

New Landscapes:

Fashion, Textiles and
Technology

Catalyst Grant Scheme

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

Current global drivers, including the Covid-19 pandemic, have accelerated the need for the fashion industry and adjacent industries to re-think and re-evaluate relationships with the environment, on the need for radical transparency, safe working conditions, purpose, and sustainability across the whole value chain. With many new fashion systems emerging across the globe, there is an immense opportunity to create real and lasting change. Through global collaboration, the industry has the potential to work together to build fairer, more inclusive and more responsible futures for fashion.



The **British Council's Architecture Design Team and Fashion (ADF) Team** in partnership with the **Fashion, Textiles and Technology Institute, University of the Arts London (FTTI, UAL)** is piloting a new programme which aims to nurture international cooperation around responsible and socially engaged fashion and adjacent industries across textiles and technology. This initiative will support new ideas shaping the future of sustainable fashion globally. The programme aims to support the cultural, social and environmental values of the fashion sector.

Cover image: A co-creation, crowd-sourcing fashion platform, photo by Gleeson Paulino © AWAYTOMARS

Top right: Pendeza Weaving, © Reed Davis photography for Situating Alternative Textiles in Kenya report by Fashion Revolution Kenya, supported by British Council East Africa Arts

Top left: Producer of noble yarns, fibres and cloth © Tengri



The opportunity

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

- Respond to the Covid-19 pandemic and generate new opportunities for international collaboration and sharing of best practice around sustainable design and production models for fashion, textiles and technology.
- Increase global networks of practitioners, enabling the development of practice and increased experimentation and testing of sustainable design and production solutions that inspire positive environmental change.
- Support SMEs to exchange methods of designing and producing fashion, textiles and 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.

Rea Vipingo sisal production, © Reed Davis photography for Situating Alternative Textiles in Kenya report by Fashion Revolution Kenya, supported by British Council East Africa Arts

We seek project outputs that evolve through the following themes core to FTT Institute:

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.

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: textiles development, biomaterial innovation, sustainable garment design and finishing processes, materials engineering, performance innovation and testing, and road-mapping of routes to market and commercial testing.

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.



Johannesburg's Material Futures Workshop and Materials Library © Matthew Edwards, South Africa



Workshop space of producer of sustainable denim © Blackhorse Lane Ateliers



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

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.

Microsoft x LCF: Future of Fashion Incubator, Oval Space, UAL

Project scope

The British Council and FTTI total partnered award fund is circa £100,000, providing a combination of cash and in-kind value expertise and support. Our intention is to award five collaborative grants across each of the thematic areas. Each of the successful grants will provide up to £6,000 maximum in cash, and up to £14,000 in-kind support.

*Total combined value for each grant will be up to £20,000 cash and in-kind support.



The British Council will:

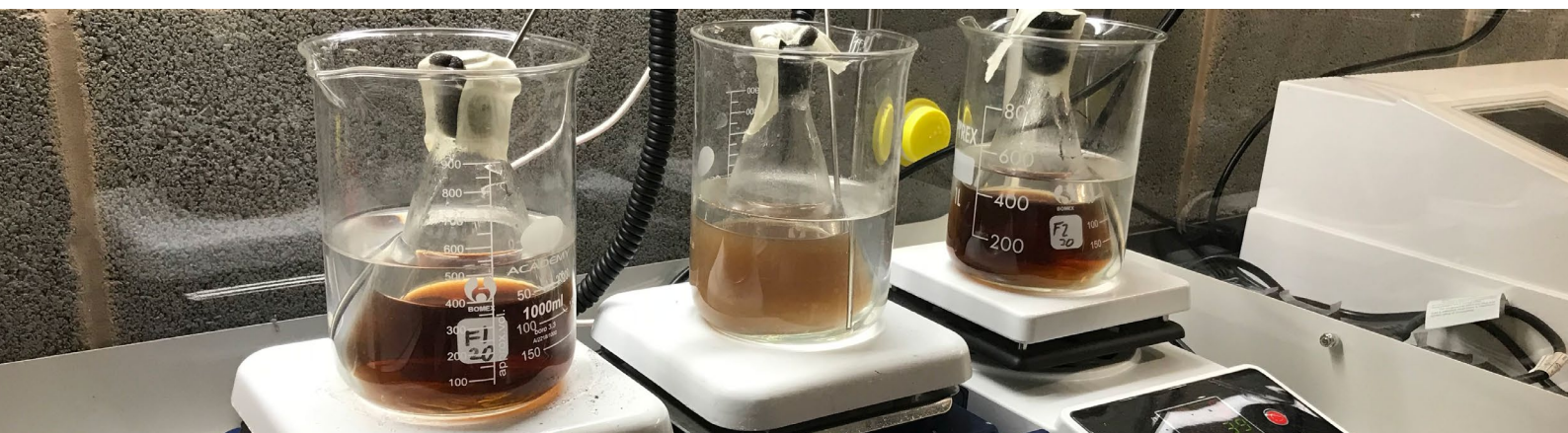
- **Award up to five collaborative grant funding** - awards of up to £6,000 in cash (inclusive of VAT). Proposals must come in at or under this threshold in order to be eligible.
- **Make connections to relevant stakeholders** - in our international network.
- **Hold project inception meetings** between the successful applicants, FTTI and British Council networks.

Bioplastic made using potato peels and natural colourants by © Chip[s] Board

The Fashion, Textiles and Technology Institute will:

Match the grant awarded by the British Council with in-kind expertise and support valued up to £14,000. The type of match in kind support will depend on the scope of the successful applications and could include:

- **Academic expert mentoring** – each project will be matched with an academic expert mentor from 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 specialist facilities relevant for the project scope including but not limited to studios, 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.



Experimenting with liquids in a material lab by © Chip[s] Board

Eligibility

Key eligibility information

1. The call for proposals is open to all designers, design entrepreneurs, and SMEs* from UK and ODA eligible countries.
2. 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 listed below (See “Eligible countries” on page 9).
3. The lead applicant must be based in the UK and have been in business for at least 3 years.
4. The lead applicant will submit the application, will be contracted and responsible for leading communications and disseminating the grant to the co-applicant/s (see point 5).
5. 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.
6. 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).
7. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to deliver the project activity between January 2022 and April 2022 (including a provisional plan for in person, and/or online delivery due to Covid-19).
8. Applicants must evidence tangible impact in the Official Development Assistance (ODA) country/countries.



Material samples for the British Council and Ellen MacArthur Foundation © Circular Futures Lab

* 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

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:

- 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 and consumables for the completion of the project.

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

WAUZINE Issue 1, photography by Maganga Mwangogo and creative direction by Sunny Dolat for Fashion Scout, commissioned British Council East Africa Arts



The successful applicants will be expected to:

- Sign the grant contract with the British Council's Architecture Design Fashion department to cover specific costs in relation to delivering the project connected to or in the list of eligible countries.
- Sign the contract with FTTI that will 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 January and April 2022.
- Deliver the project activity between January 2022 and April 2022.
- Host a public event presenting their research & development (R&D) and findings following the grant scheme in 2022.
- Work truly collaboratively, 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 British Council.



Parblex® eyewear - bioplastic made using potato peels
© Chip[s] Board



Rowan Minkley and Robert Nicoll
Co-Founders of © Chip[s] Board



Manufacturers of non-woven 'Cloudwool', Coat by Johanna Parv
© Doppelhaus

Timeline

15th September 2021

Launch of an Open Call

17th October 2021 at 23:59

Deadline for proposals submission

1st November 2021

Interview for the shortlisted applicants

5th November 2021

Successful applicants notified

December 2021

Contracting to be completed

Jan - April 2022

Project activity to take place in UK and overseas

Selection

Selection panels will take place on 1st November 2021 where both partners will be requested to attend a 30-minute session to discuss their proposal.

Access

We want to support those with access needs (for example, those who are disabled or have a physical or mental health condition) to apply. In the pre-application stage, if you need the application in a different format or need support completing it, please contact us so we can work together to find a practical solution.

If it is not possible for you to complete a typed and written application, it is possible to submit answers on film by providing links to films in the application form. If we award funding, you (or your collaborator) may need extra access costs for you to deliver your project. You can use our grant towards these costs.

Please include them in your application in the estimated budget as 'personal access costs.' Please note that we cannot increase the size of a grant once it has been awarded.

Submission

Please Complete the online [application form](#) via Formstack which includes details on 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.

The [Diversity Monitoring form](#) (for UK applicants only) must be sent separately via email to Gute.immelman@britishcouncil.org



Workshop of producer of sustainable denim © Blackhorse Lane Ateliers

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. www.britishcouncil.org

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.

For any queries please contact: Hannah.robinson@britishcouncil.org

Fashion, Textiles and Technology Institute, University of the Arts London

FTTI (UAL) 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 textiles industry faces today.

For any queries please contact: ftti@arts.ac.uk

