what works. We are not afraid to make bold choices to shape a better future for everyone.

**Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

Our work is based on building meaningful, enduring and respectful relationships across different cultures. We cannot do this without a strong commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/our-values/equality-diversity-inclusion>

**Safeguarding and Protecting Children and Vulnerable Adults**

In our work we meet many children and adults who are potentially at risk for a variety of reasons. We aim to create a safe environment in which no child or adult will experience harm or exploitation during their contact with us.

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/about-us/how-we-work/policies/safeguarding>

1. **How to participate**

Your submission of ideas must be made on the application form. Individual or group submission from Alumni UK in Vietnam is acceptable.[[1]](#footnote-2)

Submission from the private sector is only considered if the objectives and activities are clearly articulated for non-profit purposes.

**A detailed plan, including activities, budget and timelines, must be shared as part of the proposal. This will be required for the signing of a grant agreement in the event your pitch is selected as the overall winner.**

All applications will be checked against the following eligible requirements.

5.1 The form must be fully completed in English.

5.2 The applicants must be a UK alumnus, who are Vietnamese citizen and applicants must provide a graduation certificate copy as proof, submitted to the following email address within 3 days after completing the application form *GGP.vietnam@britishcouncil.org.vn*

5.3 The applicants, if shortlisted, must be able to attend the **Challenge Fund Pitch (virtual or in person) on the morning of Friday 3 March 2023** at the British Council Vietnam office, 20 Thuy Khue, Tay Ho, Hanoi.

5.4 All shortlisted candidates must endeavour to attend **(virtual or in person)** the **UK Alumni Networking Event 2023 on Friday 10 March 2023, from 18.00 – 21.00 (Vietnam time)** where the winner will be announced at the event.

5.5 The applicant must agree to sign the grant agreement with the British Council to implement the plan if selected as the winner. A copy of the agreement will be shared with the shortlisted applicants in advance.

5.6 The applicants must submit a detailed plan for Inception stage including timeline, budget plans, theory of change, M&E and communication plan to the British Council by **20 March 2023**, if selected as the winner.

**Applications that meet all eligible requirements will be assessed against the assessment criteria.**

1. **Assessment criteria**

6.1 Creative (20%)

How original is the idea/solution that is being presented? How would this idea help people to re-imagine the challenge we would like to address?

6.2 Realistic/achievable (30%)

What does the idea/solution intend to achieve? How would this idea/solution address the challenge? What are the targets? How will it be delivered? What is the timeline?

6.3 Impactful (30%)

What are the impacts of the idea/solution? How does it affect the target audience/beneficiaries and the British Council? What is the value for money or added value of the idea/solution? How does it reach wider audiences?

6.4 Sustainable (20%)

How sustainable is the idea/solution? Could it be maintained and continued beyond the grant given by the British Council? Would it help our work grow in the future?

1. **Challenge Fund Pitch**

Announcement of the shortlist of the top 5 applicants will be made on **1 March 2023**.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to pitch their ideas to a panel of judges drawn from across the education, communication and corporate sectors on **Friday 3 March 2023**, at the British Council, Hanoi office. If you are shortlisted, the details of the session will be shared with you closer to the date.

Applicants will be given 15 minutes to pitch their proposed idea/solution, followed by 30 minutes of questions and answers.

**The pitch that receives the most votes from the judges will be declared the winner. Each judge is entitled to two votes.**

The judges will assess the following in their selection process:

1. The scope and feasibility of the ideas to address the challenge in creative, realistic, impactful and sustainable ways.
2. The detailed implementation plan, including delivery activities, budget and timelines.
3. **UK Alumni Networking Event**

The UK Alumni Networking Event will take place in **March 2023** with the following activities:

- **Professional Talk, 4 March 2023**: You will be able to meet leading UK alumni and speakers from different sectors to discuss and listen to their broad knowledge of the labour market trends in Vietnam, working culture, and the challenges that recent graduates have to overcome to get the right job.

- **UK Alumni Gala Dinner (Hanoi: 10 March, HCM: 17 March, ĐN: 25 March)**: You will join and have access to networking activities. At the event we also will announce the winners of following programmes:

- **The Alumni Awards**: [The Study UK Alumni Awards](https://www.britishcouncil.vn/giao-duc-vuong-quoc-anh/giai-thuong-cuu-sinh-vien-2023) celebrate the outstanding achievements of alumni and showcase the impact and value of a UK higher education. At the Gala Dinner, we will have the Award Ceremony where we will crown four award winners for Business and Innovation, Science and Sustainability, Social Action & Culture and Creativity categories.

- **Alumni UK Vietnam Challenge fund Award**: The Challenge Fund is designed to engage UK alumni in establishing and sustaining the “Alumni UK, Vietnam”, a new and valuable global network for people from around the world who hold a UK degree. The winner will be announced at the event.

1. **Grant requirements**

A grant of GBP 10,000 will be allocated for the sole purpose of implementing the winning ideas as agreed with the British Council. Please note that the implementation grant of GBP10,000 is inclusive of management and administrative fees charged by the agency appointed by the British Council. The British Council will contact you for matters related to the contract and grant payment. The grant must be spent between 1 April 2023 and 30 March 2024 (12 months). Any spend beyond the duration given is not claimable and the British Council reserves the right to request for the grant to be returned. The grant will be disbursed in batches following milestones set out in the detailed plan. The winner will be required to submit progress reports against these milestones. A final report and supporting documents e.g., receipts, invoices, time sheets to prove the spending, should be submitted to the British Council by 30 April 2024. The British Council reserves the right to request for the grant to be returned if the final report and supporting documents are not at satisfactory level.

1. **Important dates**

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| **Items** | **Dates** |
| **Application opens** | 2 February 2023 |
| **Clarification questions and enquiries** | 10 February 2023 |
| **Application deadline** | 27 February 2023 |
| **Eligibility check** | 27 February 2023 |
| **Assessment** | 28 February - 1 March 2023 |
| **Announcement for shortlisted participants** | 1 March 2023 |
| **Pitching session** | 3 March 2023 |
| **Winner announcement at the UK Alumni Networking Event 2023** | 10 March 2023 |
| **Grant signing and detailed plan submission** | 20 March 2023 |
| **Final report** | 30 April 2024 |

For more information, please contact *GGP.vietnam@britishcouncil.org.vn*

1. \*Individuals must be a UK graduate. 80% of individuals in group/organisation submissions must be UK graduates [↑](#footnote-ref-2)