

Schedule 5

911-Newton PhD Scholarships Guidelines



911 - Newton PhD Scholarships

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATIONS

Background

The Newton Fund is an Emerging Powers Research and Innovation Fund to support science and innovation partnerships with emerging powers. Through the Newton Fund, the UK will use its strength in research and innovation to promote the economic development and social welfare of partner countries. The Fund forms part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment and its primary focus is to develop partner countries' research and innovation capacity for long-term sustainable growth.

By working together on bi-lateral and multi-lateral programmes with a research and innovation focus, the UK will build strong, sustainable, systemic relationships with partner countries. This will support the continued excellence of the UK research base and innovation ecosystem and act as a golden key to unlock opportunities for wider collaboration and trade.

On behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills of the UK Government (BIS), the British Council and the Vietnam International Education Development – Ministry of Education and Training (VIED-MOET) will co-fund the 911-Newton PhD Scholarships.

Programme overview

The aim of the Newton PhD programme is to facilitate the capacity building of individuals, and the building of sustainable, long-lasting links between UK and Vietnamese institutions, through the 911-Newton PhD scholarships. The spread of opportunities from individuals to institutional partnership will ensure that individual excellence and potential is recognised, as well as embedding the approach in institutions to bring benefit to future generations of students and allow them to build on the strengthened relationships between the UK and Vietnam. These opportunities will be focussed on research areas which have been identified at the country level as important for fulfilling Newton Fund goals.

The programme will be managed in partnership by British Council and the HE International Unit, together with the Vietnam International Education Development – Ministry of Education and Training.

The objectives of the programme are to:

- provide opportunities for international training and development at the doctoral level;
- develop international joint training pathways;

- build links at the institutional level to facilitate two-way exchange of students and staff;
- support knowledge transfer of the UK approach to PhD training and skills development to Vietnam; and
- support the production of highly-trained researchers in Vietnam with international experience.

This opportunity is open to fellows who have been granted with PhD scholarships to undertake studies in the UK under the Project 911 in the prioritized areas.

Relevance to economic development and social welfare

For the purpose of the Newton Fund, we define research and innovation with development relevance as activities that have the potential to contribute to the economic development and social welfare of low- and middle-income countries¹, benefitting poor and vulnerable populations in these countries. In order to be considered for funding under this Programme, **all proposals must clearly articulate a plausible pathway along which the research and innovation work may lead to positive impact on these populations within a short-to medium-term timeframe (3-15 years)**. For Vietnam, topics can fall in one or more of the following priority areas listed.

Vietnam priority areas

The Newton Fund forms part of the UK's ODA commitment to develop Vietnam, and each project must fall within the following priority areas:

- **Health and life sciences:** Reducing the dual burden of infectious and lifestyle diseases on the fragile health system of the region including addressing the increasing threat of anti-microbial resistance and neglected tropical diseases; research on diagnostics, e-health systems, and biomedical device development.
- **Improving environmental resilience:** Improving understanding and mitigating the human and economic impacts of natural hazards.
- **Improving energy security:** Reducing carbon emissions by improving energy efficiency and provision of renewable energy.
- **Future cities:** Addressing the challenges and maximising the opportunities posed by the rapid urbanisation through support to the development of physical and virtual infrastructure and better understanding human impacts.
- **Agri-tech:** Increasing agricultural productivity and addressing food security issues as production is likely to be hindered by the impacts of climate change.
- **Digital, innovation and creativity:** The use of web technology, data analytics, big data, and creative industries as drivers of disruptive innovations that can deliver benefits to social and economic development. Similarly, facilitating development of policies and

¹ As defined by the OECD DAC list of official development assistance (ODA) recipients (<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/dac/daclistofodarecipients.htm>).

approaches to enable creation of effective innovation systems and long term planning will be essential to encourage sustainable development.

Eligibility

For an applicant to be considered for the 911-Newton PhD Scholarship, the applicant must:

- be a Vietnamese Citizen;
- have been granted PhD scholarships to undertake studies in the UK under the Project 911;
- be in good health condition, as certified by licenced medical doctor;
- have no pending criminal/administrative charges or must not have been convicted for violation of any Vietnamese Law; and
- pass all screening procedures, including a formal letter of acceptance to a PhD programme in a UK university.

The programme is jointly funded by the Newton Fund and the VIED-MOET and offers full-time PhD scholarships for Vietnamese researchers at a UK higher education institution **in the duration of 3 years until March 2019.**

Application process

Each applicant should have already been accepted to a PhD programme in the UK, and the application should come with the appropriate formal letters of acceptance. The applicant should use the Application Form 911-Newton and send the application by email to tu.vu@britishcouncil.org.vn.

The deadline for receipt of applications is **20th November 2015**. The announcement of the selection results will be made by **late December 2015**.

Funding arrangements

The Vietnam International Education Development, Ministry of Education and Training (VIED-MOET)

- VIED will provide each fellow with a scholarship for the duration of up to 04 academic years, including the remaining tuition after deducting the amount contributed by the British Council (not exceeding the MOET rate); 01 round-trip airfare; 1,200 USD per month for living expenses (or at the rate regulated by the Vietnamese government) and other costs in accordance with the current regulations of the Government of Vietnam.

The British Council

- The British Council will provide each PhD fellow selected by the 911-Newton PhD Programme with an annual grant of 10,000 GBP (ten thousand pounds) for the maximum duration of 3 years. Of this it is anticipated that: 3,000 GBP (three thousand pounds) will top up the living expenses in the UK and 7,000 GBP (seven thousand pounds) is the financial assistance for the tuition of the selected PhD course.

Evaluation criteria

The applicants should ensure their applications meet the criteria set out below. The principles underlying the assessment of applications will be:

- All questions on the application form are answered;
- The proposed PhD project outlines a clear pathway to development;
- The support offered to the researcher will ensure that the scholarship is as productive as possible;
- The research is relevant to the priority areas of the country; and
- The researcher clearly outlines how he/she can contribute towards long-term sustainable partnership between UK and Vietnam.

The British Council and the VIED-MOET will conduct eligibility checks. All eligible applications will then be reviewed by both UK and Vietnamese reviewers prior to any grant awards.

Reporting and Monitoring

Each successful applicant will submit monitoring and evaluation data and reports on the use of the grant, detailing progress and financial accounts, to the British Council and the VIED-MOET as detailed in the grant agreements.

Contact information

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