

## **Request for Proposal (RFP)**

**For:** Development of a Gender Equality Framework for HE, Science and Technology Institutions in Brazil (for Brazil applicants)

**Date:** 16 August 2021

### **1 Overview of the British Council**

1.1 The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries. We do this by making a positive contribution to the UK and the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust.

1.2 We work with over 100 countries across the world in the fields of arts and culture, English language, education and civil society. Each year we reach over 20 million people face-to-face and more than 500 million people online, via broadcasts and publications. Founded in 1934, we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body

1.3 The British Council employs over 10,500 staff worldwide. It has its headquarters in the UK, with offices in London, Manchester, Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh. Further information can be viewed at [www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org).

### **2 Introduction and Background to the Project / Programme**

2.1 The British Council Women in Science programme, part of Going Global Partnerships, seeks to increase the presence of women in STEM careers, taking a systemic change approach which also promotes gender and social inclusion within the higher education sector in Brazil.

It supports women researchers with trainings and mentorships, promotes networks and stronger links between UK and Brazilian women scientists and science institutions; and influences national policies in Brazil that promote access and diversity in Science, inspired by UK models. This will ultimately contribute to stronger, more inclusive and globally connected tertiary education systems, which support economic and social growth. The programme sits under the Americas Women and Girls in STEM programme.

Expected results:

- Development of national and institutional policies on science and diversity, via the exchange of models and best practices between high-level institutions positively impacting the engagement of Women and Girls in STEM.

- Increased participation of women in STEM resulting in more diverse and representative research.
- Stronger links and partnerships between the UK and the Americas Science sector, supported by a diversity agenda.
- Improved career paths for women in STEM.
- Girls are inspired to engage in STEM careers.

See further information on <https://www.britishcouncil.org.br/atividades/educacao>

2.2 The purpose and scope of this RFP and supporting documents is to explain in further detail the requirements of the British Council and the procurement process for submitting a tender proposal.

### 3 Tender Conditions and Contractual Requirements

This section of the RFP sets out the British Council's contracting requirements, general policy requirements, and the general tender conditions relating to this procurement process ("**Procurement Process**").

#### 3.1 Contracting requirements

3.1.1 The contracting authority is the British Council which includes any subsidiary companies and other organisations that control or are controlled by the British Council from time to time (see: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/structure/status>).

3.1.2 The appointed supplier will be expected to deliver the goods and/or provide services at the British Council offices in São Paulo, Brazil.

3.1.3 The British Council's contracting and commercial approach in respect of the required goods and/or services is set out at Annex 1 (Terms and Conditions of contract) ("**Contract**"). By submitting a tender response, you are agreeing to be bound by the terms of this RFP and the Contract without further negotiation or amendment.

3.1.4 The Contract awarded will be for a duration from **30 September 2021 to 31 March 2022**.

3.1.5 In the event that you have any concerns or queries in relation to the Contract, you should submit a clarification request in accordance with the provisions of this RFP by the Clarification Deadline (as defined below in the Timescales section of this RFP). Following such clarification requests, the British Council may issue a clarification change to the Contract that will apply to all potential suppliers submitting a tender response.

3.1.6 The British Council is under no obligations to consider any clarifications / amendments to the Contract proposed following the Clarification Deadline, but before the Response Deadline (as defined below in the Timescales section of this RFP). Any proposed amendments received from a potential

supplier as part its tender response shall entitle the British Council to reject that tender response and to disqualify that potential supplier from this Procurement Process.

### **3.2 General Policy Requirements**

3.2.1 By submitting a tender response in connection with this Procurement Process, potential suppliers confirm that they will, and that they shall ensure that any consortium members and/or subcontractors will, comply with all applicable laws, codes of practice, statutory guidance and applicable British Council policies relevant to the goods and/or services being supplied. All relevant British Council policies that suppliers are expected to comply with can be found on the British Council website (<https://www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/transparency/policies>). The list of relevant policies includes (but it is not limited to): Anti-Fraud and Corruption, Child Protection Policy, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, Fair Trading, Health and Safety Policy, Environmental Policy, Records Management, and Privacy.

### **3.3 General tender conditions (“Tender Conditions”)**

3.3.1 Application of these Tender Conditions – In participating in this Procurement Process and/or by submitting a tender response it will be implied that you accept and will be bound by all the provisions of this RFP and its Annexes. Accordingly, tender responses should be on the basis of and strictly in accordance with the requirements of this RFP.

3.3.2 Third party verifications – Your tender response is submitted on the basis that you consent to the British Council carrying out all necessary actions to verify the information that you have provided; and the analysis of your tender response being undertaken by one or more third parties commissioned by the British Council for such purposes.

3.3.3 Information provided to potential suppliers – Information that is supplied to potential suppliers as part of this Procurement Process is supplied in good faith. The information contained in the RFP and the supporting documents and in any related written or oral communication is believed to be correct at the time of issue but the British Council will not accept any liability for its accuracy, adequacy or completeness and no warranty is given as such. This exclusion does not extend to any fraudulent misrepresentation made by or on behalf of the British Council.

3.3.4 Potential suppliers to make their own enquires – You are responsible for analysing and reviewing all information provided to you as part of this Procurement Process and for forming your own opinions and seeking advice as you consider appropriate. You should notify the British Council promptly of any perceived ambiguity, inconsistency or omission in this RFP and/or any in of its associated documents and/or in any information provided to you as part of this Procurement Process.

3.3.5 Amendments to the RFP – At any time prior to the Response Deadline, the British Council may amend the RFP. Any such amendment shall be issued to all potential suppliers, and if appropriate to ensure potential suppliers have reasonable time in which to take such amendment into account, the Response Deadline shall, at the discretion of the British Council, be extended.

3.3.6 Compliance of tender response submission – Any goods and/or services offered should be on the basis of and strictly in accordance with the RFP (including, without limitation, any specification of the British Council's requirements, these Tender Conditions and the Contract) and all other documents and any clarifications or updates issued by the British Council as part of this Procurement Process.

3.3.7 Format of tender response submission – Tender responses must comprise the relevant documents specified by the British Council completed in all areas and in the format as detailed by the British Council in Annex 2 (Supplier Response). Any documents requested by the British Council must be completed in full. It is, therefore, important that you read the RFP carefully before completing and submitting your tender response.

3.3.8 Modifications to tender response documents once submitted – You may modify your tender response prior to the Response Deadline by giving written notice to the British Council. Any modification should be clear and submitted as a complete new tender response in accordance with Annex 2 (Supplier Response) and these Tender Conditions.

3.3.9 Rejection of tender responses or other documents – A tender response or any other document requested by the British Council may be rejected which:

- contains gaps, omissions, misrepresentations, errors, uncompleted sections, or changes to the format of the tender documentation provided;
- contains hand written amendments which have not been initialled by the authorised signatory;
- does not reflect and confirm full and unconditional compliance with all of the documents issued by the British Council forming part of the RFP;
- contains any caveats or any other statements or assumptions qualifying the tender response that are not capable of evaluation in accordance with the evaluation model or requiring changes to any documents issued by the British Council in any way;
- is not submitted in a manner consistent with the provisions set out in this RFP;
- is received after the Response Deadline.

3.3.10 Disqualification – If you breach these Tender Conditions, if there are any errors, omissions or material adverse changes relating to any information supplied by you at any stage in this Procurement Process, if any other circumstances set out in this RFP, and/or in any supporting documents, entitling the British Council to reject a tender response apply and/or if you or your appointed advisers attempt:

- to inappropriately influence this Procurement Process;
- to fix or set the price for goods or services ;
- to enter into an arrangement with any other party that such party shall refrain from submitting a tender response;
- to enter into any arrangement with any other party (other than another party that forms part of your consortium bid or is your proposed sub-contractor) as to the prices submitted; or
- to collude in any other way

- to engage in direct or indirect bribery or canvassing by you or your appointed advisers in relation to this Procurement Process; or
- to obtain information from any of the employees, agents or advisors of the British Council concerning this Procurement Process (other than as set out in these Tender Conditions) or from another potential supplier or another tender response,

the British Council shall be entitled to reject your tender response in full and to disqualify you from this Procurement Process. Subject to the “Liability” Tender Condition below, by participating in this Procurement Process you accept that the British Council shall have no liability to a disqualified potential supplier in these circumstances.

3.3.11 Tender costs – You are responsible for obtaining all information necessary for preparation of your tender response and for all costs and expenses incurred in preparation of the tender response. Subject to the “Liability” Tender Condition below, you accept by your participation in this procurement, including without limitation the submission of a tender response, that you will not be entitled to claim from the British Council any costs, expenses or liabilities that you may incur in tendering for this procurement irrespective of whether or not your tender response is successful.

3.3.12 Rights to cancel or vary this Procurement Process - By issuing this RFP, entering into clarification communications with potential suppliers or by having any other form of communication with potential suppliers, the British Council is not bound in any way to enter into any contractual or other arrangement with you or any other potential supplier. It is intended that the remainder of this Procurement Process will take place in accordance with the provisions of this RFP but the British Council reserves the right to terminate, amend or vary (to include, without limitation, in relation to any timescales or deadlines) this Procurement Process by notice to all potential supplier in writing. Subject to the “Liability” Tender Condition below, the British will have no liability for any losses, costs or expenses caused to you as a result of such termination, amendment or variation.

3.3.13 Consortium Members and sub-contractors – It is your responsibility to ensure that any staff, consortium members, sub-contractors and advisers abide by these Tender Conditions and the requirement of this RFP.

3.3.14 Liability – Nothing in these Tender Conditions is intended to exclude or limit the liability of the British Council in relation to fraud or in other circumstances where the British Council’s liability may not be limited under any applicable law.

## **4 Confidentiality and Information Governance**

4.1 All information supplied to you by the British Council, including this RFP and all other documents relating to this Procurement Process, either in writing or orally, must be treated in confidence and not disclosed to any third party (save to your professional advisers, consortium members and/or sub-

contractors strictly for the purposes only of helping you to participate in this Procurement Process and/or prepare your tender response) unless the information is already in the public domain or is required to be disclosed under any applicable laws.

4.2 You shall not disclose, copy or reproduce any of the information supplied to you as part of this Procurement Process other than for the purposes of preparing and submitting a tender response. There must be no publicity by you regarding the Procurement Process or the future award of any contract unless the British Council has given express written consent to the relevant communication.

4.3 This RFP and its accompanying documents shall remain the property of the British Council and must be returned on demand.

4.4 The British Council reserves the right to disclose all documents relating to this Procurement Process, including without limitation your tender response, to any employee, third party agent, adviser or other third party involved in the procurement in support of, and/or in collaboration with, the British Council. The British Council further reserves the right to publish the Contract once awarded and/or disclose information in connection with supplier performance under the Contract in accordance with any public sector transparency policies (as referred to below). By participating in this Procurement Process, you agree to such disclosure and/or publication by the British Council in accordance with such rights reserved by it under this paragraph.

4.5 The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“FOIA”), the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (“EIR”), and public sector transparency policies apply to the British Council (together the “**Disclosure Obligations**”).

4.6 You should be aware of the British Council’s obligations and responsibilities under the Disclosure Obligations to disclose information held by the British Council. Information provided by you in connection with this Procurement Process, or with any contract that may be awarded as a result of this exercise, may therefore have to be disclosed by the British Council under the Disclosure Obligations, unless the British Council decides that one of the statutory exemptions under the FOIA or the EIR applies.

4.7 If you wish to designate information supplied as part of your tender response or otherwise in connection with this tender exercise as confidential, you must provide clear and specific detail as to:

- the precise elements which are considered confidential and/or commercially sensitive;
- why you consider an exemption under the FOIA or EIR would apply; and
- the estimated length of time during which the exemption will apply.

4.8 The use of blanket protective markings of whole documents such as “commercial in confidence” will not be sufficient. By participating in this Procurement Process you agree that the British Council should not and will not be bound by any such markings.

4.9 In addition, marking any material as “confidential” or “commercially sensitive” or equivalent should not be taken to mean that the British Council accepts any duty of confidentiality by virtue of such marking.

You accept that the decision as to which information will be disclosed is reserved to the British Council, notwithstanding any consultation with you or any designation of information as confidential or commercially sensitive or equivalent you may have made. You agree, by participating further in this Procurement Process and/or submitting your tender response, that all information is provided to the British Council on the basis that it may be disclosed under the Disclosure Obligations if the British Council considers that it is required to do so and/or may be used by the British Council in accordance with the provisions provision of this RFP.

4.10 Tender responses are also submitted on the condition that the appointed supplier will only process personal data (as may be defined under any relevant data protection laws) that it gains access to in performance of this Contract in accordance with the British Council 's instructions and will not use such personal data for any other purpose. The contracted supplier will undertake to process any personal data on the British Council's behalf in accordance with the relevant provisions of any relevant data protection laws and to ensure all consents required under such laws are obtained.

## **5 Tender Validity**

5.1 Your tender response must remain open for acceptance by the British Council for a period of sixty days from the Response Deadline. A tender response not valid for this period may be rejected by the British Council.

## **6 Payment and Invoicing**

6.1 Associação Conselho Britânico (ACB), subsidiary of the British Council in Brazil, will pay correctly addressed and undisputed invoices within 30 days in accordance with the requirements of the Contract. Suppliers to the Associação Conselho Britânico must ensure comparable payment provisions apply to the payment of their sub-contractors and the sub-contractors of their sub-contractors. General requirements for an invoice for the Associação Conselho Britânico include:

- A description of the good/services supplied is included.
- The Associação Conselho Britânico Purchase Order number is included.
- It is sent electronically via email in PDF format to [heloisafimiani@britishcouncil.org](mailto:heloisafimiani@britishcouncil.org) and [raissadaher@britishcouncil.org](mailto:raissadaher@britishcouncil.org)

6.2. For the services rendered, the contractor must send the Boletão(s) accompanied by the respective fiscal note(s) (*notas fiscais*) according to the payment schedule to be defined in the contract for e-mails [heloisafimiani@britishcouncil.org](mailto:heloisafimiani@britishcouncil.org) and [raissadaher@britishcouncil.org](mailto:raissadaher@britishcouncil.org)

6.3. All taxes, fees and contributions, according to the legislation due to the effective fulfilment of the object of the present proposal, will be owed by the respective taxpayers, thus defined according to the current legislation, being due to each Party the fulfilment of its tax obligation, including any withholding tax, if this is the law.

6.4. The payment (s) of the services will be made in **30 (thirty) days** after the invoice is issued.

6.5. For contractors contracted outside the Municipality of São Paulo without registration in the City of São Paulo, there will be retention of ISS, according to current law.

6.6. When applicable, taxes such as: IR, PIS / COFINS or other taxes, taxes and applicable contributions will be withheld according to the tax legislation.

## 7 Specification

The British Council is looking for a consultant to support the introduction of a gender equality framework to higher education, science, technology institutions in Brazil, drawing upon successful models in the UK, namely Athena Swan. The consultant will also support 10 higher education, science and technology institutions in Brazil (previously selected by the British Council via the UK - Brazil Gender Equality Partnerships Grants) to develop their Gender Equality Policies, providing guidance and advice around e.g. conducting a thorough self-assessment, qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis, creating SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound) action plans and providing examples of good practice initiatives that have worked in their institution and how they enabled them to be sustainable.

The Brazilian consultant will work closely with a UK-based consultant, also to be engaged by the British Council. The UK consultant will have deep expertise on the implementation of the Athena SWAN Charter within British higher education institutions, and it is envisaged that the gender equality framework and the specific gender equality policies for HEIs will be developed by the UK consultant and subsequently enhanced and validated by the Brazilian consultant, based on his/her knowledge of the Brazilian context and the participating Brazilian institutions, thus ensuring that these are appropriate to the local context.

The UK consultant will also be responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of a parallel capacity building initiative: a partnerships programme between five UK and the 10 Brazilian higher education, science and technology institutions, whereby the UK institutions will engage, partner, train and mentor the Brazilian partners in their journey to consolidate gender equality within their institutions. This partnership programme will include the sharing of experiences and good practice, and the development and strengthening of networks of women in higher education, science and technology from Brazil and the UK, so that individual and institutional connections and collaborations can amplify the desired impact of the initiative. See Annex 5 for further details.

Altogether, this pilot project will foster a new ecosystem based on building competencies of Brazilian institutions through ongoing support and engagement, in a mutual learning process between Brazil and the UK.

The objective, outcomes and outputs of the pilot project, which include the present call for proposals and the separate UK-Brazil Gender Equality Partnerships Call, are as follows:

<b>Objective:</b> To support the development of institutional policies and practices that will enable progress towards achieving gender equality in science, technology, and higher education institutions in Brazil	
<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Outputs</b>



<p>1. Sustainable partnerships between Brazil and UK are developed, fostering gender equality in science, technology and higher education institutions in Brazil <i>(to be delivered via the UK-Brazil Gender Equality Partnerships Call)</i></p>	<p>1.1 Partnerships for training, mentoring and support are established between UK and Brazilian HE, science and technology institutions.</p> <p>1.2 UK institutions provide capacity-building and support gender equality processes in Brazilian institutions.</p> <p>1.3 Sustainable platforms and networks for sharing good practice and amplifying impact are developed and strengthened.</p>
<p>2. Science, technology and higher education institutions in Brazil develop and practice gender inclusive processes and systems <i>(to be undertaken with a UK consultancy to hired by the British Council in a parallel procurement process)</i></p>	<p>2.1 A gender equality framework contextualised to the requirements of the Brazilian system has been developed.</p> <p>2.2 Participating institutions have developed their own policies and are able to apply to relevant national certifications and awards.</p> <p>2.3 UK and Brazilian consultancy to provide capacity-building and support gender equality processes in Brazilian institutions.</p>

## Budget and Deliverables

We have a maximum of £20,000 for the work to be undertaken by the Brazil consultant, to include all fees, expenses and taxes applicable. Please see proposed project schedule and disbursement timeline below: these are presented for reference only, considering the maximum amount available for this project, and are subject to adjustments considering the winning bidder's pricing conditions.

<b>Deliverables</b> (may be adapted according to proposed consultancy methodology)	<b>Tentative timeline for submission</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Meetings with the British Council, the UK consultant and the institutions from Brazil and the UK for alignment and planning of next steps (initial payment within a maximum of 60 days from the time of signing the agreement).	By 15 October 2021	<b>£2,000</b>
Detailed Consultancy Plan (gender equality framework + 10 specific GE policies) <i>(to be developed together with the UK consultancy)</i>	15 October 2021	<b>£4,000</b>
Analysis of ongoing and/or planned gender equality policies and initiatives in the 10 Brazilian institutions + Initial propositions for a general gender equality framework for the sector <i>(enhance and validate the propositions developed by the UK consultancy)</i>	16 November 2021	<b>Paid by end of November 2020</b>
Support the UK consultancy with provision of information for the organisation of a webinar for the UK-Brazil partnership programme members, providing background data and information on the higher education, science and	19 November 2021	

technology sector in Brazil, including explaining what academic progression is like in Brazilian HEIs and research institutes e.g. recruitment and promotions structures, career development and appraisal systems etc. the challenges for gender equality in STEM in higher education and research in Brazil, and data around Brazil's leaky pipeline in STEM in higher education and research.		
Draft GE framework for the sector in Brazil + Draft Specific Policies for Gender Equality <i>(enhance and validate the propositions developed by the UK consultancy)</i>	20 December 2021	<b>£7,000</b>
GE framework for the sector in Brazil + Specific Policies for Gender Equality (final versions validated with the 10 Brazilian project stakeholders)	20 March 2022	<b>£7,000</b>

### Supplier Specifications and Requirements

- In-depth knowledge of the Brazilian Higher Education system and Science communities in the country.
- Familiarity with the Athena SWAN Charter and the development of gender equality frameworks and policies for a variety of institutions (preferably higher education, science and technology ones).
- Demonstrable expertise in women and girls' rights, gender equality, girls' education, and experience of working with organisations involved in this type of work.
- Experience of strong downward accountability mechanisms to actively share results and learning.
- Evidence of applying ethical considerations and methodological measures for conducting research with specific target groups on sensitive topics, as well as implementing safeguarding procedures and informed consent approaches.
- Proven fluency in English (advanced written and spoken English).

We are open to receiving proposals by a lead supplier, in which specific components might be subcontracted out by trusted partners, in order to cover different expertise areas. In this case, we would require as part of the submission:

- o details of the proposed partnership (roles and responsibilities, governance etc.)
- o evidence of track record in delivering projects on gender equality
- o CVs and track record of consultancy team
- o A signed declaration from the partner, confirming availability to work on this study.

The above may include submitting a joint application with a UK institution, whereby the latter could submit an application as per Annex 6: Development of a Gender Equality Framework for HE, Science and Technology Institutions in Brazil (for UK applicants).

## 8 Mandatory Requirements / Constraints

8.1 As part of your tender response, you must confirm that you meet the mandatory requirements / constraints, if any, as set out in the British Council's specification forming part of this RFP. A failure to comply with one or more mandatory requirements or constraints shall entitle the British Council to reject a tender response in full.

## 9 Qualification Requirements

9.1 Not applicable

## 10 Key background documents and further information

10.1 Not applicable

## 11 Timescales

11.1 Subject to any changes notified to potential suppliers by the British Council in accordance with the Tender Conditions, the following timescales shall apply to this Procurement Process:

Activity	Date / time
RFP Issued to bidding suppliers	16 August 2021
Deadline for clarification questions ( <b>Clarification Deadline</b> )	By 9 September 2021
Deadline for submission of RFP responses by potential suppliers ( <b>Response Deadline</b> )	12 September (23:59 GMT)
Final Decision	20 September 2021
Contract concluded with winning supplier	21 to 30 September 2021
Contract start date	30 September 2021

## 12 Instructions for Responding

12.1 All documents required as part of your tender response should be submitted [heloisa.fimiani@britishcouncil.org](mailto:heloisa.fimiani@britishcouncil.org) and [raissa.daher@britishcouncil.org](mailto:raissa.daher@britishcouncil.org) by the Response Deadline, as set out in the Timescales section of this RFP.

12.2 The following requirements should be complied with when submitting your response to this RFP:

- Please ensure that you send your submission in good time to prevent issues with technology – late tender responses may be rejected by the British Council.
- Do not submit any additional supporting documentation with your RFP response except where specifically requested to do so as part of this RFP. PDF, JPG, PPT, Word and Excel formats can

be used for any additional supporting documentation (other formats should not be used without the prior written approval of the British Council).

- All attachments/supporting documentation should be provided separately to your main tender response and clearly labelled to make it clear as to which part of your tender response it relates.
- If you submit a generic policy / document you must indicate the page and paragraph reference that is relevant to a particular part of your tender response.
- Unless otherwise stated as part of this RFP or its Annexes, all tender responses should be in the format of the relevant British Council requirement with your response to that requirement inserted underneath.
- Where supporting evidence is requested as 'or equivalent' you must demonstrate such equivalence as part of your tender response.
- Any deliberate alteration of a British Council requirement as part of your tender response will invalidate your tender response to that requirement and for evaluation purposes you shall be deemed not to have responded to that particular requirement.
- Responses should be concise, unambiguous, and should directly address the requirement stated.
- Your tender responses to the tender requirements and pricing will be incorporated into the Contract, as appropriate.

### **13 Clarification Requests**

13.1 All clarification requests should be submitted to [heloisa.fimiani@britishcouncil.org](mailto:heloisa.fimiani@britishcouncil.org) and [raissa.daher@britishcouncil.org](mailto:raissa.daher@britishcouncil.org) by the Clarification Deadline, as set out in the Timescales section of this RFP. The British Council is under no obligation to respond to clarification requests received after the Clarification Deadline.

13.2 Any clarification requests should clearly reference the appropriate paragraph in the RFP documentation and, to the extent possible, should be aggregated rather than sent individually.

13.3 The British Council reserves the right to issue any clarification request made by you, and the response, to all potential suppliers unless you expressly require it to be kept confidential at the time the request is made. If the British Council considers the contents of the request not to be confidential, it will inform you and you will have the opportunity to withdraw the clarification query prior to the British Council responding to all potential suppliers.

13.4 The British Council may at any time request further information from potential suppliers to verify or clarify any aspects of their tender response or other information they may have provided. Should you not provide supplementary information or clarifications to the British Council by any deadline notified to you, your tender response may be rejected in full and you may be disqualified from this Procurement Process.

## 14 Evaluation Criteria

14.1 You will have your tender response evaluated as set out below:

**Stage 1:** Tender responses will be checked to ensure that they have been completed correctly and all necessary information has been provided. Tenders responses correctly completed with all relevant information being provided will proceed to Stage 2. Any tender responses not correctly completed in accordance with the requirements of this RFP and/or containing omissions may be rejected at this point. Where a tender response is rejected at this point it will automatically be disqualified and will not be further evaluated.



**Stage 2:** The completed Qualification Questionnaire (*if used*) will then be reviewed to confirm that the potential supplier meets all of the qualification criteria set out in the questionnaire. Potential suppliers that meet the qualification criteria will proceed to Stage 3. Potential suppliers that do not meet the qualification criteria set out in the Qualification Questionnaire (*if used*) may be excluded from the Procurement Process at this point. Where a potential supplier is excluded at this point, its tender response will be rejected in full and not evaluated further and the supplier will automatically be disqualified from this Procurement Process.



**Stage 3:** If a bidder succeeds in passing Stages 1 and 2 of the evaluation, then it will have its detailed tender response to the British Council's requirements evaluated in accordance with the evaluation methodology set out below. Information provided as part of Qualification Questionnaire (*if used*) responses may also be verified as part of this stage.

14.2 Award Criteria – Responses from potential suppliers will be assessed to determine the most economically advantages tender using the following criteria and weightings and will be assessed entirely on your response submitted:

Criteria	Weighting
Familiarity with the Athena SWAN Charter and the development of gender equality frameworks and policies for a variety of institutions (preferably higher education, science and technology ones).	30%
Demonstrable expertise in women and girls' rights, gender equality, girls' education, and familiarity with working with organisations involved in this type of work.	25%
Track record: specific experience related to the Athena Swan Charter	25%
How the proposed methodology engages multiple strands of activity to deliver on the expected outcomes of the project	10%
Pricing conditions: value for money and clear calculation of required resources	10%

14.3 Scoring Model – Tender responses will be subject to an initial review at the start of Stage 3 of the evaluation process. Any tender responses not meeting mandatory requirements or constraints (if any) will be rejected in full at this point and will not be assessed or scored further. Tender responses not so

rejected will be scored by an evaluation panel appointed by the British Council for all criteria other than Commercial using the following scoring model:

Points	Interpretation
10	<b>Excellent</b> – Overall the response demonstrates that the bidder meets all areas of the requirement and provides all of the areas evidence requested in the level of detail requested. This, therefore, is a detailed excellent response that meets all aspects of the requirement leaving no ambiguity as to whether the bidder can meet the requirement.
7	<b>Good</b> – Overall the response demonstrates that the bidder meets all areas of the requirement and provides all of the areas of evidence requested, but contains some trivial omissions in relation to the level of detail requested in terms of either the response or the evidence. This, therefore, is a good response that meets all aspects of the requirement with only a trivial level ambiguity due the bidders failure to provide all information at the level of detail requested.
5	<b>Adequate</b> – Overall the response demonstrates that the bidder meets all areas of the requirement, but not all of the areas of evidence requested have been provided. This, therefore, is an adequate response, but with some limited ambiguity as to whether the bidder can meet the requirement due to the bidder’s failure to provide all of the evidence requested.
3	<b>Poor</b> – The response does not demonstrate that the bidder meets the requirement in one or more areas. This, therefore, is a poor response with significant ambiguity as to whether the bidder can meet the requirement due to the failure by the bidder to show that it meets one or more areas of the requirement.
0	<b>Unacceptable</b> – The response is non-compliant with the requirements of the RFP and/or no response has been provided.

14.4 Commercial Evaluation – Your “Overall Price” (as calculated in accordance with requirements of Annex 3 (Pricing Approach) for the goods and/or services will be evaluated by the evaluation panel for the purposes of the commercial evaluation. Prices must not be subject to any pricing assumptions, qualifications or indexation not provided for explicitly by the British Council as part of the pricing approach. In the event that any prices are expressed as being subject to any pricing assumptions, qualifications or indexation not provided for by the British Council as part of the pricing approach, the British Council may reject the full tender response at this point. The British Council may also reject any tender response where the Overall Price for the goods and/or services is considered by the British Council to be abnormally low following the relevant processes set out under the EU procurement rules. A maximum offer score of 10 will be awarded to the tender response offering the lowest “Overall Price”. Other tender responses will be

awarded a mark by application of the following formula: (Lowest Overall Price/Overall Price being evaluated) x 10 (rounded to two decimal places) = commercial score.

14.5 Moderation and application of weightings – The evaluation panel appointed for this procurement will meet to agree and moderate scores for each award criteria. Final scores in terms of a percentage of the overall tender score will be obtained by applying the relevant weighting factors set out as part of the award criteria table above. The percentage scores for each award criteria will be amalgamated to give a percentage score out of 100.

14.6 The winning tender response – The winning tender response shall be the tender response scoring the highest percentage score out of 100 when applying the above evaluation methodology, which is also supported by any required verification evidence (to include, without limitation, any updated information or references relating to any Qualification Question responses) obtained by the Authority relating to any self-certification or other requirements referred to in the Qualification Questionnaire (*if used*). If any verification evidence requested from a supplier, or a relevant third party as may be referred to by the supplier in the Qualification Questionnaire (*if used*) as a party prepared to provide such information, is not provided in accordance with any timescales specified by the British Council and/or any evidence reviewed by the British Council (whose decision shall be final) does not demonstrate compliance with any such requirement, the British Council may reject that tender response in full and disqualify the potential winning supplier from the Procurement Process at that point.

**List of Annexes forming part of this RFP (issued as separate documents):**

**Annex 1 - Terms and Conditions of Contract**

**Annex 2 – Supplier Response (please submit your proposal in pdf format)**

**Annex 3 – Pricing Approach**