



British Council  
Partner Schools

# Helping your school access UK international school qualifications





# **Partner with us to unlock global opportunities for your students**

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**We are the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities.**

**Committed to empowering global learning, we partner with UK-based awarding bodies to support schools worldwide in delivering life-changing UK international qualifications.**



# Why choose UK international school qualifications?



UK international school qualifications are delivered by over 12,000 schools worldwide across 160 countries. They are the most popular qualifications in the world among schools and recognised globally by top employers and universities. Their unique strengths make them an unparalleled choice for schools committed to delivering excellence in education.

## Here is why so many schools around the world choose to offer UK international school qualifications:

### **Recognised worldwide, with a reputation for academic excellence**

They are welcomed by top-ranked universities and employers worldwide.

### **Awarded by world-renowned academic institutions**

Certification by prestigious awarding bodies based in the UK, including Cambridge International Education, OxfordAQA and Pearson Edexcel.

### **Highly regulated, with a standardised structure**

A uniform structure, assessment model and grading system – guaranteeing fairness, consistency, and credibility of results.

### **Affordable and accessible qualifications for a wide range of students**

A student-centred learning approach coupled with high-quality teaching standards, catering to student's interests and strengths.

### **Flexible approach, offering a wide array of subjects**

A choice of over 70 international GCSE subjects and over 50 at international A Level, providing a well-rounded learning experience.

### **Focused on modern, real-world skills**

Ensuring students acquire future core skills that today's higher education establishments and employers are looking for.

### **Culturally sensitive and inclusive curriculum**

Taking account of students' diverse needs and local contexts, whilst maintaining high academic standards.

### **Exceptional school and teacher support**

A commitment to driving school improvement, through extensive professional development support from both the British Council and the UK-based awarding bodies.

## **The British Council supports you at every stage of your journey to implement and deliver UK international school qualifications.**

We can guide you through the application process to offer these qualifications, providing tailored advice based on your school's unique context and needs.



# Why partner with the British Council?

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## Access to opportunities through UK education

Alongside our UK education partners, we work with schools across the world to facilitate global opportunities through UK international school qualifications. With decades of experience, expertise and connections, we continue to advocate for quality education, globally.

Our work on areas of systematic educational reforms, academic research and strengthening international connections in education reaches over 23 million policymakers, government bodies, education experts, school leaders, teachers, and students, globally.

## Over 80 years' experience in unlocking opportunities

Each year, we help thousands of young people worldwide, by providing them with the opportunity to learn English, receive a high-quality education and gain internationally recognised qualifications.





## A trusted partner in over 100 countries

We have built trusted relationships with the educational community in over 100 countries, transforming the lives of over 250,000 students each year. Through our expert knowledge and experience in UK education, we help schools understand the benefits of UK international school qualifications, complementing the awarding bodies' programmes.

Our trusted operational support ensures secure and streamlined delivery of examinations, through our rigorous Quality and Compliance Assessment (QCA) process.

This includes pre and post-exam services, covering complex administrative tasks.

We deliver exams in a safe, secure, and consistent way that ensures the integrity of the examinations in countries. This expert support allows schools to prioritise educational outcomes by spending more time teaching, and less time handling complex logistical tasks.

## A worldwide learning community of over 2,300 Partner Schools

Our Partner Schools form an active global community of educators in over 2,300 schools – covering South Asia, the Middle East, North and Sub-Saharan Africa, East Asia, Europe and South America. Through this network, we create global connections – sharing knowledge and experience that enriches the vocational journey of our educators.

Partner Schools are given the unique opportunity to participate in learning and development programmes, classroom-based international collaborative projects and conferences that foster a spirit of community and mutual learning. This exposure to diverse educational practices and cultures offers fresh perspectives and approaches to teaching and learning.

**Over 26,000 venue and exams staff on the ground, offering essential exam delivery related administrative support.**

# Enhancing learning experiences and outcomes

## When you become a British Council Partner School, it opens up a world of opportunities to enrich teaching and learning journeys.

Our educational support, developed in collaboration with specialists in education, is tailor-made to meet the evolving needs of schools. It helps ensure leaders and teachers constantly update their skills, adopt new pedagogies, and cater effectively to emerging student needs.

### Online Support for Schools

This platform provides free access to an extensive range of high-quality professional development resources, designed to meet the diverse training needs of leaders and teachers.



### Schools Now! international conference

Our annual conference for school leaders sets out to further educational innovation, foster the exchange of knowledge and offer networking opportunities with educators and experts from around the world.



### Your World video competition

Our video competition empowers students to showcase their talents, hone core skills, and compete with their peers at a global level.







## Action Research support

Schools are supported with grants, resources and expertise to assist them in carrying out action research, with the aim of improving educational standards in schools and wider communities.



## Partner Schools Connect

An opportunity and a platform for teachers and students to collaborate on joint projects across the Partner Schools global community.



## Safeguarding and wellbeing

We have an organisation-wide commitment to providing safe and inclusive learning environments to all. This is shared with all our partners through tailored resources and training.

# Professional development

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The international educational landscape continues to evolve at a rapid pace. At the British Council, we are committed to driving innovation and elevating teaching skills to improve teaching and learning outcomes.



“We’ve seen true value in being a Partner School, as they’ve helped us tackle classroom management issues that we’ve faced in the past and provided us with resources to effectively integrate technology into our curriculum, which is crucial in today’s educational landscape.”

Nasreen AlaaEldin,  
Principal at Marvel International



## Online Support for Schools

Comprehensive professional development support for teachers and leaders

British Council's Online Support for Schools (OSS) is a free professional development hub for all teachers and leaders in our Partner Schools. The platform provides exclusive access to highly engaging training resources tailored to the varying needs of schools offering international curricula.

It allows educators to personalise their learning and study at their own pace, with the flexibility to schedule their professional development at a time and place that best suits them. All training modules are self-access and utilise audio, video content, discussion forums and downloadable resources, creating a dynamic and engaging learning environment.

## Action Research Grants

Discovering new ways to improve your school

Our Action Research programme offers financial support and professional development opportunities to teachers and school leaders who are passionate about improving their schools through research and innovation.

Our support extends far beyond funding. We provide expert guidance through online tutoring and mentorship with academic experts, a platform for collaboration and discussion, assistance with publishing and sharing the findings through conferences and training.

The ultimate goal of action research is to improve educational standards and learning outcomes through innovation in schools, resulting in a community of best practitioners.



# An international outlook

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Exposure to a diverse global community of forward-thinking, like-minded professionals offers fresh perspectives and approaches to teaching and learning. Networking is a key aspect of professional growth for educators in international education, providing a space and channel for knowledge-sharing and collaborative learning.

## Partner Schools Connect

Fostering international collaboration and global citizenship

Partner Schools Connect provides a platform for teachers and students to collaborate on joint classroom-based projects with their peers from across the Partner Schools global community.

Students and teachers gain a global perspective and increase cultural awareness by connecting with their peers worldwide. Being able to navigate different cultures and viewpoints is key to developing confident students who can thrive in any setting.

The ready-to-use project kits, provided through the programme, enable teachers to internationalise the curriculum with ease.

Building global partnerships leads to broader collaboration and engagement, bringing recognition and best practice into school communities.





## Schools Now! Conference

Taking international education further

Schools Now! is our annual global conference, bringing together education professionals from all over the world to share their ideas and foster continued innovation across British Council Partner Schools.

It's a unique opportunity for school leaders to make new connections, learn more about key areas of international education, and share experiences and best practice, whilst networking with school leaders and sector experts.

Each year, the conference comprises keynotes covering a broad range of emerging topics under a focused theme impacting international education.

Educators attend workshops exploring practical aspects of the theme, with tools and strategies to implement key learnings from the conference.

**“The conference reflects the concept of a global education community. Not only did I gain knowledge, but also exchanges within the global education community.”**

Zhengtang Qian,  
Director of International Department,  
Ningbo Lihuili Middle School, China





# Student development and wellbeing

A supportive and inclusive learning space, enriched with extra-curricular activity fosters students' growth. This nurturing environment boosts confidence, promotes engagement, and empowers students to be successful academically and personally, unlocking their full potential.

## Your world

Developing core future skills and driving social change

Your World is our international competition, open to students at British Council Partner Schools. Each year's theme is linked to a United Nations Sustainable Development Goal, and students are invited to create a video featuring a social action project in their own community.

The competition gives students the opportunity to showcase their talents, hone their core skills, and compete at a global level with their peers. The type of social action initiatives that Your World encourages helps students improve their local communities, whilst providing them with a substantive case study for their university applications.



**“This competition has taught me many essential skills. We feel so lucky to have been a part of such a meaningful competition and made positive contributions for the community.”**

Student from Cau Giay  
Secondary School, Vietnam



**“The British Council continues to be one of our greatest allies in the safeguarding of children. Our shared commitment to the safeguarding agenda has led to the creation of the Advanced Safeguarding Course for Schools, which aims to provide teachers and other professionals working at schools with information, tools and strategies to promote safeguarding practices, creating safe and protective learning environments for our children.”**

Almudena Olaguibel,  
Child Protection Officer,  
UNICEF Spain

## **Our safeguarding support**

### Keeping children safe

The fast-changing online landscape presents opportunities and challenges for educators everywhere. The British Council works with all our partners to develop a common understanding of safeguarding issues and promotes good practice in keeping children and adults safe, through our global safeguarding approach.

We provide our Partner Schools with access to e-safety awareness and support, through our online Safeguarding Course and Safeguarding Toolkit.

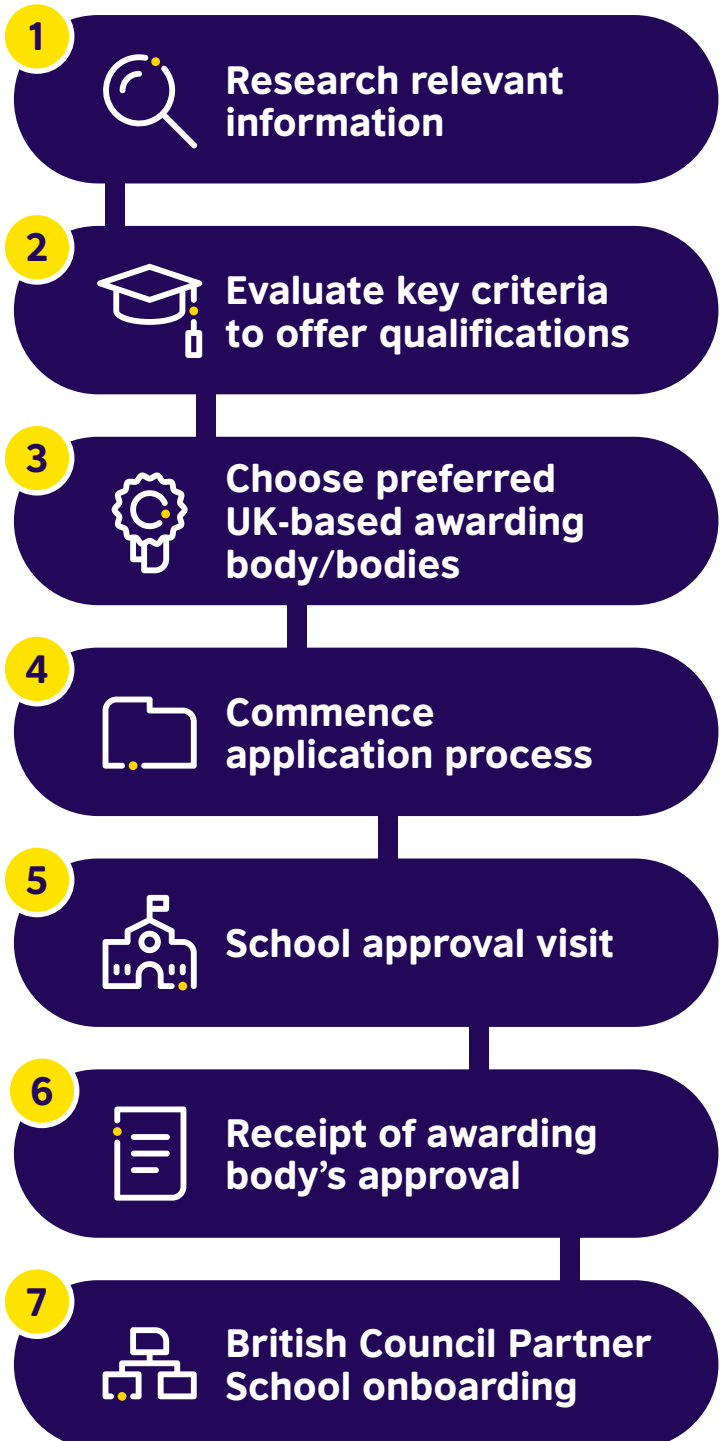


# Setting up schools for success

We know introducing an international curriculum is a big step. It also takes time – including assessing feasibility, researching and understanding the level of effort required for set-up, and the ongoing process. Don't worry, as we will be with you every step of the way.

- We offer advice and support at every stage of implementation of UK international qualifications in your school, including assistance through in-country teams.
- We can help you understand the operational process involved in adopting UK international school qualifications: from understanding the application process, fees, and other essential details at a more practical level, to the specific requirements of your chosen awarding body. This will help you evaluate your school's readiness to offer international qualifications and further support your needs around resources, training, and policies.
- We can assist you in the initial decision-making process among stakeholders in your school, such as teachers and parents, about the potential curriculum introduction and its benefits.
- Our operations teams are fully trained with an understanding and knowledge of the Quality and Compliance Assurance Framework (QCA) and awarding body requirements. The QCA framework monitors and audits compliance with over 100 standards across all areas of exam delivery, ensuring the highest quality of operational process, security and integrity across the globe.

## How we can help you implement international qualifications in your school:







## **Research relevant information**

Schools can find important information on our website and those of UK-based awarding bodies.

## **Evaluate key criteria to offer qualifications**

The British Council sets up meetings to discuss and share details, i.e. benefits of being a British Council Partner School, guidance on understanding UK qualifications, application process, fees, roles and responsibilities, pre-requisites, support available to schools etc.

## **Choose preferred UK-based awarding body/bodies**

Schools take a decision on which UK international school qualifications to offer from the three main UK-based awarding bodies – Cambridge International Education, OxfordAQA and Pearson Edexcel.

## **Commence application process**

The British Council sends an application form to the school and gives guidance on the key requirements for a successful approval. The form is then shared with the awarding body for review.

## **School approval visit**

The British Council conducts an approval visit to the school, and in some instances the local awarding body representatives will also attend.

## **Receipt of awarding body's approval**

Awarding body sends approval to the British Council, which then forwards it to the school.

## **British Council Partner School onboarding**

The British Council adds the school to internal systems and assigns an Account Relationship Manager before extending a formal welcome. We also offer the school access to platforms and resources provided by the awarding bodies.

**Thank you for your interest in British Council Partner Schools. If you have decided to become one, congratulations – your journey to success starts here.**

Our partnership will offer your school a distinctive competitive advantage, through association with a globally trusted brand in education. This collaboration goes beyond enhancing your school's reputation; it deeply influences students' academic journeys and futures, providing them with invaluable benefits rooted in our joint commitment to quality education.

As part of our global community, you can look forward to all the benefits you've read about here.

**Partner with us  
to unlock global  
opportunities  
for your students.**

**Get in touch  
with us:**

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