

Call for participants to workshop on: Plant-microbe interactions: pathogen and host diversity, infection and defense mechanisms and disease protection

Under the Researcher Links scheme offered within the Newton Fund, the British Council and the Thailand Research Fund will be holding a workshop on the above theme in Bangkok, Thailand on 16 – 19 February 2015. The workshop is being coordinated by Drs. Chatchawan Jantasuriyarat and Sophien Kamoun, and will have contributions from other leading researchers. We are now inviting Early Career Researchers (PhD awarded after 2005) from the UK and Thailand to apply to attend this workshop. The theme of the workshop is plant-pathogen interactions with an emphasis on studies of pathogen and host diversity, infection and defense mechanisms, as well as disease protection. All travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by the Researcher Links programme. The application form, with more details on the initiative, is attached and should be sent to Sophien Kamoun sophien.kamoun@tsl.ac.uk (UK applicants) and Chatchawan Jantasuriyarat fscicwj@ku.ac.th (Thai applicants) before the deadline of **October 31, 2014**.

Application Form (A link to this application should be available as a downloadable word document on the local British Council webpages)

Workshop Title: Plant-microbe interactions: pathogen and host diversity, infection and defense mechanisms and disease protection

UK coordinator: Sophien Kamoun (sophien.kamoun@tsl.ac.uk)

Thailand coordinator: Chatchawan Jantasuriyarat (fscicwj@ku.ac.th)

Discipline: Plant pathology

Dates and venue: 16 – 19 February 2015, Bangkok, Thailand.

The British Council and the Thailand Research Fund has launched a programme to encourage international research collaboration between ambitious young 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 April 2014 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 and Thailand are now recruiting early career researchers and welcome applications to attend the above workshop. Early career researchers are defined as those having up to 10 years post-PhD research experience.

The workshops 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 poster/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 the Thailand Research Fund 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. 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 below must be completed and submitted by **October 31, 2014** to Sophien Kamoun sophien.kamoun@tsl.ac.uk (UK applicants) and Chatchawan Jantasuriyarat fscicwj@ku.ac.th (Thai applicants).

Eligibility Criteria:

- Applications must be submitted using the Researcher Links application form
- Application 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.

http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/pdf/research_policies/Towards_a_European_Framework_for_Research_Careers_final.pdf

- 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 Thailand.

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

Notification of results:

Applicants will be notified by email 2 months prior to the workshop.

Equal Opportunities

The British Council is committed to equality of opportunity and inclusion, and employs positive action to promote this. We believe that an Equal Opportunity Policy helps to ensure that there is no unjustified discrimination in the recruitment, retention, training and development of staff on the basis of gender including transgender, marital status (which includes civil partnerships), sexual orientation, religion and belief, political opinion, ethnicity/race, work pattern, age, disability or HIV/AIDS status, socio-economic background, spent convictions, trade union activity or membership, on the basis of having or not having dependants, or any other irrelevant grounds.

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.



**RESEARCHER
LINKS**



Application Form

1. Applicant	
Name and title	
Gender (to monitor statistic participation – this will not be considered during assessment)	
Position and institution	
Postal address	
Email	
Phone number	
Brief CV (academic career, publications, markers of esteem, and any other relevant information) – no more than ½ page of A4	

Abstract - Please give a summary of your area of research

3. Please describe your motivation to attend the workshop and how the workshop matches your professional development needs

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4. Please describe the expected impact of your participation to the workshop on your personal and professional development, including your ability to work on an international level

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5. Please indicate how you will disseminate the outcomes of the workshops and the new knowledge/skills you have acquired

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6. Workshops will take place in English as standard. Please indicate your ability to work and communicate in English (Note, translators may be provided if necessary)

Native speaker		Good	
Excellent		Need support	

7. Please use this space to give any additional information that you feel is relevant for the application.

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