

Introduction

In June 2016, the then UK Minister for Universities and Science, the Rt Hon Jo Johnson MP, announced an annual £1 million Newton Prize to:

- **celebrate excellent research and innovation** in Newton Fund partner countries; and
- **raise the profile** of the Newton Fund;

In December 2017, Minister Jo Johnson announced the **2018 Newton Prize countries will be Brazil, Chile*, Colombia and Mexico**. The Prize call for applications will open in **March 2018**.

For the 2018 Prize, the plan is to have 5 prizes (winning projects):

- 1 prize for each of the 2018 Prize country's = 4 prizes
- 1 additional prize, the Chairman's Award, will be awarded to a project which encourages broader impact to the region.

In 2017, the first year of the Prize, the Newton Prize countries were: India, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. Six projects were awarded prizes.

What is the Newton Prize?

Each year, from 2017/18 until 2021, a minimum of five Newton funded research partnerships or teams, each from Newton partner countries, will be awarded the Newton Prize. Each Prize will be worth up to £200,000.

The Prize will be awarded for the projects that demonstrate the best science or innovation that promotes the economic development and social welfare of Newton partner countries, aligning with and strengthening the Newton Fund's overall objectives.

Who is eligible to apply for the Newton Prize?

The 2018 Newton Prize eligible countries are: Brazil, Chile*, Colombia and Mexico. The prize is only open to existing or past recipients of Newton funding, with projects in the above in the countries. The Prize will be awarded to projects which demonstrate proven impact and can advance their work through the Newton Prize. The Prize funding must contribute to the future science and innovation activity of the winning partnership. A minimum of 50% of the funding must be spent on eligible activity within Newton partner countries.

***Special conditions apply to Chile.**

Chile graduated from the DAC list as of January 1st 2018. The prize to be awarded to Chile will therefore have the additional restriction that the research or innovation activities proposed must have application to the wider developing world, rather than solely to Chile, as it is no longer a DAC list eligible country.

Why include Chile in the Newton Prize?

The Newton Prize is about identifying and celebrating excellent science and innovation that promotes the economic development and social welfare of partner countries. Chile has been a Newton Fund country since the fund was established in 2014 and from the outset the Newton-Picarte Fund has supported excellent research collaborations that have delivered impact on the ground in Chile and more broadly. It would be wrong not to use the Newton Prize to celebrate these.

How can we award Newton Prize money to a project with Chile?

The prize money needs to be spent in line with ODA guidance. For Chile we would expect that the proposed work would be focused on addressing global development challenges, building on existing Chilean and UK strengths and relationships to promote economic development and welfare in ODA-eligible countries such as Brazil, Argentina and Peru. Such joint working to address global challenges is in line with our changing science and innovation relationship with Chile.

How will coming off the DAC list impact on our relationship with Chile

As Chile has graduated from the DAC list, we have worked with them to develop our science and innovation relationship to move away from Chilean development challenges to focus on joint working to address global development challenges

Will Newton not do any more bilateral calls with Chile, just regional?

We have a series of bilateral calls focused on Global Challenges agreed with Chile out to 2020/21, but currently plan for no further Newton bilateral calls to occur from that point. We will be exploring a range of approaches depending on the development challenges under consideration, including the regional call model.

Will all partner countries receive a Prize?

The Prize will be awarded in most of our Newton partner countries in rotation over the next five years, the exception being where a partner country has recently joined the Newton Fund and so sufficient time would not have passed for the Newton Fund projects in that country to demonstrate proven impact, which is one of the main criteria for awarding the Newton Prize.

Countries receiving the Prize will not receive the Newton Prize again until after three years.

How will decisions be made on the winners?

External peer reviewers

All the applications will be assessed by a diverse group of external peer reviewers over the Summer.

The reviewers will complete assessment forms for each application that has been marked according to specific criteria relating to the Newton Fund and international development objectives. Approximately five applications per country will be shortlisted by the Newton Prize Team at the UK National Commission for UNESCO.

Independent Newton Prize Committee

The shortlisted applications will be reviewed and discussed by an independent Newton Prize Committee who make the final decision on the winners. The Committee is chaired by [Sir Venkatraman Ramakrishnan](#), President of the Royal Society and Nobel Prize winner, whose many scientific contributions include his work on the atomic structure of the ribosome, yielding many fundamental biological insights. For the 2017 Prize, there was a high profile and diverse Committee, including scientists with expertise in the Newton Fund's main thematic areas and development and regional specialists. We will update you on the composition of the 2018 committee in due course.

What type of partnerships or activities could receive a Prize?

The Newton Fund has provided funding for a number of science and innovation partnerships, teams and pieces of work with the Newton partner countries. Some examples of Newton funded work that could be awarded a Prize include those that improve our understanding of:

- anti-microbial resistance
- climate change and weather observation data to prevent natural hazards
- women's and children's health in developing countries
- improving water management and security
- genetic material from viruses to develop vaccines.

All types of funded work under the Newton Fund are eligible from individual Fellowship to multi million pound collaborative research projects. The diversity of projects short listed under the 2017 round can be seen from the [case studies](#) published on the short listed applications.

What activities can the Prize funding be used for?

The Prize funding can be used in the Newton partner country for a number of activities that will advance the work of the research partnership. This can include funding additional user research; new equipment and facilities; and employing extra staff. The prize to be awarded to Chile will have the additional restriction that the research or innovation activities proposed must have application to the wider developing world, rather than solely Chile, as it is no longer a DAC list eligible country.

Do partner countries need to match funding for the Prize? No, we do not require match funding from the partner country. **How many applications were received for the 2017 Prize?**

How many applications were received last year?

Over 150 applications were received across the four 2017 Newton Prize countries: India, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.

The applications represented the breadth and depth of Newton Fund work; from multi-institutional research operations to awards for individual fellowships, workshops and networks. And addressed challenges from sustainable food production to renewable energy; from disease prevention to transformational technology; from city planning to disaster management.

Who administers the Newton Prize, is it the Delivery Partners?

No. The UK National Commission (UKNC) for UNESCO in London has been appointed by BEIS as the contractor to administer the Newton Prize application process. The Newton Prize administering team contacts are:

- Dr Liz Bell, Newton Prize Programme Lead, Email: lbell@unesco.org.uk
- Kia Da Silva Cunha, Newton Prize Project Officer, Email: kdasilvacunha@unesco.org.uk

Liz and Kia will be your main contact related to the application process.

2018 Newton Prize Timeline

2018 Prize Application Timeline	
Mid March	Call Opens
25 May	Call Closes
25 May-15 June	Eligibility Verification/ Application Peer Review Allocations
15 June - 31 July	Peer Review
1-30 August	Analysis of Peer Review Feedback and Longlisting
1-30 September	Shortlisting/Preparation of Case Studies
Mid-October	Newton Prize Committee Meeting
November	Unsuccessful applicants notified
November to End December	Winners Announced and Prize Award Events held