

## UK Criteria for the Consideration of 2011 UNESCO Chair and UNITWIN Network Proposals

- The role of the UK National Commission, as directed by UNESCO, is to consider and evaluate proposals for the establishment of **new UNESCO Chairs in the UK** and to select a small number of high quality proposals each year to put forward to UNESCO for consideration. In addition, the UK National Commission also considers and evaluates proposals for the establishment of **new UNITWIN Networks led by UK institutions** and selects high quality proposals to give its endorsement for UNESCO's consideration.
- In line with UNESCO's new strategic orientations for the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme (outlined at UNESCO's 176<sup>th</sup> Executive Board in April 2007) a strong emphasis is placed on **high quality** proposals which are **relevant, strategic** and **dynamic**.
- The UK National Commission for UNESCO will consider proposals using the UK criteria stated below. This supersedes earlier UK criteria and takes into consideration UNESCO Headquarter's guidelines for the submission of proposals as outlined in UNESCO's "Guidelines and Procedures for the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme" 2009, which can be found at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001439/143918E.pdf>
- Prospective applicants should also read the UK Guidance Note 2011 which accompanies this document.

### In 2011 the UK National Commission for UNESCO will examine UNESCO Chair and UNITWIN Network proposals along the following criteria:

#### a. In a priority programme area

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| ✓ Responds to UNESCO's priority areas of competence                   | <p>Corresponds to UNESCO's overall objectives and one or more of its sectoral priorities (including intersectoral platforms), as set out in UNESCO's Medium Term Strategy 2008-13 (34 C/4) and Approved Programme and Budget 2010-2011 (35 C/5), as well as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).</p> <p><i>A summary can be found at <a href="http://www.unesco.org.uk/fact_sheets_and_briefing_notes">http://www.unesco.org.uk/fact_sheets_and_briefing_notes</a></i></p> <p>An interdisciplinary approach is to be encouraged; as are proposals which involve future-orientated research in the various UNESCO sectors.</p>   |
| ✓ Broadens range of UNESCO Chair/UNITWIN Network activities in the UK | <p>Avoids duplication of existing UNESCO Chair/UNITWIN Network activities in UK in order to broaden the range, reflect the breadth of UK excellence in higher education and reflect more fully UNESCO's areas of competence in education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture and communication &amp; information.</p> <p>Priority is given to areas not covered by existing UNESCO Chairs in the UK and UNITWIN Networks, and <b>in 2011 the UK National Commission will give priority to proposals in the underrepresented fields of culture and communication &amp; information.</b></p> <p><i>A list of existing UNESCO Chairs in the UK and global UNITWIN Networks can be found at <a href="http://www.unesco.org.uk/unitwin_unesco_chairs_programme">http://www.unesco.org.uk/unitwin_unesco_chairs_programme</a></i></p> |
| ✓ High academic quality   | Demonstrates high academic quality output.  |
| ✓ Clear objectives  | Contains clearly stated objectives which demonstrate how the project is directly related to priorities for national, regional, or international development.  |
| ✓ Appropriate approach and activities                                 | <p>Identifies activities and an approach which adequately meet the objectives of the project, including adequate consideration given to evaluation mechanisms and dissemination of the outputs and outcomes.</p> <p>Proposals that are educationally innovative in terms of new paradigms (future challenges) and forms of intervention (e.g. open universities) are encouraged.</p>  |
| ✓ Potential to make a difference                                      | Shows potential to make a vital, unique and innovative contribution to the field within the context of its planned implementation.  |

**b. Sustainable**

✓ Evidence of sustainability	Provides concrete evidence of the sustainability of the project, giving attention to its ability to mobilise and attract resources; in particular:
✓ Access to human resources	<p>Identifies sufficient numbers of highly qualified personnel to carry out the activities of the proposed UNESCO Chair or UNITWIN Network.</p> <p>In particular, a UNESCO Chair should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) A Chairholder as its academic head;</li> <li>ii) A number of researchers from the host institution and from other domestic and international institutions who are involved with the activities of the programme; and</li> <li>iii) A number of students or researchers pursuing postgraduate studies and/or high-level training and research under the direction of the Chair.</li> </ul> <p>The Chairholder or UNITWIN Network Coordinator should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Have a strong academic reputation – be a renowned specialist in the domain(s) to be covered;</li> <li>ii) Have the capacity and experience to promote cooperation at national, regional and international levels; and</li> <li>iii) Be willing and able to mobilise resources from the private and public sectors.</li> </ul> <p>For UK proposals, a Chairholder should already hold a professorial chair at an HEI. This does not apply to UNITWIN Network Coordinators.</p>
✓ Access to financial resources	Identifies funding sources and demonstrates that funding can be secured to carry out the proposed activities. <i>Proposals should not rely on UNESCO for funding.</i>
✓ Adequate institutional capacity and experience	Demonstrates a capacity for successfully implementing the proposed project and activities.

**c. North-South and/or North-South-South cooperation dimension**

✓ Ability to contribute to inter-university cooperation	<p>Designates partner institution(s) and an appropriate system for sharing knowledge, resources and information.</p> <p>Preference will be given to those proposals that actively support North-South and/or North-South-South cooperation and partner/network with institutions from developing or transitioning countries.</p>
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**d. Easily integrated into an existing network or systematically grouped into priority areas**

✓ Potential for incorporation into a network or a networking of networks	<p>Has potential to be incorporated into a network or cluster as UNESCO moves to systematically regroup Chairs into networks (networking Chairs), and to create dynamic networks (networking of Networks) to better promote dynamic and effective interaction.</p> <p><i>A global portal of existing UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks (searchable by domain) can be found at:</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.unesco.org/en/unitwin/university-twinning-and-networking/">http://www.unesco.org/en/unitwin/university-twinning-and-networking/</a></p>
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