

# Application Guide

## What is 'In Our hands?'

In Our Hands (IOH) is a research and development grant programme for youth entrepreneurs. IOH is a series of activities delivered over a period of 8 months, these are semi-virtual and facilitated by a consortium of partners including Kathmandu University's [Schools of Arts](#) and [School of Engineering](#), [Nepal Art Village](#), [Story Cyle](#), [Applied Arts Scotland](#) and [Edinburgh Napier University](#). It is supported by [National Innovation Center](#).

## What are the activities?

IOH is a multidisciplinary programme. It uses a mix of trainings (lectures/presentations), grants, mentoring and events to support youth entrepreneurs. The activities are delivered in a hybrid model (digital and physical) to allow wider participation and interactions.

IOH is designed with Kathmandu University to provide the right balance of contact hours, guided learning, assignments, research, and presentations to be eligible for certification and credits.

## What is the Creative Green Economy?

The Creative Green Economy is a low carbon industry that focuses on cultural and creative industries. It uses Nepal's natural and cultural heritage as an impetus to consider business opportunities that are driven by impact on people, place, the planet while still aiming for market sustainability and growth. In Our Hands believes through equipping youth entrepreneurship with the right resources and skills will help accommodate Nepal's green transition and challenges of inclusion in the country's economic development.

## What is the lesson plan like?

IOH is delivered in three interconnected phases.

In the first phase, selected participants will need to register for a free Craft Toolkit account. By October's end, participants will have used the Toolkit to draft their business plans evaluating its impact through the Quintuple Bottomline (People, Planet, Profit, Place, Purpose). They will also receive multiple sessions with lectures and presentations introducing alternative economic models and ideas that address global challenges through creativity and innovation. Group mentoring sessions will be provided during this stage. The final activity in this phase is the

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submission of the participant's business plan to be considered for 10 research grants and second phase participation.

Phase two focuses on research and understanding the external contexts that impact business outcomes in the creative economy. Ten research grantees will be provided one-on-one mentoring and further development in capacities to deliver evidence and insights valuable to their business goals. This phase concludes a residential workshop (in person) in Lalitpur. Where research findings and an updated business plan is presented to a panel of sector experts for the development grants.

Development grantees will work in Phase 3 to pilot their ideas, better understand their brand, audience and markets to develop strategies for market entry, adaptation and growth. This last phase concludes with showcase events where outputs from grantees are presented to sector leaders, stakeholders and the public.

## What is the instruction language?

Our experts from Nepal and the UK will be using English and Nepali during their contact hours. The Craft Toolkit is also available in Nepali.

## Why research and development Grants?

There are limited spaces to interpret natural/cultural heritage as business ideas yet there is growing market (craft and relevant sectors are Nepal's fourth largest\*). Additionally, sectors like architecture, fashion and design have more complicated relationship with global emissions and can play a significant role Nepal's transition to a green economy.

Through our global Arts programme **Culture Responds**, British Council aims to create these necessary spaces and platforms to explore the richness of Nepal's cultural and natural heritage. Through a grants programme we are able to provide a mix of training, mentoring and resourcing to bring innovative and creative ideas to life.

Our grants support youth to explore and articulate ideas, to research and refine their vision and develop these further to deliver lasting and impactful market solutions.

We are offering 10 research grants and 6 development grants in 2023 to deserving candidates upon successfully pitching to an appointed selection committee. Grantees also benefit from dedicated sessions with experts relevant to their needs.

Finally, but not the least, the grants include opportunities to showcase outputs. We aim to organise sector and stakeholder events from early to mid 2024 to promote wider and policy-level engagement about creative sector solutions for inclusive and sustainable development in Nepal.

## Do I need to get a grant to progress into the different phases?

No, you are welcome to continue with the programme even if you do not receive a grant. Grants are meant to cover costs involved in conducting limited research and development that is

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required in developing market products. Non-grantees can still benefit from the many non-financial benefits of the succeeding phases.

Please note that accreditation fees will be waived for grantees. We will be providing more details on the credit structure and fees for non-grantees, who are still interested in accreditation, once the incubation period is over.

## **What is the Craft Toolkit?**

The Craft Toolkit is an online business planning tool targeting professionals who work in crafts and making. It was created as part of the British Council's Crafting Futures programme in Thailand (2018) and is currently available in multiple languages including Nepali. The British Council and its partners are committed to improving digital resourcing and use In Our Hands knowledge to adapt the Toolkit to provide relevant and effective support to emerging business or entrepreneurs.

Selected participants will need to register for a free Craft Toolkit account to participate in the IOH programme which requires access to hardware (phone, computer) and an Internet (or 4G) connection.

## **What topics are covered in the structured learning?**

We will be working with design thinking, prototyping, creative advocacy, purpose-led business modelling and research topics. Our facilitators will weave together a larger story from the diverse perspectives brought in through several disciplines and schools of thought. Participants will have a chance to interact with resources and relevant case studies from Nepal and the UK.

## **Who are the trainers/facilitators/mentors?**

Sessions will be led by Nepali/UK partners. The primary instruction language is English and Nepali. Please use the form to help us understand your proficiency of either language to improve the learning experience.

## **What does mentoring involve?**

Our mentoring practice is about listening to the needs of participating individual or teams. Our immediate and sector networks can cater to a wide range of needs from participants. We pair experts, who have first-hand knowledge, with our participants and grantees to provide the most effective results. Mentoring compliments the structured learning via two-way conversations that can help participants address their individual needs. There are two types of mentoring involved. One-on-one, where individuals/teams can consult a chosen facilitator/partner. Groups, where a particular and common topic is chosen as relevant to many participants for discussion with an expert. Either way, participants have opportunities to engage an experienced sector leader throughout the course of the programme.

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## **What is the time commitment expected from selected participants?**

Participants should expect to commit at least five or more days a month to benefit fully from the programme. Our sessions are organised to work with digital learning in a way that is exciting and does not feel cumbersome for working professionals and/or students. Session dates will be provided at the start of the programme to all participants. They should account for time required for self-directed learning and assignments as well.

## **How do participants receive academic credits from In Our Hands?**

You can apply for either a certificate (at end of Phase 1); three credits (obtained at end of Phase 2) and six credits (obtained at end of programme) – granted you have attended sessions and completed assignments to an optimum standard for each phase-wise assessment. Academic credits will be provided by the Kathmandu University.

## **What are the grants/showcase opportunities mentioned in the call?**

Participants selected for development grants will be provided with exhibitions and other public engagement events opportunities to promote their outputs from the programme. This will be an opportunity to network and connect with sector leaders, professionals and stakeholders.

## **Is there an opportunity to find out more about the In Our Hands programme from the organisers?**

Yes. We will host an orientation webinar on Friday, 18 August (3:00 - 4:00 PM, NPT).

[Register for the webinar by filling out this form](#)

## **What type of projects have you supported in the past?**

Please see our past grantee page to review the types of projects we have worked with in the last two iterations of the programme. We believe ideas and innovation can originate with anyone, anywhere and can be delivered through any discipline.

We are primarily looking for applicants with a strong interest in developing enterprises that contribute to Nepal's inclusive and sustainable development.

[Past Grantees - 2021](#)

[Past Grantees - 2022](#)

## **Who can apply?**

Anyone over 19 years of age can apply. You can be an individual, a team, a project or an organisation. We do however recommend that teams appoint leads for maintaining your business plan in the Craft Toolkit. Teams can participate with multiple members in the virtual

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sessions, for physical activities we will only be able to provide limited seats to each participants. You have to be working and/or based in Nepal to be eligible. Please review all eligibility criteria.

[Apply here](#)

## **What information do I need to provide in the application?**

You will be required to put in basic personal information including name, address, contact number and professional affiliation. You will be asked to write a statement summarising your purpose in applying to the programme and your relevant experience. You do not need a business plan to apply. However, in the form you will have an option to share your ideas/ambitions.

## **What do you mean by marginalised youth or community?**

We use the Government of Nepal definition:

Youth belonging to marginalised minority community means the youth deprived of national and non-governmental benefits and services due to geographical remoteness and caste, language, culture, region, class and gender related grounds, marginalised and the other youths who could not come in the national mainstream.

## **What are the assessment criteria?**

Assessment criteria and assessment process are detailed on the call page. A diverse panel of Nepali and UK experts will review applications. The panel will be basing its decision on the information you provide in your application only.

## **Can I download the form and submit it via email?**

Yes. There is an offline version of the form, which can be downloaded and submitted by email to [arts@britishcouncil.org.np](mailto:arts@britishcouncil.org.np)

[Application form available here](#)

## **Can you help me with my application?**

We are committed to making the application process as inclusive and accessible as possible. If you have queries or require support with your application, please email [arts@britishcouncil.org.np](mailto:arts@britishcouncil.org.np) and we will endeavour to help. You can also call 01 423 7700 to reach the Arts team by phone.

Please note, you can submit your application through our digital form or through a printed offline copy. The form is available in Nepali and English languages.

## **Are the Application Form and Application Guide available in Nepali?**

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All forms, documents and the call page are available in Nepali, please check the call page for more details.

### **Is there a cost to participating in the Programme?**

No. There is no charge to apply for or (if selected) to participate in the Programme. Participation will be made strictly through the In Our Hands Programme call, application and selection process.

### **How will you use my personal information?**

The personal information of applicants will only be used for processing applications by the Nepali and UK partners and profiling selected participants.

### **What about intellectual property? Who owns my / our ideas if we participate in 'In Our Hands' Programme?**

IP remains with the participants on the programme, and they are not required to share, transfer or assign their IP with or to organisers or partners. Those applying to work alongside or with others (e.g. organisations, institutions and communities) should have the required permissions regarding their IP in place before joining the In Our Hands programme. We will follow the World Intellectual Property Organisation's protection afforded to traditional knowledge for this Programme.

Similarly, participation in the programme does not grant any participant the right to use any IP associated with the programme partners, organisers and funders, or their fellow participants.