

**Call for proposal**

---

**Opportunity for writers for a  
new British Council  
publication:**

**Action Research Mentoring  
in Nepal and Beyond**

25 October 2024

---

## A. British Council

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. Through our arts, education and English programmes, we give opportunities to hundreds of millions of people worldwide each year. We are on the ground in six continents and over 100 countries. The British Council has been operating in Nepal since 1959.

## B. Background

In Nepal, within the framework of the School Education Sector Plan (2022/23–2031/32), there is a strong emphasis on encouraging teachers to engage in exploration, study, and research. Indeed, the Teacher Professional Development Framework (2015) mandates that teachers undertake action research as part of their professional development (TPD) training. Teachers who do not engage in action research are ineligible for certification, highlighting the policy's emphasis on integrating research into everyday teaching practice. The National Education Policy (2019) reinforced this commitment by making explicit provisions for research, mentoring, and coaching within the teaching profession. In line with these policy initiatives, British Council Nepal has been supporting the mentoring of action research – specifically, Exploratory Action Research, since 2017, under the auspices of its Action Research and Mentoring Scheme.

According to reports received, this scheme has met with success in different parts of Nepal. However, little research has been conducted to explore the practical impacts of teachers' classroom-based research on teaching quality and student outcomes, whether in the British Council's own scheme or in other initiatives across the country. Despite the generally acknowledged importance of mentoring to teacher-research, mentors' experiences in Nepal have also hardly been documented.

British Council Nepal therefore wishes to support the publication of a book, to be edited by Professor Richard Smith, provisionally titled *Action Research Mentoring in Nepal and Beyond*, to be published by December 2026. The book will consist of three sections: (1) Global perspectives (commissioned pieces of writing); (2) Sponsored research studies; and (3) case studies.

## C. Content and format

The volume will have three sections as follows:

### 1. *Mentoring for action research: Global perspectives*

Topic areas are given below.

- 1.1 Action research for professional development: challenges and opportunities
- 1.2 An overview of mentoring schemes for action research
- 1.3 Mentoring action research in practice: lessons from experience

### 2. *Sponsored research studies*

The British Council will provide grant funding for 4 research studies in the following general areas (though this is not a comprehensive list and other relevant topics are possible):

- 2.1 Impact of action research on teacher-student relationships
- 2.2 Impact of action research on learning achievements of students

---

2.3 Mentoring of action research: what works and what does not in Nepal

2.4 Use of technology in action research mentoring

### 3. Case studies

Chapters may cover research in the following areas (*note*: these are very broad areas and writers will need to limit the scope of their chapters; writers may also submit proposals on other topic areas if they wish):

3.1 Mentoring exploratory research, action research or exploratory action research by teachers

3.2 Introducing student-teachers to one or more of the above approaches

3.3 Engaging in one of the above in relation to one's own teaching (this may be co-written with a mentor)

3.4 Engaging in one of the above in relation to one's own teacher education work

### Format

- The volume will contain 3 chapters in Section 1, 4 chapters in Section 2 and 5-8 chapters in Section 3 by different writers.
- Each chapter in Section 1 will be between 8,000 and 8,500 words in length
- Each chapter in Section 2 will be between 5,000 and 6,000 words in length
- Each chapter in Section 3 will be between 2,000 and 2,500 words in length

## D. The chapters

### *Section 1: Mentoring for action research: Global perspectives*

Chapters in this section should be thought provoking, provide a wide-ranging overview of global experience in the topic area, identify key issues internationally, and be able to relate the experience and issues to mentoring for action research in Nepal. The tone of the chapters will be authoritative, though not overly academic, and will be characterised by a clear and succinct style. Reference to or use of theory is welcomed but should be related to practice in particular contexts.

### *Section 2: Sponsored research studies*

Chapters in this section should provide a detailed account of the sponsored research project, its aims, methods, data collection and analysis, findings and implications for mentoring action research / engagement in action research in Nepal. **A grant of £800** will be provided to assist the research work and an additional **grant of £700** will be paid for each paper on publication. Grant funds for the research will be fully accountable.

Note: reports which focus on participants / former participants (mentors or teachers) in British Council Nepal's Action Research and Mentoring Scheme (ARMS) will be particularly welcomed, including recent experiences in the following municipalities:

- Mathagadi Rural Municipality, Palpa
- Gurbhakot Municipality, Surkhet

- 
- Kawasoti Municipality, Nawalparasi
  - Waling Municipality, Syangja

### *Section 3: Case studies*

Chapters in this section should provide an account of research into a particular aspect of (exploratory) action research and/or (exploratory) action research mentoring in Nepal or, in some cases, outside Nepal. The chapters should describe the research project, its participants and methods of enquiry. The chapters should clearly explain the project findings and their significance, and also draw out practical implications for action research or action research mentoring. A **grant of £500** will be paid for each paper on publication.

## **E. Proposal submission**

If you are interested in this opportunity (Section 2 and Section 3 of the publication), please send an email to : [R.C.Smith@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:R.C.Smith@warwick.ac.uk) and [Sudarshan.Subedi@britishcouncil.org](mailto:Sudarshan.Subedi@britishcouncil.org) by **30 November 2024**, with a description of the research you will carry out / report on, indicating the following (no more than 1,000 words in total)

- Topic
- Names of researchers/authors (also attach a CV of each researcher)
- Brief rationale (explanation of need) for the research
- Research questions
- Research methods
- Details of participants
- Timeline for the research

If your proposal is accepted, you will be invited to carry out the research in the first part of 2025 and asked to submit the first draft paper by the end of June 2025.

Please note, we can only respond to successful proposals and aim to contact successful applicants within 15 working days of the application deadline.