

The British Council aims to build UK - Mexico collaborations centred on overcoming social welfare and economic development challenges.

Higher Education Links is a British Council programme designed to establish institutional links beyond the individual level, in order to open up opportunities for more sustainable, regional development academia and government collaborations engaging with the private and third sector.

Higher Education Links grants provide small-scale seed funding for high quality collaborations between the UK Institutions and Mexican Higher Education Institutions to build projects on the following priority areas:

- Higher Education Strategy
- Student employability
- Research & Development

Next, British Council Mexico provides a list of potential Mexican partners for Higher Education Links joint proposals to be submitted before the 2018 call closes on September 10. Kindly bear in mind that extensions will be granted for interested applicants.

An overview of the expected projects is included for British Institutions interested in participating in this programme, for more detailed information on the call and the application form, please follow the link below.

<https://www.britishcouncil.org.mx/en/higher-education-links-call-applications>

In case you consider a particular project for joint participation, feel free to contact directly the Mexican Higher Education Institution via email copying:

[HELlinks@britishcouncil.org.mx](mailto:HELlinks@britishcouncil.org.mx)

## Collaboration opportunities

TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY OF THE MIXTECA	
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Higher Education Links priority area	<b>Research &amp; Development</b>
Collaboration proposal overview	SYSTEMIC ANALYSIS FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND SOLUTION OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS- Development of tools that allow linking the academic and society to the identification of priority problems and feasible solutions.
Relevance	Work with rural communities - Mixteca Oaxaqueña
UK partner area of expertise	<b>DATA MINING</b>
Expected outcomes	Improvement of systemic analysis
Proposed dates for workshops	between November 5, 2018 and January 15, 2019

<b>University of Colima</b>	
Location	Colima, Mexico
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Department	Faculty of Pedagogy
Higher Education Links priority area	<b>Student employability</b> International partnerships for entrepreneurship programmes.
Collaboration proposal overview	The proposal consists of generating an alternative for the training of human resources that promotes innovation within small and medium enterprises, this through a training program with a pedagogical approach.
Relevance	<p>The openness to innovation allows organizations to respond to changing environmental conditions and implement new practices that optimize their processes; however, there are organizational contexts where it is important to stimulate the desire to innovate, as well as to work on tools to systematize innovation, with the aim of enabling conditions for greater competitiveness.</p> <p>The project intends to design a training program with a pedagogical approach that contributes to boost innovation in small and medium-sized companies, emphasizing the development of generic and specific skills of personnel.</p> <p>The relationship with student employability is found when working on the design of the proposal from a pedagogical perspective, with which an emerging area of work is fostered for professionals in pedagogy, thus expanding its field of action in non-educational organizations, an aspect that in our immediate context is a recent practice and that requires the impulse through specific activities, thereby contributing to the training of education professionals who will carry out interventions related to the development of competencies of the personnel of the business sector.</p>
UK partner area of expertise	<b>Management of innovation and entrepreneurship in small and medium enterprises.</b> <b>Training for innovation.</b>
Expected outcomes	<p>a) Analyse central elements for the management of innovation in small and medium enterprises.</p> <p>b) Identify necessary skills in the staff to enable innovation in the company.</p> <p>c) Establish a work plan to identify training needs and integrate the guidelines that guide a program of development of skills of personnel that are linked to innovation in small and medium enterprises.</p>
Proposed dates for workshops	29/11/2018, 10/01/2019, 11/01/2019.

## Instituto Tecnológico Jose Mario Molina Pasquel y Henriquez, Campus Chapala

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Department	Academic
Higher Education Links priority area	<b>Higher education strategy</b>
Collaboration proposal overview	Creation of alliances for the generation of inclusion programs
Relevance	This project aims to create a program so as to allow each university to link what is learnt in the classroom with real projects in a company or enterprise.
UK partner area of expertise	<b>Logistics, academic programs structure, international academics politics (OCDE)</b>
Expected outcomes	In Mexico, in the country's technological system students must perform a social service and their professional residency, this project is about creating advisory cells in universities with a faculty that has specialists in topics such as finance, marketing, development of software, quality, statistics, data mining, in order to what the company needs, so all the students would give their social service in this advisory cell created in the universities and from there they would be placed in companies with specific projects, being the main objective to create links with small, medium or large companies that are willing to work with this project, this guarantees in some way that students are in contact with business activities and during the first stage that would be social service can make a diagnosis of the needs of the company and in a second stage in professional residence only to achieve results, all this would be achieved even when they continue studying. As direct benefits: decrease the death rate of small and medium enterprises by professionalizing and helping to create business structures, increase the percentage of employability in areas related to their careers even as students, the direct link with all companies interested in participating with the project and the opening of spaces that generate the possibility of visiting companies.
Proposed dates for workshops	Nov 26, 27 and 28

## Centro de Investigación y de Estudios Avanzados del IPN - Unidad Guadalajara

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Department	Electrical Engineering
Higher Education Links priority area	<b>Research and development</b> - Creation of international alliances for research and development
Collaboration proposal overview	Collaborate with experts to bring solar and wind technologies to the most disadvantaged communities, and educate children about the responsible use of energy and its savings.
Relevance	It has the greatest relevance for developing countries, with important social, economic, and environmental impacts.
UK partner area of expertise	<b>Renewable energy</b>
Expected outcomes	That the most disadvantaged communities make use of renewable resources for their daily lives, giving them comfort and reducing the expenses destined to the payment of gas and electric power. This will also have an environmental effect, when many communities share this idea.
Proposed dates for workshops	November

<b>Incubajío A. C.</b>	
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Telephone	52 (477) 393 1075 / 52 (477) 171 2909
Department	Director General
Higher Education Links priority area	<p><b>Research and development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- International research and development partnerships</li> <li>- International partnerships for innovation programmes</li> </ul>
Collaboration proposal overview	<p>The social empowerment lab is a space that allows young leaders of middle and higher educational level to analyse, develop, implement or mature their ideas, projects, causes or social entrepreneurship. The purpose of the lab is to promote ideas / initiatives in projects with sustainable and innovative elements to expand their chances of success.</p> <p>The social empowerment lab offers the following phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ideation (based on the most urgent problems in Mexico)</li> <li>• Project selection (with a committee with practical experience)</li> <li>• Accompaniment (practical and theoretical tools for entrepreneurial development)</li> <li>• Scale up (growth through articulation with specialized organizations)</li> <li>• Financial Bonding</li> </ul> <p>This seeks not only to build but also to develop the capacities of institutions and young people to positively have an impact in economic development and the resolution of the priority social challenges of their region.</p> <p>The goal of this collaboration proposal with the United Kingdom through the British Council is first of all to generate a space and create a collaboration mechanism that allows to establish a bridge of knowledge and experiences in development of social impact, where the institutions of the two countries can learn and contribute to its counterpart in improving their corresponding environments.</p> <p>Furthermore, it will be possible to establish a process of collaborative benchmarking through the transfer of applied methodologies for the development and strengthening of young people, volunteers, social leaders and causes.</p>
Relevance	<p>Incubajío AC is an Institution with 18 years of experience and fiscally founded just over 14 years ago by successful local entrepreneurs, having as a guiding principle the contribution to the economic and sustainable development of the region.</p> <p>Our mission: To generate from the private initiative tools and value-added services for people and companies that wish to strengthen their business capacities, with the purpose of improving their environment, setting the ground for success and permanence, guided by sustainability principles and innovation.</p> <p>Our Vision: to be in the year 2025, the model organization in the accompaniment for the impulse of people and formation of enterprises that generate a positive impact in the environment, constituting them with a high level of competitiveness, business vision and social conscience.</p> <p>Since its inception, Incubajío has operated impact projects for entrepreneurs and companies in the state of Guanajuato, providing them with tools and / or knowledge to generate an entrepreneurial empowerment. 70% of our graduated entrepreneurs who opened their business have managed to survive at least the first two years of operation, which supports the efficiency of our process.</p>
UK partner area of expertise	<b>Economic development, Entrepreneurship &amp; Social innovation</b>

Expected outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adapt and / or adjust the local development strategies of our laboratory of social empowerment based on the knowledge and experience of the United Kingdom</li> <li>• Strengthen ties for collaboration, sharing experience, knowledge and expertise to improve Incubajio and the laboratory of social entrepreneurship capacities</li> <li>• Develop and / or strengthen the capacities of the institutions involved in the project (stakeholders), as well as that of young people, social leaders, university students and the related ecosystem.</li> <li>• Promote the participation of local universities in the economic and social development of the region through our Laboratory of social empowerment and the entrepreneurial ecosystem.</li> <li>• Validate and enrich The Model of the social empowerment lab, with the knowledge provided by the counterparts.</li> <li>• Execute an evaluation of the possible collaboration between the institutions involved to later establish the bases for a joint work plan.</li> </ul>
Proposed dates for workshops	December 4th to 7th 2018

<b>EDUCAFIN</b>	
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Department	International Affairs Office
Higher Education Links priority area	<b>Student employability</b>
Collaboration proposal overview	Workshop aimed to develop capacities for institutional and student global competences
Relevance	Guanajuato faces major challenges in developing effective international strategies for Higher Education Institutions and their students, which limits them to participate effectively in different activities available. Those challenges can be identify as gaps between the offer-demand of international skills such as language proficiency and previous experience abroad, lack of standardized procedures and norms to regulate and impulse academic mobility, absence of administrators dedicated exclusively to international programming within the institution, inflexible curricula, absence of effective collaboration networks and partners, financing and information to apply for federal and international grants.
UK partner area of expertise	<b>International student mobility strategies, student mobility programme, international mobility scholarships, international student internships.</b>
Expected outcomes	Elaborate a plan to improve international activities through the curricular design of HEI, respecting their structure, but with punctual recommendations to incorporate learning goals, activities & teaching materials/tools related to the acquisition of global competences.
Proposed dates for workshops	January 2019