



**New**

# **Landscapes:**

**Fashion, Textiles and  
Technology**

**Catalyst  
Research and  
Development  
Grant Scheme - Call 2**

**ual** fashion, textiles and  
technology institute

In partnership with



## An open call to support R&D in the international sustainable fashion and textiles sector between the UK and International ODA eligible countries

**G**lobal drivers, including the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change, have accelerated the need for the fashion, textiles and related technologies (FTT) industries to re-think and re-evaluate their impact on both people and planet. There has never been a more important time to explore the sector's relationship with its workforce and the environment, and to address the need for radical transparency and sustainability across the whole value chain.

Examining the foundations of these industries, from operating models to their wider purpose, brings challenges but also opportunities. With new fashion, apparel, and textile systems emerging across the world, there is huge potential to create real and lasting change. Through collaboration on a global scale, the FTT sector can build a fairer, more inclusive, and more responsible future.

**To meet this opportunity for change, in early 2022 the British Council's Architecture Design Team and Fashion (ADF) Team in partnership with the UAL Fashion, Textiles and Technology Institute, University of the Arts London (UAL FTTI) piloted New Landscapes: Fashion, Textiles and Technology (FTT) Catalyst R&D Grant Scheme.**

The programme aimed to drive research and development (R&D) and nurture international co-operation around more responsible and socially engaged FTT industries. It was designed to foster new ideas that help shape the future of sustainable fashion, apparel and textiles globally, and support the cultural, social and environmental values of the FTT sector. Read the [report](#)<sup>1</sup>.

Cover image: Harvesting of sisal fibres in Kenya © Fashion Scout  
Below: Measuring and scanning of physical fabric samples for digital representation © Bureau 555

<sup>1</sup>Harris, J., Solomon, L., Ohranovic, N., (2022), New Landscapes: Fashion, Textiles, Technology Catalyst Research & Development (<https://www.arts.ac.uk/about-ual/press-office/stories/new-landscapes-catalyst-r-and-d-scheme-releases-first-report>).





Above: Microsoft and LCF, Future of Fashion Incubator at Oval Space

## The opportunity

**T**he **British Council** in partnership with **University of the Arts London Fashion, Textiles and Technology Institute (UAL FTTI)** invites proposals for the second Fashion, Textiles and Technology (FTT) New Landscapes Catalyst R&D Grant Scheme that:

- Builds on the success of an initial pilot programme to consolidate existing, and generate new opportunities, for international collaboration and sharing of best practice around sustainable design and production models for fashion, textiles and technology
- Increases global networks of practitioners enabling development of practice, increased experimentation and testing of sustainable design and production solutions that inspire positive environmental change
- Supports SMEs to exchange methods of designing and producing fashion, textiles and related technology in a more sustainable and socially-engaged way and support young designers to become advocates for sustainable, ethical and socially-engaged fashion, textiles and related technologies.

**The Catalyst R&D Scheme seeks project outputs that evolve through the following themes and are core to UAL's FTT Institute:**

**1. Sustainability** - FTTI takes a holistic approach to sustainability and focuses not only on the environmental impact but also social and financial impact.

Examples of project outputs include but are not limited to: current practice and lifecycle analysis of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), prototyping, business models and circular economy innovations.

**2. Materials** - FTTI sees materials innovation as a foundation of a more circular future of consumption that is healthier and performs better for people and the planet.

Examples of project outputs include but are not limited to exploring: Woven and non-woven textile development, biomaterial innovation, sustainable garment design and finishing processes, materials engineering, enhancing and optimising performance properties, and road-mapping of routes to market, as well as validation and optimisation through commercial testing.

**3. Manufacturing & Commerce** - FTTI combines expertise from industry and academia to help discover, design and implement alternative manufacturing processes.

Examples of project outputs include but are not limited to: rapid prototyping and manufacturing innovation, decentralisation of production, supply chain and commercialisation, and design and trialling of circular models.



Top: A model wearing hand-made jewellery © British Council

**4. Retail & Engagement** - FTTI believes that digital technology can lead to value – added experiences offering better and more immersive engagement than conventional retail alone.

Examples of project outputs include but are not limited to exploring: B2B and B2C platform innovations, market potential analysis, omnipresent retail and consumer experiences, mixed reality innovations and crowdsourced design and production models.

**5. Digital** - FTTI's network includes those who have long been at the forefront of digital innovation and our knowledge and experience of digital realities and big data utilisation ensures novel these applications add true value and meaning.

Examples of project outputs include but are not limited to exploring: Novel digital solutions, Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), mixed or extended reality (XR) visualisation solutions, AI and machine learning initiatives, novel digital solution for retail and customer engagement and data capture and analysis.



Top: A group of local artisans weaving baskets using naturally dyed sisal fibres in Kenya © KikoRomeo

## Project scope

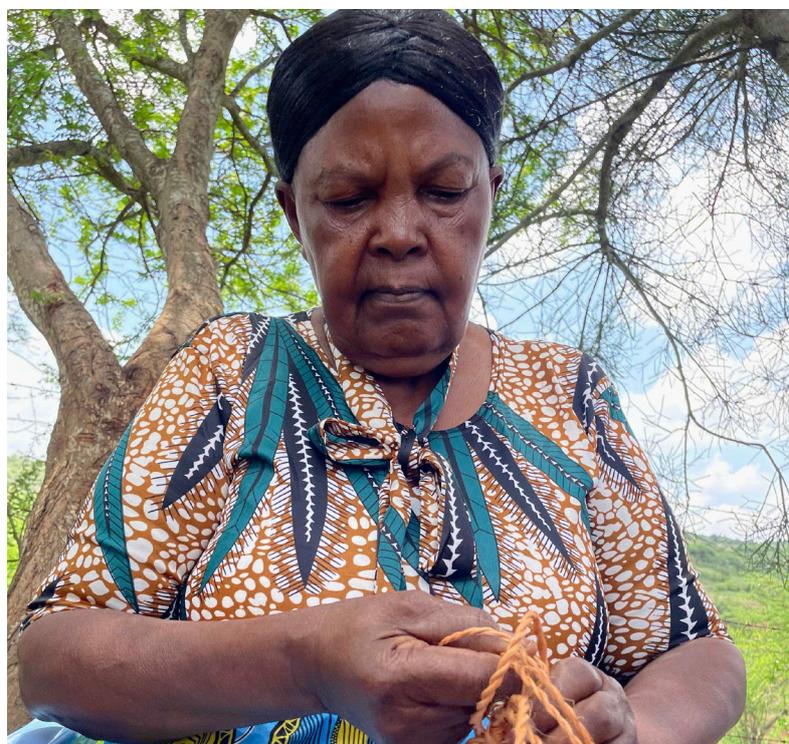
The **British Council** and the **FTTI** total partnered award fund is circa **£120,000**, providing a **combination of cash and in-kind expertise and support**. Upto five collaborative R&D grants will be made across the thematic areas.

Each of the successful applicants will receive **up to £6,000 maximum grant in cash**, and up to **£15,000 in-kind support** (Total combined value for each grant package will be **up to £21,000 cash and in-kind support**).

It is anticipated that **at least one grant will be awarded to an existing partnership** supported through phase I of the initiative to scale up and build on the success of the project(s) already delivered.



Above: Dyeing of sisal fibre using natural dyes © KikoRomeo



Above: A local artisan weaving a cord of sisal fibres © KikoRomeo

### The British Council will:

- Advise and participate in the award process including endorsement of the selection process.
- Make connections to relevant stakeholders in its international network.
- Provide access to the British Council Country Offices, where applicable to ensure in country coordination and collaboration.
- Co-chair project inception meetings between the successful applicants, FTI and British Council in-country colleagues.

## The FTTI will:

Provide in-kind expertise and R&D support. The type of in-kind support will depend on the scope of the successful applications and may include:

- **Academic expert mentoring** - each project will be matched with an academic expert mentor from the FTTI's network who will:
  - Offer advice on current research and innovations relevant to the project scope
  - Signpost to literature and networks relevant to the project scope
  - Share ideas, data, experience and expertise appropriate for the project scope (knowledge exchange)
- **R&D Fellow support** - each project will be allocated an R&D Fellow from FTTI's network who will provide:
  - Project management support
  - Expert support and advice in the development and delivery of project outputs
  - Share ideas, data, experience and expertise appropriate for the project scope (knowledge exchange)
- **Access to facilities** relevant for the project scope, which may include but not limited to work space, equipment, libraries etc.
- **Sharing sessions** that provide access to current research and evidence base in the related fields and 'In conversation with' series which sees leading thinkers and practitioners discuss the pressing issues facing the sector.



Above: Exploration of circular garment fastenings and accessories © Plan B

## Eligibility

- 1 The call for proposals is open to FTT related designers, design entrepreneurs, and SMEs<sup>2</sup> from UK and ODA eligible countries.
- 2 The call is open, on equal terms, to entirely new partnerships, and also existing partnerships funded through the initial pilot programme.

## New partnerships

1. New applications must be a partnership between at least one UK applicant and a maximum of 2 co-applicants based in one or more of the ODA countries (See Eligible Countries section for more details).
2. The lead applicant must be based in the UK and have been in business for a minimum of 3 years.
3. The lead applicant will submit the application, will be contracted and responsible for leading communications and disseminating the grant to the co-applicant/s.
4. Applicants must provide evidence of true collaboration, knowledge exchange and mutual benefit with a focus on the project being delivered across the UK and overseas country/countries in their application.
5. Applicants must evidence clear benefit to all partners and stakeholders in the project, the partners must all have agreed to the project (e.g. agreement can be by email).
6. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to deliver the project activity between April – August 2023.
7. Applicants must evidence tangible impact in the Official Development Assistance (ODA country/countries).

## Existing partnerships

1. Existing partnerships funded through the pilot programme must include all the partners from phase I, where applicable aimed at scaling up the funded initiatives.
2. The lead applicant must be based in the UK and have been in business for at least 3 years.
3. The lead applicant will submit the application, will be contracted and responsible for leading communications and disseminating the grant to the co-applicant/s.
4. Applicants must provide evidence of true continued collaboration, knowledge exchange and mutual benefit with a focus on the project being delivered across the UK and overseas country/countries in their application.
5. Applicants must evidence clear benefit to all partners and stakeholders in the project, the partners must all have agreed to the project (e.g. agreement can be by email).
6. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to deliver the project activity between April – August 2023.
7. Applicants must evidence tangible impact in the Official Development Assistance (ODA country/countries).

<sup>2</sup>The definition of SMEs encompasses micro (less than 10 employees and an annual turnover under €2 million), small (less than 50 employees and an annual turnover under €10 million) and medium-sized (less than 250 employees and an annual turnover under €50 million) businesses. See: [https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/sme-definition\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/sme-definition_en)

## Eligible countries

The call for proposals is open to all designers, design entrepreneurs, and micro and SMEs across the UK and all Official Development Assistance (ODA) countries, full list available [here](#).

## Eligible costs for grant funding:

- Personnel time
- Publications
- Up to £500 for equipment allocation is allowed under the scheme
- A maximum of 5% overheads
- Travel (to include alternative plans in the event that Covid-19 restricts mobility)
- Access to facilities via exchange activities
- Materials

The grant funding will be complimented by FTTI in-kind business and academic expertise.



Above: Bu Kasmini, a local farmer with her cotton harvest in Gaji village © Fashion Scout



Above: A model wearing jewellery and a white dress © British Council

### **The successful applicants will be expected to:**

- Sign the grant contract with the UAL FTTI to cover specific costs in relation to delivering the project connected to or in the list of eligible countries and map the detail of in-kind match support
- Utilise FTTI's in-kind support, as appropriate, during the delivery period of the British Council's funding grant awards between April - August 2023
- Deliver the project activity between April - August 2023
- Dedicate appropriate resources to the delivery of the project
- Host a public event presenting their research and findings following the grant scheme in 2023
- Work truly collaboratively, generate knowledge exchange and evidence mutuality
- Acknowledge the British Council's and FTTI's support on all promotional materials, including social media
- Agree to reasonable requests for press and media coverage related to the project; press information will be agreed upon and released by the FTTI and the British Council

## Submission

Please complete the online [application form](#) using MS Forms, which should include details of your proposal, approach and proposed outputs, information about you and your collaborator and what you will both learn, and why you would benefit from being awarded the grant.

Find the **Diversity Monitoring Form** [here](#). We request that you complete this form soon after completing your application.

## Selection

The selection panel will take place on the **week commencing 27 February 2023**, where both partners will be requested to attend a 30-minute interview to discuss their proposal.



Above: A model wearing a jumpsuit made of recycled denim  
© Denim 2 Denim

## Timeline

**15 December 2022** | Launch of an open call

**6 February 2023** | Deadline for proposals submission

**27 February 2023** | Interview for the shortlisted applicants

**6 March 2023** | Successful applicants notified

**3 April 2023** | Contracting to be completed

**April – August 2023** | Project activity to take place in UK and overseas.

## Notes

### British Council

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We build connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language. In 2019-2020 we reached over 75 million people directly and 758 million people overall including online broadcasts and publications. Founded in 1934 we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body. We receive a 14.5 per cent core funding grant from the UK government.

The British Council's Architecture Design Fashion (ADF) department creates links between designers and cultural institutions around the world, through a diverse range of projects across the three disciplines. The department forms part of British Council Arts, which works to build trust and opportunities for the UK through the exchange of knowledge, experience and ideas worldwide. For further information about Architecture Design Fashion at the British Council, please visit [www.britishcouncil.org/design](http://www.britishcouncil.org/design).

For any queries please contact: [sevra.davis@britishcouncil.org](mailto:sevra.davis@britishcouncil.org)

### Fashion, Textile and Technology Institute (FTTI), University of the Arts London

Fashion, Textiles and Technology Institute, University of the Arts London delivers sustainable innovation across the entire fashion and textiles value chain. Together with our partners we aim to foster a new creative culture in which fashion, textiles and technology business can use research and development to achieve a resilient growth. Whether through Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, contract research or other funding mechanisms, we believe that by engaging in high-value collaborative R&D that places sustainable design and business practices at the heart to commerce we can tackle many of the challenges the fashion and textile industry faces today.

For further information about FTTI, please visit: [www.ftti.arts.ac.uk](http://www.ftti.arts.ac.uk)

For any queries please contact: [ftti@arts.ac.uk](mailto:ftti@arts.ac.uk)

