

UK-Brazil English **Collaboration** Call

Update: 30 August 2018

1. Context

With the ending of the Science without Borders initiative, Brazil's higher education international mobility programme has moved into a new phase emphasising the importance of internationalisation at home and the ability to operate effectively in English and other languages of host nations receiving researchers and academics.

Surveys by *Idiomas Sem Fronteiras* show that only 3% of academics and researchers in Brazilian universities with post-graduate programmes have the C1 level of English under the Common European Framework. While there are pressures for more research to be published in English in scientific and other journals, and for universities to host more overseas academics, there are still considerable barriers to the improvement of English amongst academics, administrative staff and indeed students to enable this to happen.

In the secondary education sector, the federal government has decided that English will be compulsory for all students aged between 11 and 17 from 2020. A basic national curriculum framework has been approved, and now individual states need to develop their own curricula in English and ensure that these are reflected in the way that teachers teach English. States also face considerable challenges in improving the level of English of the country's 73,305 teachers (data from 2017) of English in the public sector in particular.

The British Council in Brazil has focused on incentivising partnerships between Brazilian and UK Universities to assist with the process of internationalisation through a programme of collaborative calls and regional seminars. Given that improvement in the ability of academics, researchers and future students to operate effectively in English, we are now launching this opportunity for universities, colleges and English language providers from the UK to work with Brazilian Higher Education institutions (HEIs) – Federal Institutes and Universities - in tackling the barriers to more effective English language teaching (ELT) and learning (ELL).

2. The programme

As part of its internationalisation agenda and in line with the two Capacity Building & Internationalisation calls¹ in May 2017 and in December 2017, the British Council Brazil is pleased to launch its **UK-Brazil English Collaboration Call**. The objective of this call is to foster research in ELL and ELT in Brazil, contributing to the design and implementation of innovative, sustainable and scalable practices in secondary and/or tertiary education. The funding will enable the development of new partnerships or strengthen existing cooperation between British colleges, universities and other private institutions, with Brazilian universities and federal institutes. The expected output is increased knowledge exchange and research aimed at tackling the bottlenecks to improving ELL and ELT in a country of the size of Brazil.

The call will accept proposals in two research lines:

- English language policies at the institutional level as a main component of the internationalisation process of HEIs aligned to the current 'Internationalisation at home' agenda;
- Improving English language teaching and learning in the public school system at lower secondary and upper secondary levels² (6th to 9th grade and 1st to 3rd form respectively). Research themes within this line can be: curriculum development, pre-service teacher training, the use of technology and assessment.

The joint work between UK and Brazilian HEIs shall reflect a clear alignment and interest between institutions, which could lead to stronger formal agreements and partnerships in the future. An understanding of the local context and actions to respond to institutional arrangements and regulations in partner countries will add value to proposals.

3. Specific objectives

- Promote systematic investigation contributing to improvements and/or changes in ELL and ELT in Brazil;
- Tackle key gaps in current knowledge regarding the above lines of research, seeking to inform and improve both policy and practice;
- Strengthen strategic partnerships between Brazilian and UK HEIs.

4. Expected outcomes

- The dissemination of the research findings helps to inform Brazilian public policies around ELL and ELT;
- Increased collaboration in the longer term between UK and Brazilian institutions helps to transform English language practices across Brazil.

¹ Information on the two previous calls can be found on the following links:

[Capacity building internationalisation call – May 2017](#) and [Capacity building internationalization call ABRUEM - Dec. 17](#)

² For details on the structure of the Brazilian education system, please check page 15 of the British Council study "English in Brazil: an examination of policy, perceptions and influencing factors (2015)" available [here](#).

5. Who can apply

- Experienced researchers from Brazilian public and private universities, as well as federal institutes with a proven track record in English language related research;
- Experienced researchers from UK universities, colleges and other private institutions with interest in the Americas region and proven track record in English language related research.

6. Possible institutional arrangements

6.1) Bilateral: an agreement between one UK institution and one Brazilian institution involved. This allows the possibility of having a shared administration of resources, if required, or full administration by either of the parties.

6.2) Trilateral: an agreement between two Brazilian institutions and one UK institution or vice versa. Resources administered by the leading institution (i.e. in the case of two Brazilian institutions with one UK institution, it is the UK institution who will receive and administer the grant).

* The administration of resources mentioned above refers specifically to funds granted by the British Council. The Brazilian State Funding Agencies (FAPs) will only support bilateral arrangements.

7. Partnership

The British Council is partnering with the Brazilian National Council for State Funding Agencies (CONFAP), as well as the below participating FAPs. Therefore, for bilateral arrangements, Brazilian HEIs from the following States will receive the support of the local FAPs:

- Paraná (Fundação Araucária);
- Alagoas (FAPEAL);
- Amapá (FAPEAP);
- Amazonas (FAPEAM);
- Ceará (FUNCAP);
- Espírito Santo (FAPES);
- Goiás (FAPEG);
- Maranhão (FAPEMA);
- Mato Grosso (FAPEMAT); and
- Piauí (FAPEPI).

Some of the participating FAPs may have their own guidelines associated to this announcement. Interested parties are strongly advised to consult with their supporting FAP before preparing a proposal.

Update 15 August 2018: due to internal issues, the state research foundations from Distrito Federal - FAPDF, and Minas Gerais - FAPEMIG, have had to cancel their participation in the UK-Brazil English Collaboration Call. Nonetheless, candidates from these states may apply according to the criteria in the call guidelines.

8. Assessment

The assessment process will be co-led by external evaluators as well as the British Council. Bilateral projects requesting match funding from FAPs will also be assessed by the respecting FAP. The final decision will therefore be taken by the British Council together with the respecting FAP.

The proposals will be scored on the following criteria*:

- Quality of the proposal;
- Applicability;
- Resources;
- Alignment;
- Expertise;
- Matching funds, such as the support from the participating FAP or the UK or the Brazilian HEI.

* [For details on the criteria, please check section 14. Assessment criteria.](#)

Institutions offering match funding will be seen as strong supporters of the initiative and will receive higher scores in the Resources category.

9. How to apply

Proposals should be based on one of the lines of research identified in section 1. The programme should include a dissemination plan to share the research findings. Proposals must be presented jointly by a UK and a Brazilian institution and submitted via the British Council's website. Support letters (on headed letter paper) from institutional authorities of the different institutions involved are required and must be uploaded in the relevant section.

Complete the online application in English at the British Council Brazil portal.

A Word Docx version of the application form is available from the download section. This is intended to give applicants knowledge of the questions in the online application form only, and cannot be used to submit an application.

* The application form, its Word Docx version, as well as the template for the project's cost estimate will be available in the next few weeks.

* The same institution can submit more than one proposal provided that the research coordinator is not the same for both.

10. Funding

The number of projects funded will be of at least 10. More projects may be granted funds according to funding availability. Requested grants should be for a maximum of £10,000 and be implemented within a period of up to 7 months. The grant can cover costs* including:

- Faculty mobility – researchers, staff – with the purpose of knowledge exchange;
- Costs of organising meetings, seminars, workshops, training;
- Other activities to establish and strengthen collaborative links;
- Travel and subsistence costs directly related to the operation of the project, including fieldwork.
- Software licences.

* Applications should not, at this stage, include requests for funding for conference presentations; if completion of the research project results in acceptance of a paper at an international conference, the British Council will consider supporting the attendance of one of the authors through a separate application.

* For proposals receiving match funding from any of the participating FAPs, the requested grant should also be for a maximum of £10,000. The total amount will be disbursed in a 50% (British Council grant) - 50% (FAP match funding) formula. Initial 50% upon signature of the Grant Agreement – by the end of November 2018. And the remaining 50% upon agreement with the respecting FAP. Moreover, the FAP may define in its own guideline the costs eligible to be covered.

* For trilateral agreements, the British Council is the sole provider of the grant funding. Match funding from the HEIs submitting proposals are more than welcome and will also count to the score points in the assessment. The requested grant should also be for a maximum of £10,000.

For grants coming from the British Council, the disbursement will be made in a 90% - 10% formula. Initial 90% upon signature of the Grant Agreement – by the end of November 2018. And the remaining 10% after validation of a progress report comprising a narrative and the financial status – by end of February the latest.

11. Reporting mechanisms and responsibilities:

For the British Council:

1. Progress report due three months after the start date briefly outlining progress on the project to date – financials plus narrative.
2. Final report. All grantees will be responsible for presenting a completed financial report and a final narrative during the last month of the project. The narrative should be presented as a formal report outlining the aims of the project, research questions, methodology, findings, discussion and recommendations for policy and practice. The narrative should be in publishable form in English with between 4,000 to 8,000 words.
3. A two to three page summary of the research and its findings. This is due with the Final report and will appeal to readers with little technical knowledge, while still informing the expert reader.

The templates for financial and narrative reports will be enclosed in the next few weeks.

For the participating FAPs:

1. The reporting mechanisms and responsibilities will be informed only to the approved projects on the moment of the signature between the Brazilian coordinator of the proposal and its FAP.

12. Schedule

Call launch	21 June 2018
Applications open	16 July 2018
Call closure	21 September 2018
Applications assessment	24 September – 24 October 2018
Results announcement	31 October 2018
Implementation period	1 December 2018 – 1 July 2019

13. Further information

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CONFAP: chamadasuk.confap@gmail.com

14. Assessment criteria

Assessment criteria		Weights (%)
Eliminatory criteria	Was the proposal submitted as per requirements of the call?	n/a
Quality of the proposal	1. The proposal addresses an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field. 2. The proposal adequately contextualises the proposed project. 3. The proposal clearly outlines the aims of the project, as well as its methodology (design, participants, instruments, procedures) with sufficient detail to allow for a meaningful judgement on its value. 4. Is the methodology likely to be feasible? 5. Are the research questions clearly stated?	30%
Applicability	1. The proposal clearly states its potential to inform policy and practice. 2. A dissemination plan is clearly outlined and likely to be feasible.	30%
Resources	Match funding allocated to the proposal	25%
	Clear investment and calculation of required resources in the implementation of the plan	
Expertise	The UK and Brazilian researchers have a proven track record in research and publication in the field of English language related research.	15%