

PARTNER INFORMATION DOCUMENT
OCTOBER 2019

Future News

Worldwide 2020

International youth

journalism programme

SUMMARY

Leading, connecting, inspiring

Future News Worldwide is a strategic partnership programme for the British Council which aims to assist young people to develop a wide range of journalism skills across different media and to establish the UK as a global leader in the nurturing of young journalists and media figures. Underlying this, the programme helps build strong and lasting connections to and between the next generation of media leaders across the globe.

The programme centres around a 2-day conference held annually in the UK. With English as the working language, the conference offers aspiring young journalists from across the world the opportunity to develop practical and editorial skills and hear directly from some of the world's most high-profile industry leaders. A year-round global alumni network and related programme of events supports attendees post-conference to engage with one another, implement their learning and continue their professional development.

2020 marks the programme's fourth consecutive year under British Council management.

Impact and Evaluation

In July 2018 British Council Scotland commissioned an independent evaluator, IFF Research, to review the success of the programme and make recommendations as to its future. The evaluation broadly concluded that the programme was well run and high impact, and identified several areas for growth and development. A copy of the full report is available from the Programme Manager.

A new report will be commissioned in summer 2020, assessing the impact which the programme has had on cohorts from 2017, 2018 and 2019 conferences.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Supporting and connecting future media leaders

Please note these objectives are currently under review and a revised version will be published in early 2020.

Future News Worldwide has three clear objectives:

- To support the values and role of a free press and ethical journalism, thus helping to produce global stability, security and prosperity.
- To establish the UK as a global leader in the nurturing of future journalists and media figures, and to assist young people in developing journalistic skills across different media.
- To help build strong and lasting connections to and between the next generation of media leaders in other countries, including the Commonwealth and developing nations.

The programme will deliver the following outcomes:

- I. The development of young people's skills in areas such as critical thinking, and understanding of, and engagement with, the media
- II. Lasting relationships with Scotland and the wider UK developed for young people from key countries who may become future leaders in the media
- III. Promotion of the UK's reputation as the home of quality and award-winning journalism, of press freedom and of first-class journalism education
- IV. Young people encouraged to acquire the skills and experience needed by a multi-media industry, aiding their employability and supporting their passion for journalism
- V. Links between the media and British Council enhanced, thereby helping to promote the organisation's work
- VI. Young people in the UK helped to gain an international outlook and understanding of other cultures and values, by joining international gatherings and networks of aspiring journalists

MEDIA PARTNERS

Future News Worldwide is a partnership programme between the British Council (managing partner) and some of the world's leading media organisations. It is supported by an Advisory Board of journalism experts who offer exceptional industry knowledge and connections with both old and new media across the world.

Key partners for the 2020 programme are:

- Thomson Reuters
- Google News Initiative
- Facebook
- STV
- Herald and Times
- The Quint
- The UK Schools of Journalism
- BBC World Service
- The Thomson Foundation
- Sky News

LOCATION

The 2020 conference will be held at Sky Central, the global headquarters of Sky Group in Isleworth, London.

Less than a mile from Heathrow airport, the purpose-built campus contains 10 television studios and is home to Sky News, Sky Sports and Now TV.

2020 PROGRAMME DETAILS

Key dates

29 October w/b 4 November	Participation information sent to 2019 partnering offices Remaining spaces offered to Global Network through Country Director network
11 November	Marcomms materials available on Sharepoint
11 December	Competition launch
14 February	Competition close
17 February – 6 March	Shortlisting by external assessor
9 – 20 March	Selection of winners from shortlist by overseas offices
23 – 30 March	Eligibility checks by Programme Manager
W/B 30 March	Winners announced
April - June	Visa applications, travel booked by Visits & Events Team
11 July	Delegates arrive in London
12 July	Tourism/rest day TBC
13 July	Welcome Reception
14 & 15 July	Conference
16 July	Delegates depart

Participants

In order to apply to the programme individuals must meet **all** of the following eligibility criteria:

- be aged between 18 and 25 on 1st July 2020
- be enrolled in an undergraduate or postgraduate course (of any subject) at a university or higher education institution OR have graduated no more than 2 years ago (after 1 July 2018)
- be capable of speaking English at the equivalent level of IELTS 6.5 or above. If they do not hold a formal English language qualification this ability can be evidenced by telephone interview
- be committed to a career in journalism
- not have participated in a previous iteration of Future News Worldwide or Future NEWS

Personal profile

Delegates will come from a wide range of backgrounds but will share a common passion for journalism. They will be interested; engaged; curious; driven; critical; open-minded; analytical. Above all, they will be eager to learn and will be dedicated to improving their skills and abilities as a journalist. In short, we are seeking delegates who have the ability, the motivation and the potential to lead the journalism industry.

We expect them to be actively engaged with the media in one or more forms and to have already published work (including self-publishing). They may have a social media following.

We are seeking 20 UK-based delegates and 80 non-UK students.

Applications and assessment

Applications will be made through the online portal which will go live on the programme website <https://www.britishcouncil.org/future-news-worldwide/apply> on **11 December 2019**. The portal will automatically close at noon GMT on **14 February 2020**.

After the closing date, all applications will be sent to an independent assessor for scoring. The scored applications will then be sent to overseas offices to make a decision on their winning candidate(s).

Offices should notify the Programme Manager of their preferred winner(s) no later than 20 March.

The Programme Manager will then contact winners for proof of eligibility.

Format

The conference will take place over 2 days in July. Delegates will be given the option to arrive in London one day early, for tourism and to allow time to recover from long haul journeys. They must provide their own meals and spending money on this day.

Conference programme

The conference will be a mixture of speaker presentations, group activities, traditional workshops and immersive learning. Training will combine practical skills associated with 'old media' such as editing and interviewing, with 'new media' skills including effective use of social media and protecting yourself and your IPR in an online environment.

Past speakers have included:

- [Mary Hockaday](#), Controller BBC World Service English
- [Charles Lewis](#), founder, International Consortium of Investigative Journalists
- [Christina Lamb](#), Sunday Times
- Jon Snow, Channel 4
- [Sreenivasan Jain](#), NDTV

Cultural awareness and political sensitivity

A free press is a core principle of UK journalism, but we are acutely aware that the context for journalism varies across the world. We will work with our speakers and facilitators to ensure this is appropriately considered at every stage.

All possible effort will be made to accommodate delegates' cultural and/or religious requirements to make their stay in London a comfortable one, including dietary, private bathrooms and sleeping arrangements.

2020 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Workflow and ownership

	Stage	Duration	Activity	Owner
1	Invitation	October	Local offices invited to participate in 2020 programme	Programme Manager
2	Promotion	11 Dec – 14 Feb	Promote competition locally	Local offices
3	Assessment	17 Feb – 6 Mar	Applications shortlisted	External assessor
4	Selection	9 – 20 Mar	Country leads select winners from shortlist	Local offices
5	Award	23- 30 Mar	Send provisional offer letters to winners and request evidence of eligibility Confirm winners and connect with local offices	Programme Manager
6	Travel	April - May	Delegates submit visa applications	Visa company
7	Travel	April - June	Arrange travel and transport for winners	Visits & Events Team
8	Delivery	Mid June	Pre-departure briefings	Local offices
9	Delivery	14 – 15 July	Event delivery	Project team

Stages

1. The project team will contact local offices within the British Council Global Network to identify up to 40 partners for the 2020 programme
2. Local offices promote the competition through their channels. This can include local contacts as well as digital platforms. A small budget is available for activity such as translation, promoted posts. Marketing materials and a sample strategy will be available on Sharepoint w/b 11 November.
3. Applications are sent to an external assessor who will score all applicants.
4. Scored applications are sent to country leads to select winners. **Colleagues must inform the Programme Manager of their proposed winner(s) by 20 March 2020.**
5. The Programme Manager will contact all proposed winners with a conditional offer and request evidence of eligibility (identification; university enrolment form/graduation certificate). Once the required eligibility documents have been received the project team will issue an official offer letter to winners and connect them with a nominated person in their local British Council office.
6. An external visa company will support the delegates to submit visa applications where this is required.
7. Visits & Events Team will arrange winners' travel to London.
8. Local offices hold pre-departure briefings with winning candidates (telephone or face-to-face).

9. Conference takes place in London.

COSTS

British Council Scotland will cover the following costs as part of the competition prize:

- Delegate travel and transport from local airport to and from London.
- Delegate accommodation during the stated days
- Visa application fees (standard application only – not priority service)
- Conference costs (venue, IT/AV etc)
- All catering during the stated days

The following costs are **not** included in the competition prize

- Travel to/from local airport
- Travel to/from visa centre and any additional application charges payable at the visa centre (photocopying, postage)
- Airport lounges
- Travel insurance
- Meals and expenses on optional tourism/rest day

The following costs must be covered from local budget (where applicable)

- Local staff time

Please note no spending money or stipend will be given to delegates. This will be made clear at the application stage.

See competition terms and conditions for more information.

Tourism

In previous years delegates were given the option to remain in the UK for one day post-conference, for tourism purposes.

Responding to delegate feedback this will now be offered *before* the conference, so that international delegates may use the time to rest and recover from their journey.

We will cover the cost of accommodation for this extra day but meals will **not** be provided.

FAQS

How many delegates can each country send to the event?

We will guarantee one delegate place for each participating office. Where a country receives a very high number and quality of applications we will try to offer additional places.

Will British Council Scotland cover local staff time?

No, local staff time must be covered from local budgets.

Will local offices be expected to conduct assessment and arrange travel for delegates, as in previous years?

We have contracted an external assessor who will score all applications out of 10. Local offices can use these scores to identify which candidates to shortlist. They must review the applications of shortlisted candidates and select their preferred winner(s).

All travel and transport will be coordinated by the British Council Visits & Events Team.

Why do delegates need a named local contact?

For many delegates this is the trip of a lifetime. For some, it may be the first time they have journeyed abroad, or stepped on a plane. Having a contact in their local country who can provide basic guidance on travelling to the UK, cultural differences and preparing to make the most of the experience is an invaluable support.

For colleagues, it enables you to instruct your delegates on what you expect of them as a representative of your country. Before your pre-departure briefing you should think about any activities you want them to do whilst they are at the event; live tweet on your country social media? Write a report each evening to publish on your channels? Host a cascade learning event to share their experience with their peers?

Can staff attend the event?

We will post an open Development Opportunity which colleagues will be able to apply for.

How can we promote the competition?

Our Marketing Team have produced some materials and a sample strategy which you can adapt to your local context. In general, we recommend you run a digital campaign and target universities within your existing networks.

Where can I find more information?

Please contact the Programme Manager sarah.gorman@britishcouncil.org.

NEXT STEPS

If your office would like to participate in the 2020 programme please seek approval from the appropriate person (typically Country Director) and contact Sarah Gorman sarah.gorman@britishcouncil.org with an expression of interest.

Please note that we can only accept a maximum of 40 partnering offices as we guarantee one delegate place per office. Partner offices are accepted on a first-come-first-served basis.