

# British Council Researcher Links



**Workshop Title:** Nano-biomaterials for Water Purification

**UK coordinator:** Dr Durai Prabhakaran Raghavalu Thirumalai, Bangor University, Bangor, UK

**India coordinator:** Professor Sabu Thomas, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala

**Discipline:** Materials and Chemistry

**Dates and venue:** Kerala, India. 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016

As part of the Newton Fund, the British Council and Royal Society of Chemistry has launched a new programme to encourage international research collaboration between ambitious researchers from the UK and eighteen countries around the world.

The programme, 'British Council Researcher Links' provides opportunities for early career researchers from the UK and internationally to interact, learn from each other and explore opportunities for building long-lasting research collaborations.

As part of this programme, a 'call to action' was issued in August 2015 for leading researchers to propose themes for bilateral workshops to be held in one of these countries which will bring together early career researchers to discuss their research and start to build international relationships.

Successful applicant organisations from the UK ([Bangor University](#)) and India ([MG University](#)) are now recruiting early career researchers and welcome applications to attend the above workshop. In this workshop, the main challenges associated with safe drinking water will be discussed. Advances in Nanoscale science and engineering suggest that many of the current problems involving water quality could be resolved using nanosorbents, nanocatalysts, bio-active nanoparticles, nanostructured catalytic membranes and nanoparticle enhanced filtration among other products and processes from the development of nanotechnology. Recent developments in technology have resulted in breakthroughs in wastewater treatment for reuse. This progress includes membrane technology, which has emerged as a significant innovation for treatment and reclamation, as well as a leading process in the upgrade and expansion of wastewater treatment plants. Membrane filtration technologies form a promising avenue of research and innovation to provide effective and lasting solutions for adequate supplies of water of suitable quality to meet human, environmental and industrial needs. Our intention is to bring together the experience from India and UK researchers in order to discuss these topics and new targets in materials and chemistry for water purification.

The workshop will provide a unique opportunity for sharing research expertise and networking. During the workshops early career researchers will have the opportunity to present their research in the form of a short oral presentation and discuss this with established researchers from the UK and partner countries. There will be a focus on building up links for future collaborations and participants selected on the basis of their research potential and ability to build longer term links.

The British council and Royal Society of Chemistry will cover the costs related to the participation to the workshop, including: travel (both international and local), accommodation and meals. Costs for

the visa will be covered; however participants will be responsible for making all the necessary arrangements. Although this cost will not be covered by the British Council, participants are encouraged to purchase an adequate travel and medical insurance. The British Council accepts no responsibility for any problems, which may occur when the participants are in-country.

### **Application and Deadline:**

The [full application](#) must be completed and submitted online by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

### **Eligibility Criteria:**

- Applications must be submitted using the [Researcher Links application form](#)
- Applications must be submitted before the above deadline
- Participants must be early career researchers: Early Career Researchers are defined as holding a PhD (or having equivalent research experience) and having up to 10 years post-PhD research experience. They are equivalent to the 'Recognised Researcher' and sometimes 'Experienced Researcher' categories in the [EU framework for researchers' careers](#).
- Participants must have a research or academic position (either a permanent post, research contract, or fellowship etc.) at a recognised research institution either in the UK or in India.
- Participants still studying for their PhD can be considered but they must present a strong argument for their attendance at the workshop and how this will impact their future career.

### **Quality Assessment:**

- Experience and relevance of the applicant's research area to the workshop
- Motivation and contribution to the aims of the workshop
- Description of the long term impact expected through the participation in the workshop
- Ability to disseminate workshop's outcomes

### **Selection Procedure:**

- Eligibility check
- Quality assessment

Please refer EU framework for researchers' careers. Check the below web-link:

[http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/pdf/research\\_policies/Towards\\_a\\_European\\_Framework\\_for\\_Research\\_Careers\\_final.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/pdf/research_policies/Towards_a_European_Framework_for_Research_Careers_final.pdf)

### **Call Notification and Key Dates:**

Call open date: 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Call close date: **15<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

Notification to selected participants: 01<sup>st</sup> August 2016

### **Equal Opportunities**

The British Council is committed to equal opportunities and diversity in all its activities and this includes the avoidance of any bias in the assessment of applications due to gender, disability, racial or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or religious belief. Participants' selection undertaken by workshop organisers must not contravene this policy. Extra support to enable participation of early career researchers with special needs will be given.