BRITISH COUNCIL

Alumni UK

Grant Call 2026-27, Call Guidance

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) & Top Tips for Strong Applications

Who can apply?
International UK alumni who are nationals of and currently resident in one of the eligible countries listed in the call. Applicants must have completed at least one term of study at a UK higher education institution.

What types of projects are eligible?
Projects must align with at least one theme:
- Climate Action & Sustainability
- Inclusion, Reducing Inequality & Empowerment

Projects can be: New ideas, adaptations of existing initiatives, scale-ups of proven work

How much funding is available?
Up to £5,000 per project.

How long should projects last?
Projects should be delivered over approximately 5 months, so proposals must be realistic and feasible within this timeframe.

Can I apply with an existing project?
Yes. Expanding or scaling an existing initiative is encouraged, especially if it increases impact.

What is the difference between outputs and outcomes?
Outputs: what you deliver (e.g. workshops, people trained)
Outcomes: the change created (e.g. improved skills, behaviour change)
Applications should clearly link the two.

What costs are eligible?

Funding can cover project delivery costs such as activities, materials, outreach, and limited personnel support (max 20%). It cannot cover core salaries, large equipment, or costs unrelated to the project.

Do I need partners?

No, but collaboration is encouraged where it strengthens your project.

How will applications be assessed?

Applications are scored based on:

- Relevance and clarity
- Quality of design
- Impact and measurable outcomes
- Feasibility and value for money

What are the reporting requirements?

Grantees must submit a mid-term and final report and may be invited to participate in learning and showcase activities.

When is the deadline?

Applications are due in August 2026 (exact date confirmed by Country Teams). Late submissions are not accepted.

Top Tips for Strong Applications

1. Be clear and focused

Define a specific problem and explain exactly what your project will do to address it. Avoid overly broad or vague ideas.

2. Show the change you want to create

Clearly distinguish between:

- Outputs (what you will deliver)
- Outcomes (the change or impact this will create)

Strong applications show a clear link between activities and results.

3. Keep it realistic (5-month timeframe)

Design a project that is feasible within the available time and budget. Scaling or adapting an existing idea is often more practical than starting from scratch.

4. Demonstrate meaningful impact

Explain who will benefit and how. Focus on quality of impact, not just numbers.

5. Embed inclusion and context

Show that your project:

- Responds to local needs
- Includes relevant groups meaningfully
- Considers gender and inclusion where appropriate

6. Think innovation in practical terms

Innovation doesn't have to mean something entirely new. It can be:

- A new approach
- Applying an idea in a new context
- Expanding or improving an existing initiative

7. Justify your budget

Ensure costs are reasonable, clearly explained, and directly linked to activities.

8. Plan for risks and delivery

Briefly identify key risks and show how you will manage them. This demonstrates preparedness and credibility.

9. Consider sustainability

Explain how your project could continue, scale, or influence others beyond the grant period.

10. Engage and collaborate where useful

Partnerships and alumni engagement can strengthen your project—but only include them where they add real value.